

## Welcome...



Welcome to the Summer term newsletter, and especially to the schools that joined the Trust in April – Linton Village College, The Pines Primary School, Meadow Primary School, Howard Community Primary School, and Linton Heights Junior School.

When we first started to plan the expansion of the Trust in September, we could never have imagined that the coronavirus pandemic would close our schools for the majority of pupils. This has presented huge challenges for us all, but schools have risen to those challenges with innovation, commitment and flexibility. Thank you for your efforts over the past months.

As we reach the end of this unusual and tiring term, I wish you a well-deserved rest over the summer.

**Jonathan Culpin**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Art inspired by nature at Howard Community Primary School

Hot on the heels of the Anglian Flower Show competition, our whole school art project has been a fantastic opportunity for some hands-on, creative and innovative learning in combining both art and nature.



Our arts lead, Ms Attwood, has led us in our Art School approach, using nature as our inspiration. Our children have spent time collecting and sketching natural objects, preparing to create their own tree house sculpture.

This involved some real problem-solving thinking in this design-through-making approach, manipulating and constructing a range of natural materials. Inspired by the work of Paul Klee, our children have also been creating their own individual tiles to form part of a communal collage, using different media.

It has been an absolute pleasure to see great team work in action, see the huge grins, hear the excited chatter and lots of laughter across the school.



## David Lamkin



I have worked in computing since leaving university and came to the Cambridge area in 1982. Like most people I had not given school much thought since my own schooldays, where I benefited from a Grammar School education. Although this had given me a good start in life, I saw how contemporaries who did not pass the 11-plus exam suffered from lack of opportunity.

When my own children entered secondary education, I realised that we were lucky to be in the catchment area for Sawston Village College – a very good school which lived up to the aspirations of Henry Morris, the founder of the Village College movement, to

provide a well-rounded comprehensive education. Both of my daughters flourished at the school and in 2000 I became a school governor there.

I have now been involved in school governance for 20 years (under 11 successive Secretaries of State for Education!) and I became a Trustee of Anglian Learning in 2016 when it was formed. In some areas multi-academy trusts have not been successful in the quality of their education, but we believe that our strong foundation – built on mutual trust between the member schools and our shared ethos of aiming to provide excellent education to all – allows Anglian Learning to be an exemplar for the MAT model. The bottom line for me as a Trustee is: “Would I be happy for my children to attend one of the member schools?” to which the answer is a resounding “Yes”.

## Whole Education

By Director of Secondary Education  
Duncan Cooper and Director of  
Primary Education Prue Rayner

**W**hole Education is a dynamic network of trusts and educational partners who strive to provide a fully rounded education for all children and young people, developing the knowledge, skills and qualities which will help them to thrive in life, learning and work.

Anglian Learning leaders have enjoyed the opportunity to engage in a variety of professional learning opportunities, sharing with and learning from colleagues across the country. This has included five visits to schools or trusts (some remotely), headteacher summits, national conferences and opportunities to develop evidence-based projects involving pupils' views of their learning and wellbeing through 'spirals of enquiry'.

Membership of Whole Education for schools has been subsidised by Anglian Learning. This network has also provided a good platform for leaders to explore and share effective approaches to provision in the lockdown period. Other topics have included curriculum development, digital transformation and approaches to assessment. These are all closely linked to the development of our aims and values.

## Busy lockdown at Fen Ditton Community Primary School

The lockdown journey at Fen Ditton has shown the amazing adaptability of our staff and families. Embracing new technology by using Google Classroom, both exciting and challenging, everyone has been doing their best to become competent users.

**S**o much deserves mention – the Spring photo competition, Mindfulness and Mental Health Week, Our Family Culture Week, and Performance Poetry where confident budding actors and actresses recited poems old and new.

There have been sporting challenges including winning a £50 voucher for the Netball Competition, VE Day Celebrations and a Computing Theme Week. Not forgetting the Art and Craft competition using the amazing goody bags funded by Abbey People, plus all the other exciting activities the children have tried at home and in school.

While all classes have embraced their learning, a particular mention must go to Rowling Class, who took to their literacy challenges of Explanation Texts and Poetry with gusto, writing and submitting videos of their performances for our enjoyment.





# Tribute to Gary Whitton, Head of Science, Sawston Village College

We are very sad to share the news that our friend and colleague at Sawston Village College – Head of Science, Gary Whitton – has died of cancer.



In normal times, we would come together as a school to support pupils and staff and to celebrate the huge part he has played in the success of the College

since joining in 2011. A much-loved colleague, Gary led his department with enormous compassion, kindness and warmth. He would go out of his way to support others, finding time – when often there was none – to help with a query, a problem or a tricky Physics concept.

He was passionate about his subject, making it understandable and accessible for all. His wit, dry humour and positivity delighted pupils and made his lessons enjoyable even though he would be the first to admit science was not everyone's cup of tea. Or in his case, glass of Coke.

Gary was a practical man, a fixer, someone determined to solve whatever problem was in front of him. His professionalism never wavered and since his diagnosis in autumn 2018, and throughout his illness, he fought to be in school to teach and to help others. He was a towering strength in the department, a keen rugby player and music lover. Above all, he was an utterly devoted family man who will be missed enormously by us all.

*'How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard'*

**Winnie the Pooh**

**Jonathan Russell, Principal  
Sawston Village College**

## Trust funds major improvement works

Each year, Anglian Learning receives more than £1m to spend on the refurbishment of the Trust's schools. Some of the money is distributed directly to schools, to top-up the funding they receive directly to undertake maintenance and minor works but the majority of the funding goes on large projects which have been identified as part of each academy's asset management plan.

This year we have targeted funding to replace the old and dilapidated heating system at Bassingbourn Village College, development of a new playground at Fen Ditton Community Primary School, important safeguarding works at Sawston Village College, a new Reception at Bottisham Primary School and fire safety and other smaller upgrades within our schools that were part of the Trust before January 2020.

In addition, we are managing the delivery of more than £1m of grant funding for the schools that have joined the Trust since January, including improved pupil access works at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport, and new heating and water systems at Meadow Primary School and Linton Heights Junior School. These improvements contribute to our aim of creating environments and spaces that excite, inspire and motivate learners of all ages, and to support our staff to deliver outstanding education.

## Dinosaurs emerge at Bottisham Community Primary School

Throughout the partial school closure period, we have taken the opportunity to take a themed approach each week with the children in school, led by their interests and ideas.

During one of the weeks the children found out about dinosaurs – a subject which gripped the whole school from Nursery to Y6. The children took on the role of palaeontologists, researching fascinating facts about dinosaurs and becoming quite the experts! Another popular activity was creating clay dinosaurs, such as the fabulous triceratops pictured here.



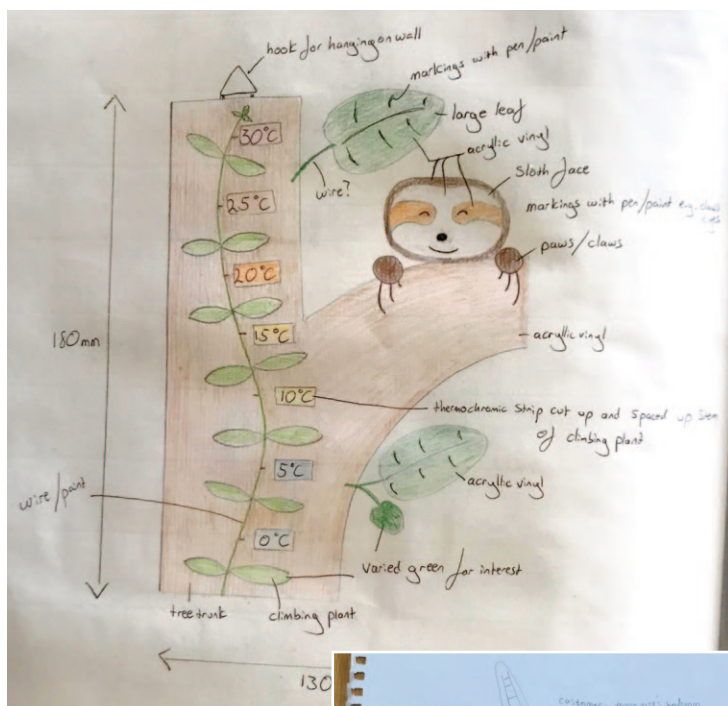
# Designing thermometers at Sawston Village College

Since lockdown, the DT department at Sawston has had to turn a 3D practical subject into a purely 2D one, and this has not been without challenge.

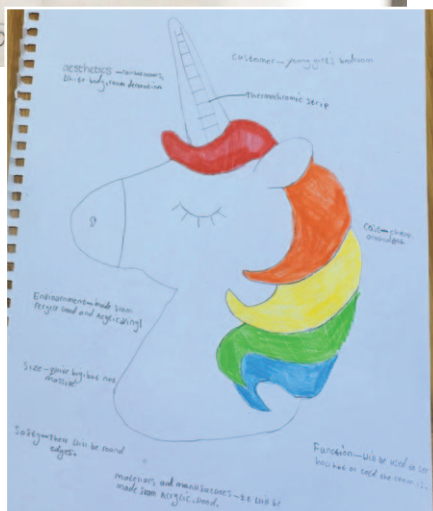
However, our gifted staff and pupils have produced some very creative tasks and responses, none more so than our Year 10 pupils. Before lockdown, pupils were busy responding to a brief which involved combining a smart material (thermochromic strip) and a recycled material to design a thermometer for a client.

We have had lots of ingenious responses, ranging from thermometers designed for children's nurseries to those for animal enclosures in the zoo. Pupils began by finding a client, designing a survey, producing a specification and then a series of sketches and iterations, before developing a fully annotated template which they could present to their client for feedback.

Having no access to the workshops forced us to reduce and rethink our approach, which, in turn, has reduced our carbon footprint. At the same time, pupils have begun to develop a deeper analysis of products, how to develop drawings and now realise the importance of client feedback. We are all looking forward to seeing our pupils again and hopefully realising some of their skilful and imaginative responses.



“We are all looking forward to seeing our pupils again



Spotlight on...

a member of the Central Team

## Richard Mayer, Director of ICT



Growing up in Cardiff, Richard went on to study a Computer Science degree at what is now Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge, graduating in 2004.

Prior to this, whilst studying for his A-Levels, Richard delivered holiday workshops to young people as part of the

Cardiff Youth Service, teaching skills such as website design, animation and t-shirt printing. Richard has a passion for serving young people and now focuses on doing this through the provision of technology.

Richard has collaborated widely across Cambridgeshire schools on projects ranging from co-ordinating buying consortia to designing and supporting data systems for staff, pupils and parents.

The most recent iteration of this is a project becoming known as 'ALIS' – the Anglian Learning Intranet System, which brings together Assessment, Attendance, Behaviour, Timetabling, Rewards, Enrichment and Cashless Catering information from multiple data sources into one interface, through a mobile-first design to enhance and simplify the digital reporting experience for pupils, staff and parents.

As Director of ICT, Richard is part of the Trust Leadership Group and leads the Anglian Learning Technical Services Team in running a network of over 3000 devices across 13 sites and supporting 7500 students and 1200 staff. The team aims to provide the very best affordable experience of using ICT for all members of the community.

Current projects Richard and the team are involved with include the design and build of the new Marleigh Primary School, the ongoing strategic alignment of school systems to enhance the experience of using them whilst lowering the associated costs, extending the use of Microsoft 365 and Google G-Suite, the rollout of Skype for Business and developing the emerging ALIS platform. Of course, all of this is in addition to attending to the daily support needs of our pupils, staff, parents and governors.

Richard is member of the British Computing Society and in his spare time, enjoys choral singing (which includes being employed as a Deputy Lay Clerk at Ely Cathedral), photography, cookery and spending time with his wife, two children and wider group of family and friends.



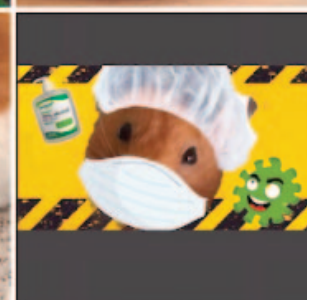
# Daily lockdown challenges for Bassingbourn Village College

While the country has been in lockdown, staff and students from Bassingbourn Village College have been taking part in daily challenges created by Mr Beck.

Set every day, these challenges have ranged from creative activities, such as compiling a scrapbook or making a desk tidy, to life skills such as fixing something broken in the house or learning how to use the washing machine.

Some have focused on supporting others in this difficult time, like reading a book online to a relative, or showing someone a simple act of kindness. Others have been designed to encourage physical fitness, such as designing personal fitness circuits to doing 100 sit ups!

These daily challenges have been incredibly popular and have given staff and students a fun activity each day – something vitally important while we have been safely staying at home.







## Stapleford Community Primary School

The past few months have been very strange for all schools. With two days' notice the entire school were given home learning packs and from then on teachers have provided weekly home learning as well as being in school for the children of critical worker families. Rather than the school being full of children spread in classes from the nursery to Y6, there have been between 9 to 35 key worker children all in a vertically grouped space.

The children attending school completed home learning in addition to some fun tasks such as sending thank-you letters to the NHS. The photograph is of a montage which was displayed at the Royal Papworth Hospital in Cambridge.

Since June we have gradually introduced more year groups back and currently have children in the Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6. The children have quickly adapted to the changes – such as eating in their classrooms, being seated on single tables distanced from each other, and having numerous lessons outside (weather permitting). The children are incredibly adaptable and have coped really well.

Our Year 6 pupils were fortunate enough to receive their hoodies and had plenty of photographs taken before the lockdown began in earnest, thanks



to Mrs Guron armed with her camera. In the past the hoodies were given out as the children embarked on their residential journey. Unfortunately, this has been one of many events that the

Year 6 of 2020 have had cancelled, along with the end of year play, a trip to the theatre, and some of the transition days at their chosen secondary schools.



# Netherhall crowdfunds for disadvantaged students

In recent weeks students across the UK have been swapping their classrooms for their lounges, dining rooms and kitchens to continue their learning during lockdown.

**T**raditional approaches of worksheets and exercises have been replaced by live lessons, interactive collaboration and video challenges through the internet.

Exciting as this was, an emerging concern was a lack of equity of access to computers. Some students were making do with shared equipment, a small number resorted to mobile phones while others had no access at all.

The Netherhall response was to loan out our existing laptops, soon followed by further loans courtesy of the Cambridge Youth Panel (CYP). However, we were still only scratching the surface. A donation of £500 to support a disadvantaged student arrived

from a parent which then inspired us to aim higher and to start to raise funds through [Just Giving](#) and CYP to provide all disadvantaged students with their own computer system...to keep!

The £500 became £1000, then £5000 and then exceeded £10,000 – allowing us to provide complete systems for over 100 students, even including some who are joining us from Year 6 in September. Another lovely twist is that the computers donated have been built by our own students in our keyworker provision.

This has been a truly inspiring project, bringing access to online learning to so many of our students and we continue

to push on to do more. Our dream is that every student will have their own system on which to learn.

Any further contributions would be gladly received through the [website](#) and converted into lifelines for our most vulnerable students.



## Families get creative at Meadow Primary School



For many of our families, lockdown has meant a new way of life. Being able to keep in touch with our children and share learning with them via Google Classroom has been incredibly important. Staff have looked forward to seeing the work submitted by the children for feedback and the inventive and creative ways they have completed tasks.

**A**s time went on, we realised that many of our children needed something more than using a computer or tablet screen. Thanks to our amazing PTA we were able to provide every single child with a goody bag which included paint, sketchbook, felt pens, sewing activities, play dough, playing cards, friendship bracelet kits, blank postcards, cat's cradle and much more.

The reaction from the children was amazing and we have been inundated with photos showing us their creations. Perhaps one of the most important parts was the 5 minutes staff got to spend at the end of a driveway chatting to our families as they delivered the bags. Relationships are so important, and even at this difficult time, we have to be inventive in finding ways to keep them going.



## New Forest School area at The Pines

We are delighted that phase one of our new Forest School area has been completed this term and all our children currently in school have been making the most of the amazing outdoor learning opportunities that this new space affords us.

Everyone from our pre-schoolers to our key worker group have experienced a wide range of activities that have continued to promote the well-being of our children as well as providing opportunities to manage risk and reconnect with others in a different social context – all of which is a high priority for our children at this time.



## A silver lining at Linton Heights

It takes a great deal to make pupils and staff at Linton Heights despondent.

One staff member in particular, Hannah Threlfall, is a shining example of grit and determination and proof that Covid-19 should not get any of us down. Despite being unable to return to school for medical reasons, Hannah has worked tirelessly at home to bring enjoyment to pupils at home during the lockdown and teach us all new skills.



“For me one of the silver linings of Covid-19 has been the wonderful ability to adapt and find new ways to interact and share with the pupils of our school. My sewing blogs, posted onto our YouTube account, have enabled me to do just that and share my passion and enjoyment of sewing with the children – allowing them to learn a new life skill whilst having fun.

“We started by learning some basic stitches and then we went on to make felt decorations, bunting and we have even made face masks – most apt for these Covid times,” she said.

“It took me a while to get my set up correct and I learnt – in true Blue Peter style – to have ‘one I made earlier’ at the ready, so my blog did not drag and kept a good pace.

“I was very aware that not all of our pupils would have access to the equipment required and so I have been making up packs, which include a needle, threads, fabric, ribbon, stuffing and all the other bits and bobs we need for that week’s creation. These are left in a basket on the wall within school, for those who need to collect whilst out on their daily exercise,” added Hannah.

“It has been an absolute joy to receive emails from the children sharing photographs and tales of their sewing adventures. A little ray of sunshine!”



## Working with Apple

As part of our partnership with Whole Education, we have been working with Apple to begin exploring how we can enhance blended, digital learning across our schools.

This improvement work was being planned back in January, but of course has now taken on greater urgency due to the current crisis. A key part of this project has been training for a small group of digital innovators from seven Trust schools, which has been led by Apple.

Each teacher has been loaned an iPad and, through remote learning, they have been exploring how the functionality and apps of the device can help with workload and lesson design to improve pupil knowledge, skills and engagement.

Feedback from the course is positive with one participant describing it as ‘absolutely brilliant’. We are now looking at how we can scale up the training for teachers to the next level and to start exploring how we can get pupils collaborating to generate content using iPads.

The Covid-19 crisis has meant that we have had to think differently about the relationship between in-school and home learning but even when we move back to full time education, it will be important for us to maintain this momentum if we are to provide our pupils with the skills needed to respond to the rapidly changing, digitally focused world around them.



# Linton Village College and the Cambs Youth Panel

The Cambs Youth Panel is a body of young people established in 2016 to improve relationships between young people and the Police. Since that time, it has grown to become an active citizenship group more broadly and contributes to resolving a number of key issues that affect young people in our region.



Linton Village College has a prominent role to play in the Cambs Youth Panel thanks to pupils Arun and Alex. Following the outbreak of Coronavirus in the UK the Youth Panel has been focused on supporting young people with technology to increase participation in home learning during the lockdown period.

The boys have done brilliant things for the Panel and have attended weekly organisational meetings since the Covid-19 crisis began. Arun and Alex joined the Panel before Christmas and at that time the focus was on the threat of serious street-based violence and knife crime.

Alex and Arun have both met with the Children's Commissioner for England, Anne Longfield OBE, and they will play a significant role in an important meeting with Cambridge MP Daniel Zeichner. By the end of May 2020, more than 400 computers had been distributed since 19 March.

If you would like to seek the assistance of the Youth Panel with a free computer on loan, or would like to buy a low cost computer (around £55) – or if you would like to donate money or equipment (new or second hand) – please visit the website: [www.cambsyouthpanel.co.uk](http://www.cambsyouthpanel.co.uk).



## Joyce Frankland students exercise for Addenbrooke's

Students, staff and their families from Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport (JFAN) have been participating in a fundraising and exercising competition to support Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust (ACT).

The competition has been a great success, so far raising over £300, and with all exercising over 9,500 miles.

The challenge Mr Grindrod set had the aim of bringing a sense of community in the isolation of lockdown as well as supporting the wider community of Addenbrooke's Hospital.

The original challenge was to see which House and its family members could exercise the 857 miles from John O'Groats to Land's

End the fastest and raise the most money for the charity.

This was quickly achieved with Caius House exercising the distance in just over a week. A challenge to exercise to Tokyo before the 2020 Olympics were due to start followed and passed, and now the target is 24,000 miles to go around the world! If you would like to donate and help our community please do so at:

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jfan-exercise-for-act](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jfan-exercise-for-act)