

NEWSLETTER

Vol 3 | June 2021

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ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

As we move into the final term of the academic year, I have been reflecting on some of the incredibly exciting and positive things that have happened in the past few months. With the roller coaster that Covid has created, it would have been entirely understandable if you had all lost some of your energy and drive, but instead, our schools are stronger and more driven than ever!

The work around the Bees project is fantastic, and I am delighted that we are all working on our environmental education. There has been terrific work around the new SRE curriculum and so much development in the areas of mental health and wellbeing, to name just a few of the recent projects.

I am currently working with the Colleges on the trips and experiences available to you all next year. I can't wait for the EKC Group to welcome the Trust children back onto the sites and share the resources, expertise and practical learning opportunities with pupils from all of our schools again in September.

There is so much to look forward to as always, so please enjoy this edition of our Trust Newsletter and celebrate all your hard work with me.

Tammy Mitchell
CEO



Want to receive a copy of our termly Newsletter straight to your inbox?

[JOIN THE LIST](#)

MEET BYSING WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



THE WONDER THAT IS FOREST SCHOOL

We're incredibly proud of our Forest School, an amazing space we've laboured with love since 2017.

Pupils in Years 1 to 6 have the opportunity to attend Forest School for three morning or afternoon sessions each term offering our children a fantastic space in which to:

- develop a relationship between the learner and the natural world.
- gain confidence and build resilience (come rain or shine)
- learn to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and themselves.

There's plenty more to see in our [Forest School Gallery](#) on our website.



MEET BRIARY PRIMARY SCHOOL



INSPIRING PUPIL STORIES

Finley's Story

Inspired by Sadako Sasaki, a young girl who set herself the challenge of making 1000 origami cranes whilst ill in hospital - a Japanese legend tells of wishes granted to those who make 1000 origami cranes - Finley (Year 3) set himself the challenge of creating a crane.

With the help of his older brother and a set of instructions, Finley made quick work of his first crane. He said, *"At first, it was really tricky, but I kept going and just got better at it. I don't even need the instructions anymore!"*

Since making his first crane, Finley has made cranes for all the pupils in his class and even made one from the foil wrapper in his lunch box. "I want to be like Sadako and make 1000 cranes..."



With his determination and perseverance, I am sure he will be successful.

#MAKINGBRIARYPROUD

Kathryn's Story

Kathryn in Year 5 had been growing her hair throughout lockdown.

Having been for her post-lockdown haircut she was able to donate her locks to the Little Princess Trust - a charity that provides real hair wigs, free of charge, to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment.



What a beautiful gift!

MEET HOLYWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL



ACTIVE LEARNING

Active learning plays an important role in children's physical and mental wellbeing and has many links to helping children achieve academically.

At Holywell, active learning takes place in many different ways. As well as our physical education lessons, where we focus on the 'A-B-C's' of sport - Agility, Balance and Coordination - we provide opportunities for individuals to take part in a range of adventurous outdoor activities to engage them in other forms of exercise. Cross-curricular active learning is also a big part of our curriculum, and we have three sessions per week where we take part in physical maths, literacy and topic activities. Taking part in practical activities supports the children's retention of their learning.

In our forest school area, children can take ownership of their learning through activities including den building, tree climbing, and preparing campfires. This allows them to take safe risks and build life skills such as collaboration, resilience and respecting our natural environment.

As part of our outdoor learning provision, we also have our own allotment patches that we maintain and prepare with the children throughout the school year.

We have also been recognised as a 'Daily Mile' school, where all children take part in a 15-minute walk, jog or run in the outdoor environment, regardless of the weather. Experiencing the natural environment has been shown to help boost mental wellbeing, and we encourage the children to use their senses to focus on what they can see, hear, smell and feel on their walks.



HOLYWELL LOVES SPORT

Each term, we hold 'Holywell Loves Sport' - an event for the whole school to participate in sports and activities that they would not always experience in their usual PE lessons.

This helps us build partnerships with local clubs and sports facilities and increase long-term enjoyment and engagement in physical activity.



Recently children have enjoyed martial arts, cricket, dance and bowls, including sessions with an international athlete!

MEET QUEENBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



WE LIKE TO MOVE IT, MOVE IT!

We were delighted to welcome back Carl Tracey, AKA Mr Move-It last term. Carl delivered workshops across the school to engage our children in health and fitness.

Carl is very popular having first visited the school in 2017 as a member of the popular children's pop band Go! Go! Go! Since then, Carl has combined his passions for music and fitness, building a unique experience for primary aged children.

During the first lockdown, many of our children enjoyed Carl's fitness spot on the Virgin Media fitness channel. The children love the opportunity to work with someone 'off the telly!' Carl put us all through our paces, and there were certainly some red-faced children (and teachers!) at the end of the sessions.

There was some great feedback:

'My daughter's been chatting non-stop about her work out- fantastic time!'

"My two were absolutely buzzing about this yesterday when they came home. Loved every minute!"

For more on Mr Move It follow @CarlT_Official



WE'RE BEEING AMAZING

This great scheme has allowed every member of the school community to have a greater awareness of the importance of bees to our world and take steps to help them thrive.

Our Year 1 children have made some beautiful artwork to promote the different flowers that help bees survive, and as a school, we've committed to planting - taking part in the 'Seed to Sunflower' project. This project has seen every classroom plant a sunflower, with children growing seeds at home also to encourage the bees to pollinate.

We're also bringing BEE Amazing to the annual 'Queenborough in Bloom' festival this year, where our beautiful artwork and poetry displayed in the local area.

MEET OUR TEAM

Meet Darran Callaghan, Headteacher of Holywell Primary School in Upchurch

The school has achieved so much in the last six years it is almost too hard to pick a Top 3!

One of my proudest moments as Headteacher was when UNICEF UK chose the school to represent schools across the UK at a special Parliamentary event as part of the OutRight campaign for promoting better air quality for all children and young people. The project aimed to help children learn about the dangers of air pollution and raise awareness by sharing their voice with people who make decisions. Working alongside UNICEF UK, Holywell pupils delivered the opening speech in Parliament before opening the exhibition in the Great Hall. The school has since gone on to achieve the UNICEF Gold accreditation as a Rights Respecting School!

Another has to be developing our curriculum and the introduction of the Holywell Standard for Learning. We have worked hard to develop a curriculum that allows children to build key thinking skills and learning habits daily, encouraging children (and adults!) to jump into 'The Learning Pit' and celebrate when we make mistakes because that's where the best learning happens!

Finally, we've built strong pastoral support for children, adults and families. Our children feel safe and happy and know they are supported to be the best they can be, and we were proud to have this recognised in our most recent Ofsted inspection.

With the support of the Trust, what are your Top 3 aspirations for the next 6 years?

We want to be an irresistible school for pupils and adults, a place where spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and physical wellbeing enables everyone to thrive both academically and socially.

We want to create a learning community that supports every member to develop aspirations for a successful future, building on the curriculum's strengths and broadening the offer for our children through enrichment opportunities from the Colleges in the Group.

We want to continue building the professional development of all adults in the school to be the best practitioners, research-led, and innovative in their practice through collaboration and partnership with colleagues within the Trust and the Group. .

Starting his career in Medway 20+ years ago, Darran has enjoyed working across the primary phase. In 2015 he jumped over the border into Kent to lead Holywell School and, in his words, 'absolutely loves it!'



REFLECTING ON... THE PROMISE OF SUNNIER CLIMES AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING JOURNEYS



In dreaming of sunnier climes, I was reminded of the excitement when you reach the airport and then of all things the travelator... the moving walkways that support those less fit than others to move along at the same pace as those athletic, sporty people and reach the destination all in good time. Those who add a bit of effort themselves whilst on the travelator make great strides towards the end goal ... I have watched many a child competing to see if they can beat their siblings to the end.

It reminded me of the critical process of meeting the needs of our children who require a learning travelator to ensure they can access learning, keep pace and gain momentum in their individual learning journey. If we can inspire those same children to feel a sense of belonging, have the confidence that they are safe and supported, and the resilience to try just that little bit harder, then we can be catalysts for their success.

The Trust (and talented friends) hosted our first virtual conference last month, and it was an inspiring and terrific day, where I learnt so much from colleagues across our organisation. The focus was on the Inclusion Agenda and provided a rich and diverse range of topics and aspects of this critical part of our roles and responsibilities.

The conference reiterated for me a critical truth about teaching and learning; our children only succeed in their learning if we understand who they are, what their barriers are and what we can do to create a little travelator for them and help them on their way.

The whole concept of a moving walkway is a simple idea, addressing a fundamental need to move from A to B. Whilst learning is extremely complex, all research shows that the simplest ideas in teaching are often the most successful. Ensuring we don't overload our pupils with a dozen 'helpful' resources, bombarding them with questions and talking at them until they are entirely overwhelmed with too much information is an essential part of our learning strategy.

The epitome of inclusion is making sure we understand all of our children and ensuring we have a way to support them all so we can build on the great ethos and values in all of our schools and provide the very best opportunities for all of our children.

WELLBEING FOCUS

The wellbeing of our school community is uppermost in our minds, particularly supporting our dedicated staff so they can continue to support our children and families.

Action for Happiness, a registered charity, have dedicated themselves to encouraging happier living.

We invite colleagues across the Trust and beyond to learn more about these keys and how you might apply them in your daily lives.

There's a wealth of resources on the website actionforhappiness.org and we'll continue to highlight them here.

Monthly Wellbeing Theme: Joyful June

Daily actions to help you appreciate the little things and find more joy.



Check out today's daily action and give it a go, take some time for you!

Why not sign up to be receive future themes and calendars right to your inbox.

Or if you like your Apps, check out the Action For Happiness App.



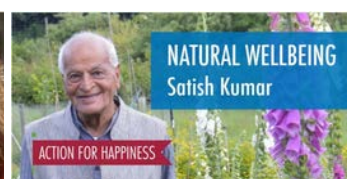
Online events

Action for Happiness host a regular series of free online events with world renowned speakers.

Upcoming events:



7pm 9 June via Zoom



7pm 24 June via Zoom

Here is one of our past favourites:



Click to book/ view or visit the AfH website to learn more.

ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust



NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY HUB

Serving our communities is at the heart of everything we do.

Each year together with our partners, the EKC Group, our children and young people and our colleagues, deliver a series of social action projects - inspiring and developing them as individuals and positively impacting our schools and wider communities.

Visit our Community Hub to learn more about our work and how, as families and schools, you too can get involved in our current projects.

CURRENT PROJECTS



Each year, the children and young people of EKC Group and EKC Schools Trust deliver a social action project, inspiring and developing them as individuals and positively impacting the community.

This year we've committed to BEE Amazing, undertaking projects to bring awareness to the vital role bees play in the natural world and the threats facing their survival. We're also encouraging plant bee-friendly planting.

"If the bee disappeared off the face of the Earth, man would only have four years left to live."
Albert Einstein

Visit our [Community Hub](#) to learn more about our three special projects and how you too can be involved and be amazing!

www.ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust/community-hub/bee-amazing-project

GET LEARNING

Learn about how important bees are to our world, the threats facing their survival and what we can do to help through a range of activities and resources.

GET CREATIVE

Our competition to educate our community, spread the word and promote our bees.

GET PLANTING

We need bees! And bees need flowers! We're challenging Kent to get planting.

ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust



ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust



CANTERBURY'S GIANT BECKET COMPETITION

Each year Canterbury BID organises a city-wide celebration of its rich medieval history. A vibrant pageant takes to the streets and heritage sites open their doors for craft activities and performances.

This year, in commemoration of the 850th anniversary of the death of Thomas Becket, we are asking our local community to design a giant in the image of Thomas Becket, who will join in the city centre parade on the 16 October 2021.

The winning entry will become a real giant which will be built over the summer by teachers from Canterbury School of Visual Arts (Canterbury College part of the EKC Group) and their students.

The winning school / class / student will receive the following:

- progress photos as their giant is built
- an invitation to join the pageant and walk alongside the giant
- their school name to appear on the giant's costume
- a £200 book token
- design on display in the city centre, during Canterbury Festival 2021

We have created a [resource pack](#) which we hope will inspire your student's designs. We have pulled out the national curriculum objectives for KS1 and KS2 that we feel the activity will fulfil.

We hope your teachers might find it a useful resource over the next month for teaching about Canterbury's history and the role of Thomas Becket. Alternatively, perhaps it could form part of an after school club activity or be shared via email with parents to create at home.

The deadline for entries will be the 1 July and we hope to announce the winner the following week.

We very much look forward to seeing your creations!

Canterbury Business Improvement District
canterburybid.co.uk



We believe wholeheartedly in our moral purpose...
to strengthen the opportunities available for everyone
within our communities.

Educational Services, our professional development centre, provides our family of schools, partners and the broader education community with high-impact CPD opportunities that strengthen school improvement.

MEASURING IMPACT

VIRTUAL INCLUSION CONFERENCE 19TH MAY 2021



THE AIMS

- To explore multiple aspects of the Inclusion Agenda
- To offer insights, share thinking and practice
- To provide an opportunity to identify key areas that might need revisiting, a refresh or just a slight refocus.

SO HOW DID WE DO?

40 colleagues from across the phases - early years to FE - joined us. Along with the positivity in session, we've had a great response in evaluations (50%) and here's what we know...

I see the connection between using what I have learnt and educational improvement

65% Strongly Agree
35% Agree



How much of what you have learned will you use?

100% said they'd use
70-100% of the learning



How often will you use what you have learned ?

95% said often - very often
(70-100%) of the time



How likely are you to recommend this CPD to a friend or colleague? (Scale of 1-10)

100% gave us 9+/10
And we're glad you enjoyed it!



How will you use this CPD on-the-job?

"Thinking about what I see in my setting and how learners are able to access learning, feel included and how I can support adults to enable the children. Working with all staff to develop further our inclusive culture."

"A very inspiring day, great to connect with new colleagues. Thanks everyone"

A big THANK YOU to all those who joined the conversation and to all of our passionate speakers.

FUNDED LEVEL 2 CPD FOR YOUR SCHOOL



Are you...

A school/setting looking for fully funded, nationally recognised CPD opportunities for your staff?

A member of staff looking to develop your skills or learn a new hobby?

Interested in opportunities to support your community?

DigitalLearn is the latest offer from our partners, the EKC Group, offering schools, staff and your families the chance to study for free and gain nationally-recognised industry-standard qualifications.

There are a wealth of funded Level 2* courses to choose from and each term we'll be showcasing CPD opportunities specific to a school role.

**and lots of progression routes to explore*

In this issue we're looking at CPD for Teaching Assistants - see overleaf.

In addition to colleague CPD, why not share EKC Digital Learn with your whole school community so that your families can also benefit!

Want to learn more?

Visit: www.ekcgroup.ac.uk/colleges/ekc-digital-learn

Contact: 01303 858396

enquiries.digitallearn@ekcgroup.ac.uk

"We were told about the courses as we are one of the EKC Schools Trust Schools and the choice was impressive. I felt that developing some understanding of Mental Health at work would benefit my role as a teacher and governor, so I decided to take the plunge.

The course material was of a high standard and I loved the fact that I could manage the learning to fit in with my other commitments... I sometimes got so engrossed that time flew by, and I'd studied for longer than I intended.

I was well supported by my online tutor, who gave tips for improving the learning, and though I didn't need support, I felt confident it would have been there if needed. It was just such a simple way to enhance my work skills."

Fi Gallimore-Stoker,
Senior Leader, Briary Primary School

DEVELOPING YOUR TEACHING ASSISTANTS WITH **EKC** DigitalLearn

LEVEL 2 CPD CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE WITH EKC DIGITAL LEARN ...

- Understanding Behaviour that Challenges
- Understanding Children and Young People's Mental Health - Supports an understanding of risk factors that may affect children and young peoples' mental wellbeing and how best to support them.
- CACHE - Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Understanding Safeguarding and Prevent
- CACHE - Understanding Personal Care Needs
- Understanding Autism
- Understanding Specific Learning Difficulties
- NCFE in Digital Skills (Level 1)

In addition and to support progression:

- NCFE Award in Mentoring
- Principles of Team Leading Certificate

Earn your Level 2 Certificate in just 8-10 weeks of self-directed study with full support from your assessor and access to comprehensive learning resources.

JOIN US THIS SUMMER FOR OUR

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE IN PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

This two-day course will ensure your leaders have a deep and accurate understanding of how to ensure Ofsted Outstanding for Personal Development in your next inspection.

Through a series of workshop sessions leaders will explore every aspect of their Personal Development offer to pupils through;

- Promoting and evidencing the inclusive and unique ethos of your school
- Reviewing how your school context is reflected in your values and ethos
- Embedding the statutory SRE curriculum within your whole school curriculum approaches
- Ensuring clarity around your purpose and core offer in a succinct and effective way

Unpacking what you do brilliantly every day in a deliberate and meaningful way. Ensuring your intent and implementation has tangible impact.

This event is delivered by Tammy Mitchell, CEO EKC Schools Trust and partners.

Date:

Friday 25th June AND Friday 2nd July 2021

Time:

9am to 3.30pm start, finishing at 3.30pm

Location:

Ashford International Hotel, TN24 8UX

Cost:

£190 EKC Group & KMA Partners
£217 Other schools and settings

Further information

To learn more and book your place visit [EKC Schools Trust.](https://www.eckschoolstrust.co.uk)

JOIN US

Are you looking to start a rewarding career in education? Or know someone who is?

Are you looking to the step next in your career?

Want to work in an amazing learning environment and amongst a fantastic team?

Interested in sharing your skills in a Trustee/Governor capacity?

Well our family of schools could be just the right place for you and your career!



If you're interested in joining the talented teams in one of our family of schools or in supporting our work as a Governor or Trustee, we would love to hear from you. Please visit our website to learn more.

LET'S ALL SAY A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOOLS

The national THANK A TEACHER campaign recognises all staff working in schools; school leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, and all support staff such as lunchtime supervisors, caretakers and cleaners. It celebrates the professionalism, passion and commitment of our schools.

Parents, colleagues and partners please take 5 minutes to thank an individual, team or school in our Trust (or other school/setting) for their hard work with a FREE Thank You e-card.

Not only is it lovely to receive a thank you but a card can be a springboard to entering the prestigious Pearson National Teaching Awards.

Please THANK A TEACHER today, it's simple, it's free and will make someone's day.

The THANK A TEACHER campaign is run by The Teaching Awards Trust and supported by Department for Education.



Simply go to www.thankateacher.co.uk

**and they will send a FREE personalised ThankATeacher card
on your behalf**

If you're feeling shy you can send a card anonymously!