

Welcome...



Welcome to our Autumn newsletter, at the end of an exhausting and complex term. The Trust and its academies were set a huge challenge in August, but I have been without exception hugely impressed with how all of you have risen to that challenge.

Thank you for your commitment, dedication and professionalism. Our communities and our country should be proud of what you have achieved.

We will begin the Spring Term with a sense of hope that we are at the beginning of the end, even if January brings further restrictions.

In the meantime, make sure you rest and recover over the festive period, spending time with your families – either in person or virtually.

My best wishes for Christmas to you all.

Jonathan Culpin
Chief Executive Officer

Friday Fun Day at Linton Village College

by **Cressida Hughes** (Year 7)



On Friday 23 October, the whole of Year 7 spent the final two periods of the day with their tutor groups for the first time ever! These two hours were packed with fun and exciting activities. We got to know our tutors better and made some new friends.

The first thing we did was a quiz. We had to guess pictures of celebrities and famous landmarks. It was so much fun making silly suggestions and joking with new friends. A great start to a Friday afternoon!

We then went outside and had to line up in age order. Once finished, we all answered a question before racing to get to the other side of the field. On the other side, we had to rearrange ourselves into height order and the first team to do this was Mr Kerley's tutor

group, but my tutor group didn't come far behind. We learnt more about the other students in our tutor group as the first hour continued.

The third and final activity was a treasure hunt. We had to stick together in our tutor groups whilst finding clues all around the school. The final challenge was great fun as we all worked as a team, building new friendships.

Fun Friday was definitely that and everyone enjoyed themselves. We all made new friends, became closer and felt like a proper tutor group. The school created a great afternoon and now everyone feels more settled. It was amazing how LVC had managed to organise this event within the Covid-19 restrictions.

Thank you LVC!

£1.6 million spent on improving schools

One of our key goals as a Trust is to improve the physical condition of our academies, to provide the best possible environment for our staff and pupils.



Overall, during the summer and autumn term we spent more than £1.6 million towards this ambition, carrying out a huge range of works that included installing new lighting, fire safety systems, roofing and boilers – despite the restrictions of COVID-19.

As noted in the previous newsletter, the biggest projects saw a new Reception Office built at Bottisham Primary School, a new playground at Fen Ditton Primary School, improved safeguarding through new fencing and automatic entry / exit gates at Sawston Village College and the installation of a new heating system at Bassingbourn Village College. All these projects were completed on schedule and on budget.

Alongside this we have been granted approval to dispose of an unoccupied house on the Netherhall site and, in a complex project, to dispose of land at JFAN, both of which should enable substantial improvements to take place at each school. We are now turning our attention to new projects for all schools, including an ambitious energy efficiency scheme which, if enacted, should see a substantial reduction in our carbon footprint and cheaper fuel bills in the long run.



John Morgan

I joined the Trust board in April 2019 and I am delighted to be part of Anglian Learning. It has been an exciting and challenging 20 months to say the least.

I have been particularly inspired by the commitment shown by all our staff in dealing with COVID-19, enabling us to continue to provide a great education for our pupils across our growing number of schools.

I have been involved in most aspects of running businesses in the IT and oil industries and really enjoy contributing to the board discussion. I currently chair the newly formed Audit and Risk Committee and I am a member of the FEOC and HR committees. I want to make sure the board can do whatever we can to support our staff and pupils as the crisis continues and beyond. I am also excited about the opportunity for Anglian Learning to increase its wider contribution to education both regionally and on the national stage.

After a degree in physics and computer science I spent the first 10 years of my career in an IT systems consultancy designing and building computer systems for various companies. I then moved to the oil industry. I led the commercial team which developed the first oil field in the deep water Atlantic, west of Shetland, and eventually built and ran a number of different businesses including petrochemicals in Shanghai, refining and marketing in Beijing and carbon-capture and storage in Abu Dhabi and California. I lived in China for a total of 10 years in three different periods.

After returning from my final job in Beijing I was made redundant and my wife Fei, my two younger daughters and I moved to Fulbourn near Cambridge in 2015. Fei teaches Chinese in the University of Cambridge and is a qualified counsellor. Amongst other things, I love gardening and now have the time to really enjoy it, including studying for RHS Level 2 Certificates with Bottisham Village College Adult Education. I also retain a continued fascination with trying to learn Mandarin.



Wartime experiences at Bottisham Primary School

This term the children in Y5 / 6 have been learning about World War Two in history. The topic has really grasped their imaginations and we have seen some fantastic work from them – in particular their writing in response to *Friend or Foe* by Michael Morpurgo, which they studied in their English lessons.

The school closed today for the Summer holidays.

3rd. I assisted the billeting officer (Mr. H. Howlett) in receiving about 24 mothers and children evacuated from London under the government scheme. They were received in the Hall of the Village College.

Owing to the outbreak of war, school did not open. This Clark and I reported plans for school. These included the gas-proofing of the waiting room for the Russian children (it will be very difficult for 1 teacher to keep gas masks on about 15 children) and the pasting of paper windows to prevent shelling.

In previous years, we have taken the children to Stibbington Centre to take part in their evacuation experience day. Whilst this was not possible this year, we were not going to let that stop us immersing ourselves in the past! The teachers instead planned a fantastic World War Two experience day here at the school. Everyone came in 1940s outfits and activities included making gas mask boxes, learning to 'make do and mend' by darning socks, making their own pack-up (including spam sandwiches) and researching the experience of evacuees.

Records from the school archive provided a rich source of information, including the Headteacher's log book with entries from the day war broke out in 1939 and subsequent details about evacuees who attended the school.

The archive also includes a register of the evacuees who attended the school, where they came from and where they stayed in the village. This was a superb way for the children to make a tangible connection with the past and brought the whole experience to life. A huge thank you to Claire Rayment, Clair Palmer, Diana Sands and Sharon McMahon for their hard work in planning and delivering the day.

A summer transformation at Fen Ditton Primary

There was a significant amount of work done at Fen Ditton Primary School over the summer break to transform the outdoor environment and school hall.



There was some sadness that the outdoor swimming pool had come to the end of its lifespan, but in its place a new playground has been created, which will support outdoor learning for all the classes and utilise a part of the school that was only used for 7 weeks a year.

A new purpose-built storage room and Caretaker workshop behind our Qube outdoor room is on land that was never used and will allow resources, currently cluttering corridors, to be moved outside, providing a better feel indoors.

The view as you leave the school hall has completely changed, with the Forest School nature area in sight, rather than a tired wooden fence housing the swimming pool. At the present time, with the need to stagger play times and keep bubbles separate, this additional playground is being used by our two younger classes, which has created more space for the other classes to use at the front of the school.

In addition, the school hall has been completely redecorated, with the floor restored and the walls and ceilings painted, with new curtains and blinds finishing off the upgrade.

Tarmac Group, who have been working on the nearby Chisholm trail, kindly created a footpath nature walk around the perimeter of our school field at no charge – meaning children will be able to maintain their physical and mental health throughout the whole year.

Investing in Digital Learning

In the last newsletter we highlighted how we were working with Apple to support the training of teachers to enhance digital-orientated learning in the classroom.

We have now provided a small number of iPads at Bottisham Primary School, Linton Heights Junior School, Meadow Primary School and Bassingbourn Village College, to test approaches and monitor the impact on learning and staff well-being.

At the other end of the scale, Bottisham Village College has invested in two classroom sets of iPads to trial the impact on curriculum and pedagogy and we are looking forward to assessing the impact of all of these projects towards the end of 2021.

Linton Heights Junior School

by Headteacher **James Puxley**

A full 40 years after the advent of Linton Heights Junior School, I had the privilege of taking over this wonderful school as its headteacher. Straight from the outset, my life as head was made easier due to our fabulous and highly committed school team and the ever-supportive Linton community.

One of my earliest tasks was to create a set of values which the pupils and staff would adhere to. This would not only make us all effective learners but even more importantly make the children respectable and upstanding members of the community. From a pupil / staff and governor collaboration, the values of respect, responsibility, resilience, ambition, honest and kindness came into being. Not only do these values form the basis of our reward and sanction system, but they have become key drivers in lesson delivery and are truly part of the fabric of school life.

There are three aspects of school life I would like to celebrate:

Wellbeing: Our on-site trained counsellor, Juliet Frost, has proved a crucial success in offering support to children in need – allowing pupils to overcome personal and emotional barriers – and strengthening both pupils' and staff members' ability to deal with mental health issues in everyday situations (mindfulness). Mindfulness days have become a regular feature in the school calendar and, for some learners, have proved pivotal in allowing them to develop strong attitudes to learning.

The Arts: Following a concerted school focus, standards in arts-based subjects have improved considerably over the last two years. In 2019 / 20 we were set to apply for the Artsmark gold level, but the application was thwarted by lockdown. LHJS staff have established regular meetings with local schools in art and DT to share best practice and we hope to resume these meetings post-COVID.

Sport / PE: A wide variety of clubs are appreciated and attended by our pupils. Sporting achievement has improved enormously in terms of cross-country running, netball, cricket and football, and the school holds the Active Mark Platinum Standard. Our PE lead organises and has led cluster sporting events for all the local schools, while in November 2018, LHJS was shortlisted for the Living Sports School of the Year.



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Green shoots of improvement at Howard

One of our core aims is that as a family of schools we take collective responsibility for all pupils in the Trust and use the combined capacity of all our schools to help any facing challenges.

Howard Community Primary School in Bury St Edmunds is one such school. Over a number of years, the achievement and progress of pupils has been low, leadership has lacked stability, the number of pupils has declined and Ofsted inspection judgements have been adverse.

Since April, however, Anglian Learning has invested heavily in the school, through new leadership and staff appointments, training for staff, a revised approach to behaviour management and SEND and improved cleaning and building maintenance to ensure that the school looks and feels different.

Most importantly, we have focussed on opening up new opportunities for pupils, especially in access to arts projects (overseen by our Arts Development Manager Lesley Morgan) and improving partnerships with the local community.

There is still a long way before the school is where we want it to be – a beacon of excellent practice in the town – but the first green shoots are showing and demonstrate what can be achieved when, through a charitable trust such as Anglian Learning, we pull together our collective capacity to ensure no child is left attending anything less than a good school.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to all of the staff at Howard, whatever their role, for their hard work this term, especially given the already exceptional challenges of the pandemic.

Remembrance Day at Bassingbourn Village College

At Bassingbourn Village College we commemorated Remembrance Day slightly differently this year, but most importantly, we took our time on November 11 to show our respects and consider what the day meant to us all.

Our Remembrance Day Inter-House Competition encouraged our students to design, bake, draw or create something that they thought encapsulated the message of never forgetting our fallen soldiers. We were inundated with entries and the amount of time taken to produce these entries by so many of our students was breath-taking. Entries included cakes, decorated stones, pictures, poems and class videos.



Our Strategic Priorities

Over the past term, we have deliberately scaled back on some of our projects across the Trust, in order to support Headteachers and other leaders to manage the huge demands of COVID-19. At the same time, we must start thinking ahead to life beyond the pandemic and to what we can achieve as a collective family of schools.

For 2020-22, we have three broad strategic priorities. Firstly, to deliver an ambitious and enriching education for all pupils, with a particular focus on supporting pupils with SEND (where we know that all of our schools are facing increased pressures made worse by a continuing decline in LA funding) – by developing common expectations around curriculum opportunity and progression and via digital learning.

Our second priority is on transforming together – undertaking research into improving staff wellbeing, developing our leaders and governors and creating an extensive and exciting CPD offer (building upon AGTSA's work in this area).

And thirdly, to support the wider education system to improve and to grow sustainably. As part of this, we are currently in discussions with The Icknield Primary School in Sawston about joining Anglian Learning and – with planning permission now confirmed – developing our ideas for the new Marleigh Primary Academy, due to open north of Cambridge in 2022.

Spotlight on...

a member of the Central Team

Sarah Golding

Trust Marketing Manager and PA
to the Executive Trust Leadership
Team



I began my career as a Bank Clerk at a branch of Barclays bank in Suffolk, where I held a variety of roles over a six-year period. Following this, I was a Customer Services Representative at Cambridge University Press (CUP) and progressed to become an Assistant Manager. This led to an opportunity to manage the User

Acceptance Testing team within the IT Department. During this time at CUP I met my husband, had two daughters, and moved to Cambridgeshire.

After 22 years I was made redundant – and I saw this as an opportunity for a career change. I decided to complete a qualification to become a Personal Assistant, and subsequently, I was pleased to be appointed as PA to the Principal at Sawston Village College in 2015. I enjoyed the variety of the role and the enthusiasm of the staff.

In the Autumn term of 2018, I was successful in becoming the PA to the Executive Trust Leadership Team of Anglian Learning, and I have since progressed to add Trust Marketing Manager to my role. I have many responsibilities, including business support to the central team, governance, communications and marketing. I feel privileged to be part of such a motivated team, and I look forward to participating in, and contributing to, the progression of our ever-evolving Trust.

In my spare time, I am a member of my local Baptist church and I enjoy swimming, pilates and socialising with friends. When we are not in lockdown, my family and I often take day trips to the coast. During the first lockdown period, as many others did, I completed Couch to 5k and now the challenge is to maintain this – but I will not be running a marathon (or even a half-marathon) any time soon!



Building bridges at Stapleford Primary

This summer Stapleford Community Primary School upgraded the crumbling bridge across its moat.

Pictures in our archives show the state of the earlier bridge replaced in 2008, which lasted just over 10 years, but with the handrails giving way and holes appearing in the slats, the moat was temporarily closed.

The finished bridge combines steel and wood and should ensure that only minor repairs are needed in the future.

The children derive so much from learning outside the classroom. Whilst they explore and learn, they are gaining an understanding of nature and how to care for it.

This work would not have been possible without the help of the PTA who contributed approximately £5,000, together with some kind donations from within the community of Stapleford.



Focus on mental health at Bottisham Village College

The mental health of our young people has never been so high on the educational agenda, with discussions taking place at the highest levels – including Westminster.

As a direct result, Bottisham Village College's Wellbeing and Inclusion Lead, Camilla Saunders, has been asked by the Department for Education to help them in their drive to support UK schools' mental health provision.

Helping them to formulate a Green Paper on Mental Health Leads in schools, Mrs Saunders will use her experience and expertise in this area to inform the department, alongside sharing the journey Bottisham has been on for the past three years.

After an 18-month long process, the College was awarded the prestigious Wellbeing Award for Schools in 2019, accredited by the National Children's Bureau. Rooted in the belief that mental health and the wellbeing of students and staff is everybody's business, has led to a cultural change within the college.

Mrs Saunders works alongside the pastoral team, overseeing preventative strategies, such as solution circles, anger management and a Safe Place for students. In the same way, her leadership of top tier interventions, such as the creation of a therapeutic area in the college known as The Coral and in-school counselling services, is clear to see on many occasions.

She said: "My hope is that mental health and wellbeing remains at the top of the agenda in education and helps to give students a positive school experience, equipping them with the resilience and skills with which to approach the rest of their lives."



Olivia hits the high notes for JFAN

Congratulations to Olivia, in Year 9 at Joyce Frankland Academy, who has won a place on the VOCES8 future talent programme.

This was a highly competitive process with only a very small number of places available for this prestigious opportunity.

During the 2020-21 academic year this initiative is providing places for eight singers aged 13-17 to benefit from bespoke training and take part in performances alongside VOCES8 and Apollo5. The programme will also offer sustained support for all successful applicants and provide valuable mentoring, career and general music development advice alongside practical musical training.

In addition, the eight successful applicants will take part in the VOCES8 International Summer School and Festival in July 2021.

Our students have shown incredible resilience this term as they continue to develop their imaginative skills and flourish in different areas of school life and beyond. This is one such exceptional example of which we are all very proud.



Screen Bank Project

Lockdown presented a number of families with many challenges, one of which was the inability of some students to access online learning due to not having a computer.

The local community around Bassingbourn Village College understood and came to our aid. Volunteers within our local area worked tirelessly, supported by Mr Church, to repurpose donated old laptops and computers to redeploy to our students.

Over the course of the last few months, a total of 80 devices have been reissued to allow students to access the equipment they need to continue their education from home.

We are proud to be part of such a caring community – this project would not have happened had it not been from the tremendous support from local businesses. A massive thank you to all involved.

Solar buddies make an impact at Netherhall

Last year Netherhall became the first school in the country to participate in the Solar Buddies project and the results for students are now emerging.

In this appeal we raised funds and purchased components to make solar lights. These were built by our Year 7 students and sent to Africa to provide light to children for whom night times are either completely unlit or where the only source of light is kerosene lamps which produce large amounts of toxic fumes.

This summer, following inevitable delays in shipping, the lights reached a small community in Senegal on the west coast of Africa. The images tell the story of the impact of this gift from our students and you can see the children holding the lights we made as well as the letters written and videos sent to them from Year 7.

An amazing example of the impact we can have on the life of others even though we are so far away.



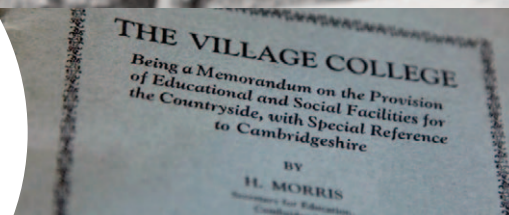
Sawston Village College is 90

As the first of education pioneer Henry Morris's village colleges, Sawston Village College was opened by the Prince of Wales on 30 October 1930, and so this year we mark our 90th anniversary.

To celebrate this special occasion, we produced a commemorative booklet for our pupils, staff and community, with contributions from three former principals and a former pupil who joined the school in 1941.

In his 1924 *Memorandum on the Village College*, Henry Morris outlined his plans for a new type of school: "The village college would change the whole face of the problem of rural education. As the community centre of the neighbourhood it would provide for the whole man, and abolish the duality of education and ordinary life. It would not only be the training ground for the art of living, but the place in which life is lived, the environment of a genuine corporate life. ... There would be no 'leaving school'! – the child would enter at three and leave the college only in extreme old age."

Today, village colleges take their lead from the founding principles established by Henry Morris, and at Sawston Village College we are proud to keep very much alive the vision and values that he espoused.



Embracing connections with nature at Howard

Linked with our Artsmark journey, the children in EYFS and year 1 at Howard Community Primary School have been working with artists Caroline Wendling and Filipa Pereira-Stubbs from Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination (CCI).

CCI is an arts and wellbeing charity working with artists and communities to explore creative connections between local spaces, art and nature. The project Lost Words and Found Connections, is focused on exploring nature and its impact on creativity and wellbeing, inspired by the *Lost Words* book.

The children have been involved in adventuring days with Caroline and Filipa, where they explore the natural world around them through artscaping. They have been reflecting on how they can bring the outdoors inside and take the inside outdoors. One of our rooms has become an artist's studio and the children have been creating and expressing their connections with nature, whilst nurturing their learning in literacy and numeracy.

To launch the project, staff also experienced a taster of immersing themselves in the outdoors, exploring our outdoors space and exploring their relationship with nature through creating pieces of art.



Pebble laying tradition continues at The Pines



The Pines Primary School officially welcomed all their new children into the school community during their annual pebble laying ceremony.

In a tradition that began when the Pines opened in September 2018, each new child is invited to paint a pebble that celebrates their uniqueness and place it at the base of the pine tree. These pebbles will remain in place throughout their time at the school as a reminder that "There is only one you in this great big world. Make it a better place!"



The ceremony takes place after the children have completed a unit of work based on the book *Only One You* – an inspirational children's book about Adri, a little fish who is about to explore the ocean on his own. It is a fitting start for our children's lifelong learning journey at The Pines and beyond.

The Meadow Mile becomes the Meadow March

The month of October for the Meadow Primary School usually means two highlights – the 2-day craft fair that sees the whole school transformed for a weekend and in turn raises money for the PTA; and Meadow Mile, our sponsored walk around the village.

Sadly, COVID-19 put a stop to the craft fair and meant we had to be creative with our sponsored walk. Meadow Mile, therefore, became the Meadow March!

The whole school took turns to march around the grounds in their bubbles, dressed in amazing rainbow colours. Throughout the day, we updated the children on how much money was being donated, with our reception classes deciding to complete an extra lap due to the amount raised.

We managed to raise over £2000, which will be used to update the non-fiction books in the school library.

