

Welcome...



As I write this, the country has just moved into a state of almost complete lockdown. Exempt from these emergency measures are members of the school workforce who continue to support the children of key workers and those who may be vulnerable. They are being supported by other staff from home – setting work, checking on the welfare of young people and keeping the schools functioning. My sincere thanks to all staff of Anglian Learning for their incredible contribution to the national response.

In what are difficult and surreal times, this newsletter provides some much-needed positivity and optimism, reflecting the great things our schools have been doing.

Finally, my best wishes for your health and wellbeing, and that of your family, for the weeks and months ahead.

Jonathan Culpin
Chief Executive Officer

Sawston students in foster film video challenge

Sawston pupil filmmakers were delighted to take part in the Foster Film Video Challenge run by Cambridgeshire County Council recently to make a film highlighting the need for more foster carers locally.



Pupils made two films, one of which was then chosen to launch a new campaign to promote fostering which was featured on BBC Look East. The pupils involved in the project appeared in the BBC Look East feature and will shortly visit the Look East studios for a tour and to see the programme go out live. Five pupils in Years 8-10 were involved in making the film, which also featured original music by another Year 10 pupil.

Principal Jonathan Russell said: "We were delighted to take part in this project. Given our strong commitment to the arts, our pupils gained a great deal from the creative process and enjoyed the development of their idea from conception to the final edit. That the film may also help raise the profile of fostering

and encourage others to be involved is heartening and befitting of a College that prides itself on community values. Our pupils were keen to be involved and proved to be a credit to their school."

Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Executive Director of People and Communities for both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Councils, said: "Thank you for the support Sawston Village College has given its pupils to engage in the foster carer recruitment film programme. We really appreciate the school's and pupils' efforts and support. We desperately need homes for our children in care, and I am sure the work of the school will make a big difference."

Stapleford pupils learn about textiles and screen printing

Between November 2019 and February 2020, Stapleford Community Primary School has been delighted to have the opportunity to work with a professional textile and screen print artist, Ricki Outis.



With the support and help of Lesley Morgan, Arts Development Manager, Anglian Learning, and Polly Bodmer from the Fine Arts Society (South Cambs), Ricki was able to deliver a fantastic project which involved every pupil in the school.

The focus of the artwork was the environment, and each class was given

a theme such as the oceans, trees or flowers.

Ricki demonstrated the process, then helped the children with their ideas and drawings, before they were printed. The gasps of amazement and awe were magical, and the children were so inspired.

The finished designs are now hanging proudly in the school hall. We are really grateful to Ricki, Lesley and Polly for making this possible.



Spotlight on...

a Trustee



Richard Cowling

My involvement as a Governor started at Sawston Village College in January 2009. I was, and remain, grateful for the education and opportunities that my children had there.

After a long career mostly in HR and Pensions I am now almost retired but not quite. I'm still learning, keeping up with employment and education policy and – in complete contrast – teaching myself woodturning. It's satisfying to make something you can see and touch when your professional life has been about analysis, reports and decisions.

The chance to create Anglian Learning by bringing together three like-minded local Academy Trusts was a welcome opportunity. Now I am a Trustee and our duty is to do what's best for all our pupils in all our schools.

The Trust Board sets the direction for Anglian Learning – we set targets, hold the executives to account, and we are responsible for governance and compliance. We make sure that well over £20 million of public money that flows through the Trust each year delivers value. It's a balancing act, looking at where we are while trying to anticipate changes, being realistic and being impatient to improve.

Our meetings are focussed and productive – each Trustee has very different experiences and all have a contribution to make. It feels like time well spent, which is why I am still involved after 11 years. It would be easy to forget about our real purpose, so major decisions are underpinned with the question: "What does it mean for our pupils?"

We have grown as a Trust and we will soon be opening the new Marleigh Primary School in Cambridge. There is always a new challenge and one certainty is that there will be more challenge and more change around the corner. What's next?

Creative arts links formalised

Cambridgeshire pupils demonstrated their passion for the creative arts during a visit to Bottisham Village College by Arts Council England.

The event was hosted by Anglian Learning to showcase artistic talent within the Trust's schools and to conduct the formal signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) recently agreed between Arts Council England and Anglian Learning.

Darren Henley, Chief Executive of Arts Council England, and his accompanying Directors Amy Vaughan and Amanda Rigler were entertained by pupils from Bottisham Village College, who performed dance and musical pieces, and enjoyed a film showing highlights from Stapleford Community Primary School's whole school print project, which was supported by the Arts Society South Cambs.

The Arts Council delegates also admired an exhibition of art from Bottisham Village College.

Additionally, the visit provided an opportunity for Darren Henley to present Bottisham Village College with their Gold Artsmark certificate, which was accepted by pupils on behalf of the school, and which recognises the college's commitment to arts and culture education.

Jonathan Culpin, Anglian Learning's CEO, said: "We are delighted to be working in co-operation with Arts Council England as we advance our ambition of embedding arts and culture across our academies.

"The formalising of this MOU demonstrates our commitment to work with arts and heritage partners in designing a culture-rich curriculum that enables all pupils to advance their creative skills and literacy, regardless of their background or starting point.

"It is important to both Anglian Learning and Arts Council England that arts and culture play a significant role in the lives of children, supporting their personal development and progression into adulthood."

The Arts Council is the national development agency for arts, museums and libraries in England, distributing public money from Government and the National Lottery.



Darren Henley with students from Bottisham Village College

Fen Ditton theatre trip to see *Cinderella*

By Catherine Hawkins, Year 6



Friday 10 January began like any other school day. We were all standing out in the playground, waiting for the bell to go, when three buses pulled up next to the gates – we were going to the Cambridge Arts Theatre to see *Cinderella*!

The whole school got onto the coaches, even the secretary, Miss Hinton. The school was completely empty, and I thought it was good that all of us got to go on the trip, instead of just one class, which is what usually happens.

When we arrived at the theatre, we could hardly contain our excitement. We were seated right up in the circle, and we

had a great view of the stage. As the pantomime started, everyone settled down and listened quietly, even the Reception class. There were lots of funny jokes, and famous songs to sing along to. It was hilarious when the actors interacted with the audience! The actors and dancers were so full of energy, and the costumes were amazing. At one point, the Ugly Sisters were dressed as a chandelier and a disco ball!

As the pantomime drew to a close, everyone was exhilarated and ready to go back to school. The bus ride back to school was just as lovely as the one from it, and when we arrived we had a picnic lunch in the hall. It was a brilliant experience, and I'm really glad that I could go.

My class, Year 6, were singing the songs and talking about it for ages afterwards!

Thank you to our school PTFA for raising the money to help us all get pantomime tickets, and to Cambridge Arts Theatre Panto Wheels Charity for providing us with coach travel.

Spotlight on...

Trust System Leader –
Safeguarding



Sam Abbs

I started my career at Sawston Village College in 2009 as a Year Lead with a background in behaviour and SEND. Having been the College's lead on Looked After Children, Domestic Abuse and a Mental Health Champion, I became the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Director of Welfare and Inclusion in 2015.

My work involves supporting the most vulnerable children and families in the community, liaising with various agencies to secure the most appropriate help. Last year I was appointed as the Trust Systems Leader – Safeguarding, a responsibility that allows me to endorse a Trust-wide strategic approach, with the ultimate aim being a 'gold standard' for all.

I have the pleasure of working with other senior leaders in identifying initiatives that will allow for a more standardised, consistent and effective approach to safeguarding and inclusion.

“ It is a privilege to be a driving force behind the Trust's ethos and values in regards to safeguarding. ”

Life in Ancient Egypt at Bottisham

Years 3 and 4 of Bottisham Community Primary School had a fantastic start to the Spring term when they had a visit from *History off the Page* for a trip back in time.

The day was themed on life in Ancient Egypt and the children had the opportunity to immerse themselves in activities and experiences such as making amulets and perfume cones. They even had the chance to try mummification on peg dolls. In the afternoon, the children prepared an Ancient Egyptian banquet which they all took part in. It was a super day and the children looked wonderful in their Ancient Egyptian costumes.



The Netherhall School and The Oakes College Cambridge

By Chris Tooley

My six years as Principal of The Netherhall school and Oakes College completes 30 years of working in schools in Cambridgeshire. Initially I worked for 15 years at Soham Village College followed by nine at Bottisham, providing a great grounding for a return to the city where I studied.

Netherhall is a very special school. Founded in 1871, we are fast approaching our 150th year of providing high-quality education in Cambridge. Over that time the city has grown both in size and diversity – at the last count over 50 languages were spoken by students at Netherhall with a quarter of our students having English as their second language. This rich mix of students and parents from all over the world gives Netherhall a distinct culture – colourful, dynamic and vital.

We are justifiably proud of the way that our students interact as a family, not just tolerating cultural differences but actively embracing them.

At the heart of Netherhall are three words – Inspiring, Individual, Inclusive, or I3 as it is commonly referred. We believe that it is our role to inspire young people, through a rich curriculum, whole-school events such as our annual Festivals of Music, Dance and Drama, and the students never fail to inspire us in turn. We meet the needs of the individual, shaping our curriculum around the needs of our students rather than fitting them into a ‘national curriculum mould.’ Then, most importantly, being fully inclusive – building community, understanding and tolerance.

Adorning Netherhall is our sixth form, The Oakes College. The Oakes, now in its second year since rebranding, is rapidly growing in popularity, drawing an increasing number of students from schools within Anglian Learning. Here we provide A-level studies with a focus on dynamic, active learning within small group sizes and personal care.

I count myself so fortunate to have been given the opportunity of leading such a great school. Our teaching and support staff are inspirational, a true family working collectively to the same goals – commitment to young people and to each other. It is a privilege that I am aware of each day and look forward to the next stages of our development.

“ I count myself so fortunate to have been given the opportunity of leading such a great school.





Students lead recycling project at Bassingbourn Village College

A student-led recycling project has received the backing of the Bassingbourn Village College Parents and Friends Association.

Annie Safford, a year 11 student and Head of Luther King, launched an environmental awareness programme across the college as part of her role on the Student Council. Last term saw a number of quizzes take place with information posters placed in classrooms and public areas of the college to reinforce the importance of recycling to students.

Annie said: "I have been working with our subject ambassadors to raise money for recycling bins which are badly needed in the college.

"I think that having recycling bins would be a big step towards making the school much more sustainable and would be greatly appreciated by everyone."

When the PFA was approached to see if a cash contribution could be made toward the bins, they immediately agreed to buy all the bins for the student council – enabling the project to be completed much sooner than expected.

Ann Lynn, acting Chairman of the PFA, said: "We were very impressed by how hard Annie and the rest of the school council had worked to raise awareness of sustainability and recycling in the school. Annie's request for funding was one which we felt we could whole-heartedly endorse and unanimously agreed to pay for all the bins."

Vickey Poulter, BVC Principal, added: "We are very grateful to both the school council and to the Parents and Friends Association for their hard work and financial support for this project. I think that Annie in particular should be congratulated for leading this campaign to such a great conclusion.

"The recycling bins will be placed at strategic points around the school for students and staff to use."

“We were very impressed by how hard Annie and the rest of the school council had worked to raise awareness of sustainability and recycling in the school.

Joyce Frankland Academy Newport

The 'Box of Delights' by Connie Webb and Martha Hodges (Year 10)



We interviewed Dr Philip Marriott, born in 1946, a former student of Joyce Frankland Academy, then Newport Free Grammar School. We wanted to find out more about his remarkable life and the 'Box of Delights'. His story is inspirational, one which delves into Viennese culture in the 1920s and talking to Dr Marriott made us realise how after all these years, in the 21st century, school culture fundamentally has not changed.

Dr Marriott tragically lost his parents in a car accident whilst still at school, after which he went to live with Herbert Bach and his wife. A combination of Dr Marriott's drive and Herbert's encouragement saw him graduate from Gonville and Caius College at Cambridge University with a degree in medicine.

In 1971 Herbert Bach took his own life. Herbert Bach was an Austrian refugee who escaped to England in 1938 fleeing the persecution of Jewish culture at that time in Europe. It left Dr Marriott without a father figure in his life. But Herbert Bach had left him a snakeskin box that would later become known as the 'Box of Delights'.

Herbert Bach had been given this box by his uncle, David Josef Bach, who was an influential figure in Viennese culture. David Bach was presented with the box on his 50th birthday in 1924. It contained paintings by Oskar

Kokoschka, musical dedications from Arnold Schoenberg, Richard Strauss, Bela Bartok and Erich Wolfgang Korngold, and poems and letters from Karl Krauss, Arthur Schnitzler and Stefan Zweig amongst many others.

Once the true value of the box had been established it was up to Dr Marriott to decide what to do with it. His upbringing had taught him the value of community. He describes being a student at Gonville and Caius as becoming 'a member for life' and he felt similarly about his experience at Joyce Frankland Academy.

He decided that the box wasn't his to sell or make money from. Therefore, he felt that it was only right to donate the box to Gonville and Caius College with 10% of ownership to Joyce Frankland Academy. The school and Gonville and Caius have connections which date back hundreds of years to 1557. At that time Dame Joyce Frankland helped found Gonville and Caius Cambridge and was their largest benefactor.

Last year, Gonville and Caius sold the 'Box of Delights' at auction. The sale of the box has greatly benefitted JFAN by enabling the school to refurbish an original building for the use of the sixth form to help ensure that students can explore their learning, fulfil their potential and flourish in their futures.

Academies transfer into Anglian Learning

We are looking forward to Howard Community Primary School, Linton Heights Junior School, Linton Village College, Meadow Primary School and The Pines Primary School joining our family of schools on 1 April.

These four primary schools and one secondary school share our core aims and values, our belief in inclusion and a broad and balanced curriculum, and the determination to provide the best possible educational opportunities for young people.

Over the past few weeks we have been working closely with each academy to respond to the COVID-19 Coronavirus emergency; we do however look forward to when we can talk in depth again about a whole education, rich opportunities and inspiration through outstanding teaching and learning for all of our pupils in Anglian Learning.

New Nursery at Stapleford Community Primary School

Here at Stapleford Community Primary School we were delighted to open our doors to our very first Nursery children on Monday 24 February 2020. There has been a huge need in the community for this early years provision and it has been the school's ambition to meet this need. The nursery currently offers the equivalent of 26 full-time places for 3 and 4-year-olds in term time, 7.45am – 6pm.



The children have settled very quickly into the new nursery environment under the care and guidance of their teacher Miss Davies.

It is particularly noticeable how they are already gaining independence. Examples observed are organising their own paints and equipment to paint daffodils and choosing and collecting their lunch in the main hall. This is going to make a huge difference to how they transition into the Reception class. Parents have been extremely positive about the new nursery, one parent declaring they wish they could stay all day in the calm environment instead of going to work!

The nursery class is based in a newly refurbished classroom funded through LA Section 106 money. The upgrade includes a new entrance, a small kitchenette, and revamped cloakrooms, with additional light and space achieved through changes to the external walls and widening of interior doorways.

The results see the children have clean, bright quality space to engage in learning through play. Outside there is a brand new and exciting area funded by Anglian Learning, which includes great climbing, staging, and 'softpour' all weather areas with a 'sail' canopy providing shade and protection from the elements. We have equipped the classroom through contributions from different sources, including funding from Anglian Learning, money for furniture from the Messenger Fund, which provided new tables, chairs and shelving, and additional parental donations which included toys.

Lauren Davies is a qualified, experienced nursery teacher who is excited about this new venture. At Stapleford Community Primary School and Nursery we are proud and passionate about what we do and have high aspirations for every child in our care.

