

Welcome...



Welcome to the second issue of Anglian Learning News Update, where we celebrate some of the fantastic experiences and achievements our pupils have enjoyed. Awards have been won, visits by poets, musicians, sculptors, and African animals have been welcomed, there has been participation in an international environmental and educational project, and the Arts have been showcased.

The Spotlight is on Sawston Village College, as well as our Trust Vice-Chair Sue Speller, plus a profile of Paul Dunn from our Central Team. Please also take a look at our core Aims and Values on page 8.

Contribution of news and photos for newsletters and our social media sites are always welcome – please send to Sarah Golding, PA to the Executive Trust Leadership Team.

Jonathan Culpin
Chief Executive Officer

Olympic hopeful wins award

Senior Bassingbourn Village College sports stars were amongst those honoured at the annual Roy Burrell Awards – with diving champion Ben Cutmore picking up the prestigious Sportsman of the Year title.



Ben Cutmore

The event is held annually at The Netherhall School to recognise sporting excellence across schools in Cambridgeshire and this year saw Helen Richardson Walsh, England Hockey player and gold medal winner at the Olympics, hand out the awards.

Seven year 11 students from Bassingbourn were awarded medals for competing at a high level in their chosen sport (pictured below): Ben Cutmore (diving), Max Bowen (athletics), Max Crane (football), Louis Chadwick (football), Fleur Corlett (dance), Ed Vickers (trampolining) and Sam Daniels (cycling).

Teachers Dan Beck and Helen Guilder accompanied the students to the event. Ms Guilder, joint head of PE, said:

"This is another amazing achievement for Ben. We are so proud of them all."

"Ben is a superb student. Despite his diving commitments, he keeps on top of his workload and school work and is an extremely level headed and conscientious student. His achievements in diving are amazing and I believe he is the biggest talent we have had at Bassingbourn."

"I am sure that with his commitment and focus, we will see him competing at the Olympics in the not too distant future."

16-year-old Ben began diving at the age of 7 as part of the national *Learn to Dive* programme and by 10 was the British National Age Group champion and the youngest member of the Junior GB squad. He became British Junior Elite Champion in 2016 and, following that, has gained scores of national and international titles.

Ben now trains several times a week at the Aquatics Centre in London and is part of the World Class Programme for Great Britain. He is aiming for Commonwealth and Olympic Games in future years.



Another year of success at Anglian Learning

By Chief Executive Officer Jonathan Culpin

As we reach the end of the academic year, I would like to begin by thanking all of our Staff and Governors within Anglian Learning who have worked so hard for the pupils in our schools and communities. In my visits to schools, and through conversations with school leaders and their colleagues, I am struck by the commitment and dedication of all those who make up the Trust workforce.

Particular highlights in the last few weeks include seeing the enthusiasm of pupils at Bottisham Community Primary School during their recent Science Day, learning about DNA, germs and how to make (small) explosions; wonderful displays of pupil artwork at Bassingbourn Village College and Bottisham Village College; and listening to a Year 10 student from The Netherhall School explain the unfairness of school funding to the National Schools Commissioner (NSC), Dominic Herrington, when he recently visited Anglian Learning. As Mr Herrington commented, a career in politics awaits that young person.

But none of this is possible without your passion, skill and care for our pupils, and one of the key roles of the Trust is to make sure that you have the tools and learning environment to deliver the best education across our academies.

Part of this means fighting on your behalf, and for our parents, for more funding for schools. In addition to our conversation with the NSC, I also met recently with the Minister of State for Schools, Nick Gibb MP, to make the case for Cambridgeshire schools, citing examples of the impact of cuts in Anglian Learning academies. The situation is becoming more and more challenging though there are signs the government is listening.

At the same time, as a relatively new Trust and one that is growing, Anglian Learning received £1.4m to spend on capital works across our schools, enabling a far greater programme of repair and renovation than could have been achieved as stand-alone academies or LA schools. We are therefore, over the summer, investing in new roofing at Sawston Village College, Bottisham Village College and Bottisham Community Primary School; improved safeguarding at Bassingbourn Village College and Fen Ditton Community



Top: Art Exhibition, Bottisham College; above left: restored cupola in Henry Morris Hall; above right: Henry Morris Hall at Sawston Village College

Primary School; and heating and boilers at Stapleford Community Primary School and The Netherhall School.

There are also projects requested by staff and leaders such as an outdoor canopy to improve the playground for early years at Bottisham Community Primary School, a remodelled reception area at The Netherhall School and a new play space for our very youngest pupils at Stapleford Community Primary School, as part of a project to build a nursery at the school. These and many other projects will enable us to not only keep schools safe, warm and watertight but also enhance the teaching, learning and working experience for staff and pupils.

Of course, much remains to be done. Next year, we are excited to be working alongside Anglian Gateway Teaching School Alliance providing courses for NQTs, early leadership courses and events for those aspiring to and working

in senior leadership; we are also providing training for Governors. We will also be launching our Workload Charter in the Autumn term, alongside the work taking place to support staff wellbeing.

Richard Mayer, Director of ICT, is planning the rolling out of new servers, to improve the resilience of the ICT system, while at the same time saving thousands of pounds – the result, again, of us working together as one organisation. These and other initiatives are ultimately driven by delivering our core aims and values, and those of our schools, and which are so richly reflected in the contributions to this newsletter.

We have much to look forward to in the new academic year. In the meantime, however, I wish you well for the end of the term and hope you have a wonderful, relaxing and enjoyable break, and thank you again for all that you do for your school and the Trust.

An animal experience for Bottisham Primary School

On Monday 3 June, the children in Nursery and Reception had a special visit from the Animal Experience.

They brought a selection of African animals, including a veiled chameleon, a python, a pygmy hedgehog and a meerkat. After listening to some information about each animal, the children had the opportunity to touch or hold some of the animals, which was a first experience for many of them.

"Holding the snake was the best bit. It felt hard," said Freddie. The children were very excited to

examine and interact with such unusual creatures. "The meerkat made a big noise," commented Jacob. "The hedgehog felt like a hairbrush," observed Kayla. Much of the new vocabulary the children had been working on was embedded in this real-life animal encounter. The school was very grateful to the Bottisham PTA for funding this experience and helping to bring its *Amazing Animals* topic to life.



Central Team Member – Paul Dunn



I joined Anglian Learning in January 2018 after spending 18 months at Peterborough City Council (Primary Schools) after resettlement from the Armed Forces.

I trained as an Infantry Soldier (Welsh Guards), joining the Army at 16. I finished a long career as Warrant Officer Class 1, Regimental Sergeant Major. During my service I was deployed on many various operations, including stints in Afghanistan, and leading and planning the Queen's 89th Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour 2015).

I have enjoyed long periods of time in the most austere challenging environments. The jungles and deserts of the world are areas which I thrive in! I really do love the outdoors and being physically and mentally challenged.

This experience gave me the chance to see lots of different countries all over the world, a chance to see the best and the worst in humanity. During my previous career, many aspects of operational deployments gave me valuable experiences specific to my current role. I was constantly setting up and administering various sites all over the world. Compliance and safety were always at the forefront of the mission, and I bring that personal standard to the schools I look after within Anglian Learning.

Daily, I support Sawston Village College and the Primary School hub on all matters around premises, estates and operations. This can be very challenging and diverse. I have fostered some great working relationships with the staff within the Trust. I really think we have schools that are safer and cleaner, with a vision to see further improvements over the next 5 years. The most pleasing aspect of my role is the team I work with, ranging from the Senior Leadership to our various site teams, cleaners and outside service providers.

I originate from Anglesey in North Wales and am a proud Welsh speaker. I am married to Elizabeth, a senior nurse practitioner in Cambs NHS. My son James is currently in Year 7 at Cromwell Community College in Chatteris. I still love the outdoors and you may catch me on my 1970's cruiser on the Great River Ouse!

“ I really do love the outdoors and being physically and mentally challenged

Paul Dunn



Sue Speller

I'm Sue Speller and I have been a Trustee for Anglian Learning for the past 2 years. I am passionate about education and I believe it is a necessary cornerstone for everyone in order for them to question, understand, and function in this world. I consider myself very fortunate to have been asked to work for the Trust.

All schools within Anglian Learning strive to provide the best opportunities for every one of our pupils, in order for them to progress and achieve their maximum potential during their time at school. Key to their progress and achievements are the staff who work tirelessly to provide appropriate support and learning opportunities, ensuring that our pupils leave school as confident, well-adjusted individuals, able to engage with – and thrive within – society.

The Education Committee, of which I am Chair, works to agree the curriculum and to chart progress and achievement against that curriculum. I am also Chair of the HR Committee, which is responsible for the processes that underpin the governance of our schools, ensuring that they are run appropriately.

Being such an important part of our society, yet one which is often misunderstood and neglected by our politicians, the state education sector will always face complex challenges. However, I believe that Anglian Learning is well-placed to continue to deliver education of the best quality within all of our schools. As our family of schools develop and grow, I will continue to work hard to ensure that each and every one of our pupils receives the best education possible.

My vocational background is not in education, but I have had a good deal of personal experience in education, training as a horticulturist and an IT professional, as well as having two children who have both gone through from primary school to university.

In my career, I have worked as a commercial horticulturist, before moving into the world of IT, spending 29 years at pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline, where I analysed, designed, delivered and supported IT systems which were used by scientists across the world.

I am now retired and very fortunate to be able to spend my time running, riding my horse, gardening, and visiting friends – as well as working for the Trust, of course.

Preserving Sawston's heritage

Sawston Village College's Design Technology department was recently presented with a challenge. Could they restore the school's weather vane to its former glory?

Sitting atop the cupola over the roof of the Henry Morris Hall, the vane belongs to the original 1930s school building and so, as part of the College's history, is important to preserve.

The rains and hot summers had oxidised the surface of the vane, the green tinge of verdigris the only indication of what lay beneath the build-up. Charlotte Campbell, DT Technician, worked with Year 10 pupil, Reece McLoughlin, to complete the restoration. Together they made a solution of citric acid to eat away at the corrosion. Beneath, they found copper, bronze and steel, with evidence of a gold gilt. Next, they annealed the surface in order to safely beat the brittle copper. Lastly, they sanded, buffed and polished the metals to a beautiful shine. A coat of hammerite black to the steel completed the look, and the restored vane is now back in its rightful place.





Netherhall students become solar buddies

Year 7 students at The Netherhall School are the first in the UK to participate in an international environmental and educational project.

SolarBuddy is a registered Australian charity dedicated to educating and empowering the next generation to change the lives of children living in energy poverty through its innovative school education and corporate engagement programmes.

Following a fundraising non-uniform day and a donation from ARM, students received the SolarBuddy solar light assembly kit and education pack. As part of their Geography lessons on the topic of sustainability, they have learnt about solar technology and how energy can be created from the sun. They have also learnt about energy poverty and how a solar light can change a life. In groups, they have assembled their SolarBuddy light, which will be distributed to students in communities living in energy poverty. The Netherhall students have written a personal letter to their 'buddy', which will be sent together with the light.

Kat McCartney, the Geography teacher coordinating this programme, said: "This has been a very exciting and inspiring project. The students have all worked hard learning about the issues, making the lights and writing the letters."

Netherhall Principal Chris Tooley added: "We are proud to be the first UK school to take part in this international project. It is so important in this day and age that we all realise our responsibilities as global citizens. Our students have done a great job in supporting the wonderful work of SolarBuddy. We are also very grateful for the generous donation from ARM which has facilitated this project."



Creativity on the curriculum at Stapleford

At Stapleford Community Primary School, we love welcoming visitors to school and creativity was in abundance when poet and writer Ian McMillan and musician Luke Carver Goss came along for the afternoon.

They entertained the whole school in the hall, followed by a workshop for Year 6. It was great to see Luke play the piano accordion, guitar and didgeridoo, and Ian was so quick to create and teach the children new poems and song. Highly entertaining and such great fun! Our thanks go to Trevor Barlow and the Granary Stapleford for making this possible.



Latest sporting news from Fen Ditton Primary

As a school we have changed the way we teach PE. Firstly, every class has a competition week within their class at the end of the PE unit each half term. Medals are awarded to the winning team in our class assemblies to celebrate these achievements and raise the profile of sport. Secondly, we have timetabled our long term plan to coincide with the inter-schools competitions, which has prepared the children better for these competitions.

In May a team of Year 3 and Year 4 children visited St. Bede's School for the Aspire Competition. Children had the opportunity to try out a range of different sports and activities including archery, giant jenga, ultimate frisbee and team building games.

In June we took a team of 10 Year 5 and Year 6s to the Quadkids Athletics tournament. All children took part in four different events – 600m long distance, 75m sprint, howler throw and standing long jump. Everyone did a fantastic job and we came second overall in the small schools

competition. This means that we have qualified for a place at the County School Games. The School Games value for the event was self belief which we awarded to Julian. Well done everyone – we are very proud!

Later in June two different teams attended the County finals for the first time at the outdoor One Leisure Centre in St Ives. This is a result of our hockey team finishing second in the district competition earlier in the year and the athletics (quad kids) also finishing second.



Reflecting on a successful 12 months

As I come to the end of my first year as Principal of Sawston Village College, it is a privilege to be able to reflect on what makes our school such a special place.



*Principal
Jonathan
Russell*

Since joining in 2005, I have seen the College continue to strengthen and academic outcomes improve, but without us ever losing sight of Henry Morris' vision for schooling within a local community and ensuring the highest standards of care.

Our ethos

It is so hard to define a school's ethos – far better to sense it. It can be seen in

the collegiality of our staff and the warmth of our pupils; it is heard in the quiet, calm and purposeful classrooms or the buzz of the myriad enrichment activities at lunch and after school; it is felt through the experiences in the arts and the creativity within the workshops. "The village college," Morris said, "would not only be the training ground for the art of living, but the place in which life is lived." At Sawston, we encourage all pupils to seize each opportunity and the vast majority truly embrace this.

Our success

Success cannot be defined by academic outcomes alone. Whilst we are very proud of our track record – one of the top 6 per cent of schools nationally for EBacc performance and with more than 65 per cent achieving strong passes in English and Maths – we believe success is about an individual's personal journey: their resilience, their kindness, their humility, their celebration of others and their

preparedness for the next step. Success is also measured in being a reflective staff body, committed to our professional learning and never complacent in what we do.

Our vision

We are a school rooted in our past and confident to engage with whatever the future may bring. This confidence comes from a collective belief that we always strive to do the right thing by pupils and that we recognise the enormous contribution made by all members of staff at the College. Set to grow in numbers, we have a plan for the development of a greener site, which will see us continue to prioritise safeguarding, pupils' experience and staff well-being. We will build on our collective knowledge of what makes a broad, balanced yet robust and powerful curriculum in order to deliver lessons that inspire, engage and spark a curiosity for learning for all. The Sawston Way would demand nothing less.



Natural performers at Bottisham Village College

This has been an exciting year for both Creative and Performing Arts at Bottisham Village College. Drama, Dance, Music and Art have all been busy with workshops, performances and concerts.

We have been very lucky to have sculptor Matt Sanderson, creator of the World Tree and Berserk, and street artist Seth Wells (SNUBB23) working with us to produce large scale works of art that will go on permanent display in the college.

These works make a real statement and engage everyone's attention immediately. Students really benefited from seeing the work develop quickly, in front of their eyes over the course of a couple days. They were able to discuss – with the artists – the inspiration behind the imagery and the different techniques used to create it, whilst being treated to small group instruction in spray can art and wire modelling.

Students discussed access routes into an art career and the possibilities that are available to them beyond college and onwards into higher education. A great opportunity for those interested in taking their passion and talent further. Having impactful artworks installed in the college to complement our existing sculptures and illusionary art created in the Morris wing has made staff and students engage and interact with art in thought-provoking ways.

Performing Arts started with a bang with the Spring Showcase and finished with the Summer Concert which featured everything from Pink Floyd to Moana, and Irish Folk to Chopin. Both evenings celebrated the best of BVC and featured some stunning performances from across the year groups. The Summer Concert was complemented by the GCSE Art and Technology exhibition which once again was a great success, showing off the amazing work that our GCSE students have produced for their coursework.



Aims and Values

The overarching mission of Anglian Learning is simple and straightforward – to ensure the best possible educational outcomes and experiences for all of our pupils, for their families and their communities through self-sustaining, innovative and outward facing schools, able to support and challenge each other to achieve excellence.

In order to achieve this mission, Anglian Learning has the following core aims:

OUR CORE AIMS

- To work collaboratively to improve educational outcomes, promote social justice and tolerance, and foster ethical responsibility to build successful communities
- To deliver a broad, rich and vibrant curriculum which prepares our young people for active citizenship, rapid technological change and dynamic career pathways
- To enable the very best opportunities for the professional development of our workforce, to better impact upon the lives and wellbeing of children, young people and staff
- To build and maintain environments and spaces that excite, inspire and motivate learners of all ages
- To develop leadership capability that will drive improvement, build capacity and take collective responsibility for all of our pupils

In delivering these aims Anglian Learning and its academies will be guided by the following core values and behaviours:

OUR CORE VALUES

We are:

- **Aspirational** and **ambitious** for all those in our community to be the best they can be;
- **Inclusive** and **comprehensive**, working always in the interests of our children and young people;
- **Respectful** in our relationships, underpinned by mutual support and trust;
- Unafraid to **challenge** ourselves and others to deliver excellence and acting always with:
- **Integrity, probity and honesty** within Anglian Learning and as part of the wider educational system