

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 4 | Nov 2021

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[ekcschoolstrust.org](https://ekcschoolstrust.org)



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

It was an absolute pleasure to get together with so many of you this week at our first face to face Trust Development Day. Sharing our experiences, getting to know each other more informally and developing our networks to strengthen our practices are all fundamental to the success of our Trust. I personally gained so much from the sessions and am always completely inspired by Daniel – thought-provoking, humble and inspiring ... a series of words that seldom run together. However, the most important aspect of Monday for me was seeing my colleagues, all of you across the Trust, working collaboratively and sharing together. It is the incidental conversations that often provide the richest outcomes and I certainly felt richer at the end of Monday!

It is the shared vision and inclusive ethos of our schools that unites them and shines through in the work you all do and as a result of this ethos our reputation is spreading. We have recently launched consultation for two more schools to join our family, Palm Bay in Margate and East Stour in Ashford. Both of these really strong, community driven schools will add a huge amount to our Trust and provide even greater opportunity for us to work together and learn together.

I continue to be endlessly excited about all we achieve in our shared organisation and look forward to hearing about all the brilliant work going on in your schools as I visit later this term.

*Tammy Mitchell*  
CEO



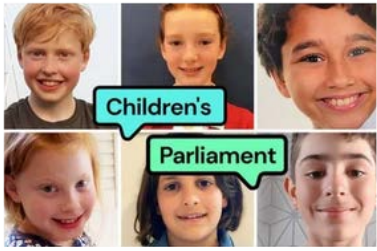
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# MEET BRIARY PRIMARY SCHOOL



## HAVING FUN LEARNING ABOUT PARLIAMENT AND POLITICS



Year 6 have been learning about Parliament and Politics this week, completing workshops in class with UK Parliament online. The children had a tour of the Houses of Parliament, learnt about its history and how laws are debated and passed. They were lucky enough to have a live Q&A session with local MP Sir Roger Gale.

The children had a brilliant time, and we are pleased to announce that Sir Roger Gale chose Daniel C in Franklin class to represent the school and local constituency at The Children's Parliament Event, alongside 650 other children across the UK. Well done, Daniel!

### CHAMPIONS!

Our Girls' Football Team were successful in the Herne Bay & Coastal Schools Football Tournament winning all their matches on the way to being crowned champions. Over the 6 games played they scored 12 and conceded just 2 goals.

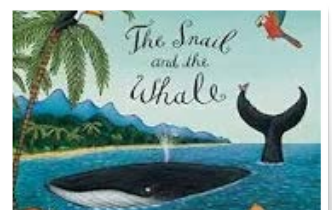
Well done to our Year 5 classes this week. They had a very important lesson on CPR and Defibrillators. The children had a very interactive session, learning how to perform CPR and put someone into the recovery position. Thank you to Kent Fire and Rescue for this training.



## ON THE BIG SCREEN ...

Year 1 & 2 had a very exciting trip to the Kavanagh Cinema in Herne Bay this week. They travelled in style, on a big double-decker bus into town and watched *The Snail and The Whale* on the big screen. They have been reading the book over the last few weeks and really enjoyed watching the book come to life. What a treat!

They followed this up with a trip to the beach at Reculver. Whilst they didn't find any snails or whales, they did take the opportunity to talk about staying safe on the beach; they looked for evidence of human impact on the environment – the children decided that humans could do better when getting rid of their rubbish.



# MEET BYSING WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



## WELL BOWLED!

Bysing-Wood have been working with the national charity Chance to Shine. The charity aims to give all children the opportunity to play, learn and develop through cricket.

Pupils in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 took part in their six-week Cricket Coaching Programme. Working with their specialist coaches children have had a brilliant experience, learning life skills that will help them beyond the playground.



## BOWLED OVER...

Due to our active involvement in these initiatives, Bysing Wood Primary School has been shortlisted for the 'Primary School of the Year Award', one of three schools nationally.

The Chance to Shine awards night takes place later this month at The Oval cricket. A short video will be played of the shortlisted schools from around the country before the winning school is finally announced.

**Wish us luck!**

For more on [Chance to Shine](http://www.chancetoshine.org) including free resources for schools visit [www.chancetoshine.org](http://www.chancetoshine.org)

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

In addition to the mental health benefits of sport and physical activity, pupils in years 5 and 6 also took part in a day activities with Cygnet Health focused on mental health awareness, a great opportunity to normalise the discussion of mental health and wellbeing amongst pupils and staff.

# MEET HOLYWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL



## READING TOGETHER, LEARNING TOGETHER

At Holywell we want our children to know Reading is more than decoding and have the opportunity to engage in high-quality texts. In the last two years, we have been exploring and developing how we can improve Reading and ensure we were 'teaching' Reading not just hearing children read.

We now teach Reading to the whole class and challenge the children on their understanding using VIPERS questions which have made a big impact across the school.

### **VIPERS stands for**

Vocabulary  
Inference  
Prediction  
Explanation  
Retrieval  
Sequence or Summarise



We use this style of questioning with lots of genres including picture books, film clips, images, poems, and text passages.

This helps our children understand we have high expectations and they are not limited to a lower interest book because it is easier.

We are proud of the ethos this has created and the enthusiasm of the staff, parents, and pupils. Our parents use VIPERS questions when they read at home and our children are showing more stamina when reading alone.

*"All children have access to high quality, age-appropriate materials. Exposure to these has improved comprehension and vocabulary. Children are now regularly responding to a range of question types and identifying skills to do this best."*  
Class Teacher

Initially, we were slightly nervous making the move from group reading to the whole class, but we feel proud of the impact on our teaching and would recommend taking the jump if you have not already.





# MEET QUEENBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



## “ALL THE WORLD’S A STAGE...”

Some exciting news we shared with our school community this term is that we are taking part in the Royal Shakespeare Company Associate Schools Programme. After many years of promoting the performing arts in our school, we feel this is a great step forwards in terms of being able to offer cultural opportunities not just to our children but to our entire Queenborough community.

We will hold the title of RSC Associate School for the next two academic years, during which time we will receive expert CPD from theatre practitioners (from both the RSC and the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury) and explore some of Shakespeare’s plays with our children who will have the opportunity to perform their work in professional venues in Kent and beyond. A number of our families took advantage of a special offer inviting them, as members of the Associate Schools Programme, to see the RSC’s new production of The Comedy of Errors at the Marlowe Theatre during half term for free. We can’t wait to hear what they thought of it!



We are hugely proud to be taking part in this project and look forward to connecting with schools across Kent who share our passion for creativity, arts and performance.



## A TURTLE-Y AWESOME DAY!

Our Year 1 children welcomed some special visitors to their classrooms this term. The visit from River’s Rodents and Reptiles helped the children in Blue and Pink Class to understand more about their Term 1 theme ‘Paws, Claws and Whiskers,’ and all of the children had a wonderful time. Miss O’Connor captured some very happy children meeting Brain the rat and Zeberdee the corn snake!



# MEET OUR TEAM

Meet Andrew Harrison, Headteacher of Bysing-Wood Primary School in Faversham.



Starting his career in industry, Andrew retrained via a Primary/Secondary PGCE, though found the variety of teaching in the younger setting his preferred 'fit'.

After 12 years teaching and leading in two Thanet schools, he took up headship, at Bysing-Wood, in 2013. and after 8 years at the helm, he can't imagine working anywhere else.

**With a new school year comes a new crop of newly qualified and early careers teachers. What advice would you offer our new colleagues?**

- Commit to making professional decisions that will make a difference to the future success of children. There can be competing agendas within education which do not always benefit pupils and we need to be brave enough to pick the right path.
- Be a role model learner alongside the pupils. Take risks and learn from mistakes, try new things, be comfortable with not knowing (yet!), be curious about the world, expand your knowledge. Today I learnt, from Year 2, that there are sea cucumbers living in the coastal waters of the British Isles!
- Find joy in the progress and success of the children to keep you going when the frustrations of the profession build. What we do isn't 'just a job' so if you truly lose the enthusiasm for teaching, find another way to go.

**8 months on and our third academic year, what are your hopes for 2021/22?**

To have a full year where we can get back to the face-to-face aspects of school that has been so missed since the advent of Covid such as visits in the community, representative sport, inviting families into school for events, and collaborating with colleagues from the Trust in person.

# REFLECTING ON...

## WHY ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE IN PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

According to a report from the Children's Commissioner, *"A large study, undertaken by the NHS in July 2020, found that clinically significant mental health conditions amongst children had risen by 50% compared to three years earlier. A staggering 1 in 6 children now has a probable mental health condition."* (January 2021)

As leaders and educators, it is imperative that we remain aware, vigilant and informed about the pressures, anxieties and mental health needs of all children and young people. And whilst it is not in our sphere of expertise or our remit to be the medical professionals needed to provide the required therapeutic care, it is absolutely our role to ensure our curriculum is fit for purpose and supporting every one of our pupils and students to succeed, achieve and be ready for their next steps.

Therefore, it is our belief that strengthening the Personal Development Curriculum in our Educational Settings has never been more critical. The School's Commissioner reported, *"All children and young people have missed out on non-academic experiences that make a childhood including opportunities to make new friends, play competitive sport, or participating in drama, music, and dance."* June 2021

With so many children not being 'School Ready,' 'Secondary Ready,' or 'College Ready' but still progressing into their next stage anyway, we need to focus relentlessly on strengthening our offer to ensure we do everything we can to support success for all. The deliberate, intentional identification of barriers, opportunities and building a curriculum that truly meets the needs of the children and young people we serve today is the responsibility of us all.

The world changed, and now we need to change what we do and how we do it. For us, it starts with the personal development of our children and ends with their own personal success.



JOIN US FOR OUR

**ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE IN PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**

This 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 26th November 2021

**Time:**  
Start for 9.30 start, finishing at 3.30pm

**Location:**  
Canterbury College, CT1 3AJ

**Cost:**  
£75 EKC Group & RMA Partners  
£95 Other schools and settings

**Further information**



To learn more and book your place scan our QR code or visit [www.ekcschoolstrust.org](http://www.ekcschoolstrust.org).

**Why Choose Education Services**

Primary, Secondary and Further Education leaders joined us for our last session. When surveyed 100% said they'd recommend this CPD to a colleague. Learn more on our website.

SAVE THE DATE: Do Less Better - Thursday 10th February 2022.



# 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](http://actionforhappiness.org) and we'll continue to highlight them here.

## Monthly Wellbeing Theme: New Ways November

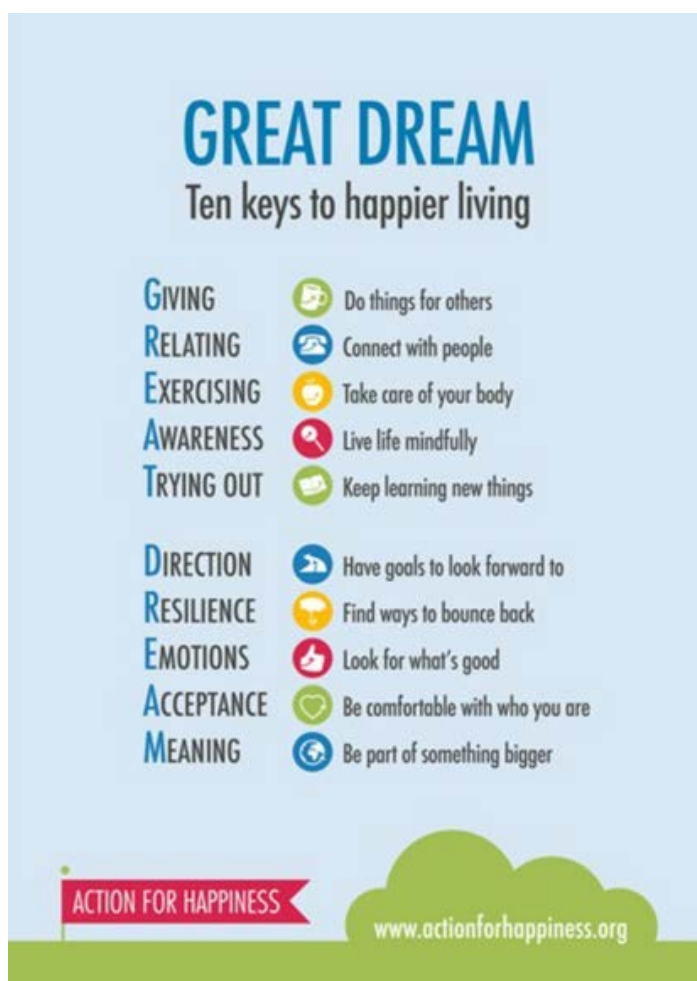


Check out today's daily action and give it a go, take some time for you!



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 23 Nov via Zoom



7pm 8 Dec via Zoom

Here is one of our past favourites:



Click to book/ view or visit the [AfH website](http://AfH website) to learn more.

# 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

## INTRODUCING OUR ECO PLEDGE

We recognise we have a responsibility to the environment

WE PLEDGE TO:

### Raise our awareness

- Include environmental issues in our curriculum
- Encourage our families to support our Pledge at home
- Take part in social action projects with an eco-friendly focus

### Reduce energy usage

- Be energy conscious
- Buy greener energy products
- Encourage environmentally-friendly travel

### Reuse and recycle

- Recycle as much as we can, including paper and food waste for composting in our forest schools
- Seek to buy recycled/recyclable products and resources



[ekcschoolstrust.org](http://ekcschoolstrust.org)



# CPD NEWS

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



Educational Services, our professional development hub, offers our EKC family and the wider education community access to a rich offer of high-impact CPD and support that inspires outstanding practice and strengthens educational improvement.

## ALL THE MORE SUPPORT FOR OUR COMMUNITIES ON OUR NEW LOOK WEBSITE

We've updated our website this term, now there's even more on offer for our communities, including CPD events and information on how schools can access funded level 2 short courses for their colleagues and communities.



### CPD EVENTS

Looking for CPD to support your personal development or that of your team? View our rich CPD offer and keep up to date with new events (added each seasonal term) via our termly Trust Newsletter, LinkedIn or Twitter.



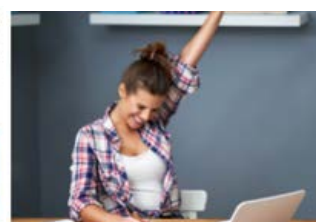
### BESPOKE CPD

Looking for bespoke support that matches your context? Our passionate and expert team deliver bespoke solutions, developing the skills and capabilities you need to drive you forward.



### EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT CONSULTANCY

Strengthening and enhancing our communities drives our work, supporting communities beyond our Trust fulfils a broader mission. More information on our cross phase Education Improvement Consultancy coming soon.



### FUNDED LEVEL 2 SHORT COURSES FOR COLLEAGUES & COMMUNITIES

Looking for fully funded, nationally recognised CPD opportunities for yourself, your staff or to support your community? There are a wealth of courses on offer with EKC Digital Learn.

## UPCOMING CPD EVENTS



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



SAVE THE DATE - In the world of education, where it can be all too easy to get lost in the relentless waves of new initiatives, strategies & policies, how do we identify what's worth fighting for?

To learn more and book your place visit our website.

[ekcschoolstrust.org](https://ekcschoolstrust.org)





# CPD NEWS



## The annual **FESTIVAL OF EDUCATION** ONLINE | 16-30 June 2021

### INSPIRATIONAL CPD FROM THE FESTIVAL OF EDUCATION 2021

2021's Festival of Education 2021 took place virtually and provided over 210 hours of live content from over 325 speakers to over 17,000 people across the globe.

From exploring the current trends that might develop over the next 20 years and how education and learning can help us prepare, to the role learning and skills play in addressing inequalities exacerbated by COVID, keynote speakers and panels covered a range of thought provoking subjects.

We've included links to all to the many keynotes, panel discussions and CPD sessions on the CPD Hub on our Trust intranet. All sessions, led by the global array of leading educationalists and thought leaders are available until the end of June 2022.

The Festival of Education 2021 YouTube Channel can be found here:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRtJTlxj0pggXbKgu3WoS5w?mc\\_cid=4dbefb44a8&mc\\_eid=be232bc387](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRtJTlxj0pggXbKgu3WoS5w?mc_cid=4dbefb44a8&mc_eid=be232bc387)



# 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](http://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!**

[ekcschoolstrust.org](http://ekcschoolstrust.org)

