

# NEWSLETTER

November 2023



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# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

As ever an incredibly busy and positive start to the new school year, with special mention of course to Queenborough Primary School having its inspection report published and achieving 'Outstanding'. Maintaining Outstanding is an amazing accomplishment both for the school and the Isle of Sheppey, and I am incredibly proud of the whole community (staff and children) and all your hardwork... The #QueenboroughBEAT is as strong as ever!

Continuing with good news and the Isle of Sheppey, I am pleased to share that the Trust is planning to open EKC Sheppey Secondary School in September 2024. We are very excited about this new project and we're keenly planning a rich and exciting curriculum offering students a full academic offer as well as professional specialisms. We're also ensuring students have a choice of level 3 pathways leading them to further study or chosen careers. It's incredibly exciting to be able to build on our Primary achievements and to support the young people of the Isle from nursery right through to Secondary to achieve their ambitions.

It's also been wonderful to see the first of our termly inter-school sports tournaments, collaboration and celebration amongst staff and pupils, and with the nights drawing in, there's yet more fun to be had in Term 2. From Halloween, Bonfire Night and all the local Christmas activities to our EKC Schools Trust Pantomime! We'll also be hosting our annual Strategy Event in December, bringing together Headteachers, Chairs of Governors and leaders with our partners the EKC Group to celebrate all things EKC and plan further collaborative projects.

Finally, the 1st December will see the official welcome of The Churchill School into the Trust. Of course, to us, already a member of the family, it's been a pleasure working with you this year.

So lots to celebrate and here's to more of the same in Term 2.

*Tammy Mitchell*  
CEO





# IN THE NEWS



We are proud to be part of the Sheppey Transformation Partnership. A joint working group with Leigh Academies Trust, working with the Department of Education to open two new academies on the Isle of Sheppey.

## JOIN US AND LEARN MORE

Find out about our vision, our plans, our curriculum, and our partners AND share your ideas about what you would want for your new school.

Date: **15th November 2023**

Time: **Drop in between 2pm – 7pm**

(Join us for a talk from our CEO, taking place on the hour)

Where: **Hosted at Sheppey College, ME12 1HL**



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The community of Sheppey truly deserves an outstanding education experience, with genuine choice for their young people. This new proposal aims to give the community this choice, ensuring they have access to a diverse curriculum that offers them what they need to grow and flourish.

Our EKC Schools Trust will also unlock opportunity for the young people of Sheppey, offering up new experiences within our sister organisation's East Kent Colleges Group, and giving the building blocks for the Island's young people to achieve their ambitions. Graham Razey, CEO East Kent Colleges Group



Graham Razey, CEO East Kent Colleges Group



Queenborough has benefitted so much from being a member of EKC Schools Trust, a Trust that really puts children and young people at the forefront of everything it does. It's exciting for children, staff and families that our children, Queenborough and those from across the Isle, might enjoy the benefit of being part of the EKC family through their secondary education.

Our Year 6 children and families tell us every year that they wish they could stay within the Trust and continue to benefit from our inclusive approach and inspirational curriculum.



Jason Howard, Headteacher  
Queenborough Primary School and Nursery



Working closely with EKC Schools Trust, EKC Sheppey College and our wider Group are excited by the prospect of extending our positive influence on education on the Island. Inspiring all ages, from nursery through Primary and Secondary and our young adults to reach for and achieve their ambitions.

This proposal offers a unique opportunity for the community; this is truly an exciting time for the development of education on the Isle of Sheppey.



Alexandra Syrotiuk, Principal, EKC Sheppey College





# EKC HIGHLIGHTS

## WE'RE PROUD OF OUR TRUST



**100% of staff** said 'I am proud' to work with us

**100% of leaders** feel able to be their (authentic) self as a member of your Board or Leadership Team



**94% of pupils** would recommend our schools

**92% of parents** would recommend our schools

**92% of leaders** feel there is a culture of diversity, inclusion and belonging in the Trust



**Schools value the additional capacity and high-quality services delivered by the Trust**

## SPORTING PRIDE

Building on last year's success, we've committed a termly sports tournament to the Trust calendar for 23-24. Each school hosting a chosen sport, enabling children to take part in a variety of events, visiting all four corners of east Kent.

Term 1 saw Queenborough host our first Basket Ball Tournament. Whilst there's a Trust trophy up for grabs, comradery was on full display with children cheering each other right through to the final. It was also so nice to hear children asking questions about the other schools, like where they are and how long it would take to get there... broadening horizons!!

Our winners will look after the trophy for the Term, until it comes up for grabs again at our next event.

Best of luck to all our teams and a year of great sport.

## SHARING BEST PRACTICE

As a family of schools we recognise we're #StongerTogether, including in our CPD events. Two Trust training events, four workshops, two guest speakers and all in Term 1.

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# MEET BEAR! MEET OUR SCHOOLS!

A collaboration between the Trust and Canterbury College BA Arts graduate Rhian Chapman has led to an exciting initiative to support transition into school for our youngest learners.

With the vision and expertise of our Chief Operating Officer, Summer Macer, and Rhian's beautiful artistry and personalised illustrations, our 'Welcome' Book Series (personalised colouring books) with the help of 'Bear' will support children and families in starting their primary school adventure. We look forward to little learners joining Bear, building confidence and learning how much fun it is to learn, play and colour with friends.

Schools will also be using the books with older children, helping them to identify how Rhian has used her skills and expertise as a springboard for her own career.



# TERMLY CELEBRATIONS



## BYSING WOOD TURNS 50

Bysing Wood Primary school was the first primary school to be built in Faversham, following the War. What started with 30 children, one Headteacher, three teachers, a secretary, and caretaker has grown beyond all recognition. We now have 245 pupils on roll, with the number still rising, led by Andrew Harrison, supported by a team of committed staff.

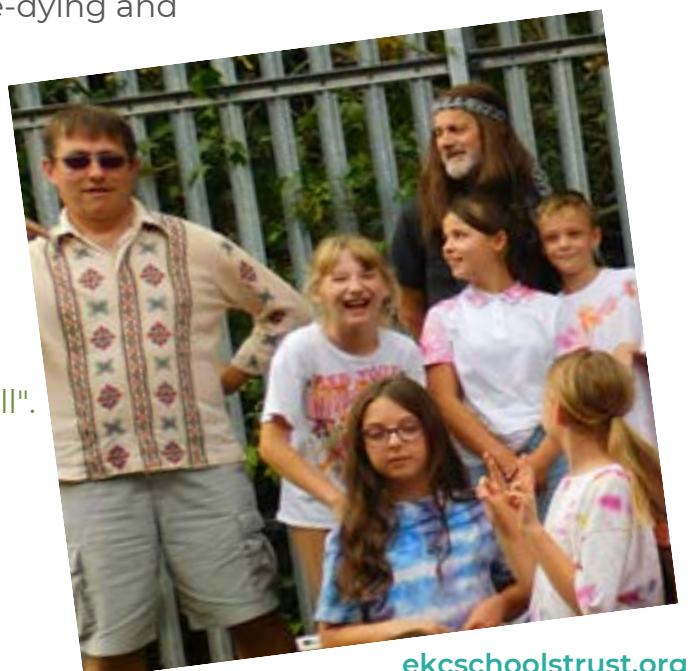
Not only has the school grown in number, but also in provision, including Chiffchaffs on-site nursery and a thriving forest school and wrap-around provision and a wealth of sports clubs.

To celebrate our amazing 50 years, we began the week with an assembly to launch the anniversary and time travel back to 1973. Naturally, this was followed by tie-dyeing and psychedelic pattern-making, a 'pop-up museum' and a 70s-themed party.

Also, to mark the occasion, we invited past pupils and staff to tour the school.

Liz Jeffery, who joined the school in 1979 said: "Such happy memories from a very special school. Lovely to see it thriving still".

We also invited The Mayor of Faversham in to help us bury a time capsule and plant a tree to mark the anniversary.



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# BRONZE AWARD FOR EAST STOUR

East Stour are proud Bronze Winners for the Picture Impact Awards 2023 in recognition of their fundraising efforts.

The kind words from Picture News:

"We reached this decision as we felt that your Key Stage 1 children have all worked so hard to raise so much money for your chosen charities, which has impacted many different people!

Well done for the impact you have made; you should feel very proud!"



# QUEENBOROUGH OUTSTANDING !

First recognised as 'Outstanding' in 2016, Queenborough has continued to go from strength to strength since joining the Trust.

"I am immensely proud of the entire school community once again demonstrating what an incredible school we have. It was a magical moment sharing the outcome with our amazing children during a special assembly and seeing their excitement at the news."

Jason Howard, Headteacher



"It's amazing news and I feel so proud to be part of an Outstanding school".

Head Boy, George

"I'm really proud of all the pupils and teachers. This is such a great community to belong to". Head Girl, Brooke

We were thrilled that Ofsted recognised how hard our staff work and for their "determination to empower pupils to succeed in a very positive and caring environment.... Leaders have worked successfully to improve attendance. Pupils' excellent personal skills as well as their academic achievements mean that they are exceedingly well prepared for the future."



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# OUR COMMUNITY HUB

## FAIRY GODMOTHERS AND READING WIZARDS WANTED!

CALLING/CONJURING ALL BOOK LOVERS!

If you love books and have a little time in which to make a big impact, this is the perfect opportunity for you!

Please contact your local school and join our amazing teams of Reading Volunteers! Just 15 minutes a week can help a child develop improve their literacy skills and grow in confidence... can make magic! Plus it's a lot of fun! You'll meet new people and share your love of books with children who might not otherwise have the opportunity to read and instill a love of reading that will last a lifetime.

Each school runs its own scheme; please contact your local school to learn more and offer your support.



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

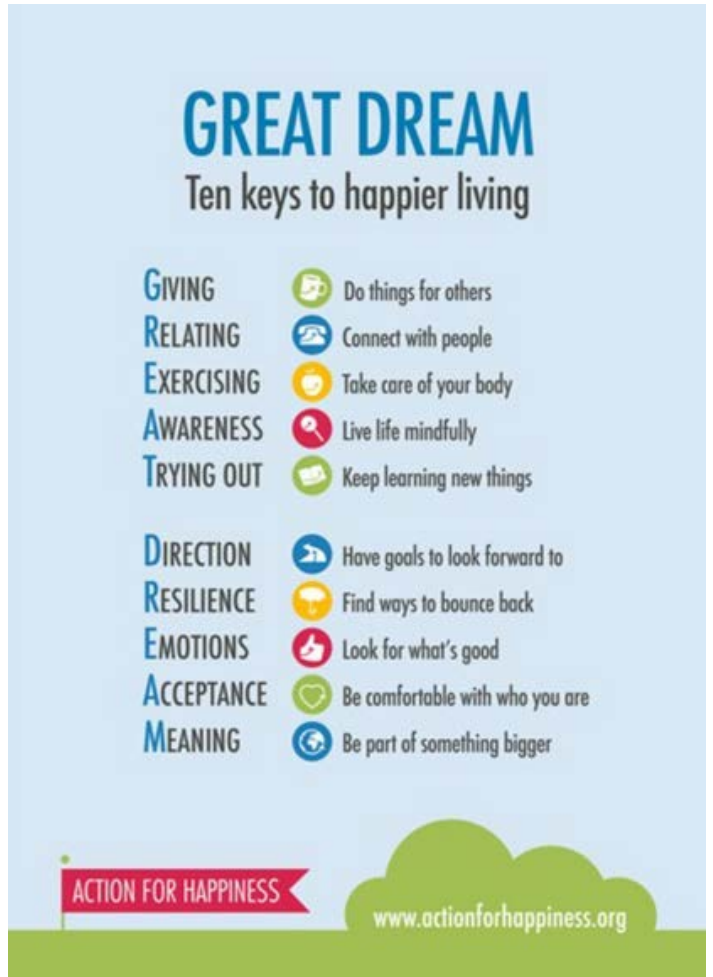
## Monthly Wellbeing Theme



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

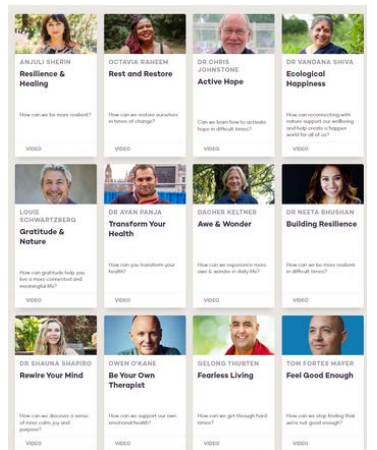
Why not sign up to be receive future themes and calendars right to your inbox.

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



## Online events and Talks Library

Action for Happiness  
host a regular series  
of free online  
wellbeing talks with  
world renowned  
speakers offering  
insight and  
inspiration on  
happier living



Register for upcoming events  
and/or browse their library

Here is one of our past favourites:



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



# 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.

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



# 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)

