

## Welcome...



As we reach the end of another challenging and turbulent school year, a huge thank you to all for your tireless work for the Trust. We knew in September that the pandemic would dominate our lives, but to be living under such tight restrictions a year on has required perseverance, ingenuity, and dedication. I am proud of all we've achieved in supporting our children, young people and families during this crisis.

As we look to a post-COVID future, we can implement our positive plans to support our pupils to thrive post pandemic. This newsletter demonstrates what happens when strong academies, such as those in Anglian Learning, work collectively to improve outcomes for all pupils – where the sum is far greater than the parts. However, now is the time for rest, so I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer break.

**Jonathan Culpin**  
Chief Executive Officer

## The zoo comes to the Pines Primary School

At The Pines we have been faced with the challenge of staying true to our ethos of 'Transforming lives through inspirational learning' while keep COVID-19 compliant.



**W**e were unable to take our children to visit any animals for our rainforest learning theme, so we brought the zoo to The Pines!

The children learnt all about the different exotic reptiles, insects and animals, as well as getting to hold and study them closely, bringing to life and enhancing their class-based learning. The experience also helped a lot of children overcome their fears, as one Year Two child stated: "I never thought I would ever hold a real snake!"





## Dr Helen Abrahams



I was appointed as a Trustee of Anglian Learning on 1 April 2020, in the very early days of the first national lockdown and against a backdrop of one of the biggest challenges our schools have ever faced.

I would like to pay credit to the professionalism and dedication of the Trust's central team and all staff across the Trust's 14 academies for continuing to provide a safe, inclusive and supportive learning environment.

My interest in school governance started in 2012 when the oldest of my two sons joined Joyce Frankland Academy (JFAN) and I was elected as a Parent Governor. I was very keen to use my professional knowledge and experience to support the school's improvement.

I became Chair of Governors in 2016 and began a programme of work which ultimately led to JFAN joining Anglian Learning on 1 January 2020.

I have spent my career working for the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), the Professional Body for chemical science and an international scientific publisher. I have recently been appointed as the RSC's Chief Executive. I also have the privilege of being Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Science Council, a UK organisation for the advancement of the science profession.

## From lockdown project to publishing success at Netherhall

We are so proud of Year 9 student, Molly Bennett, who has spent the last six months working on her first children's book *Finn and the Five Flies* which is illustrated by her Mum, Emma Bennett, and was published by Biddles Books in February 2021.

Molly says that the inspiration for the book came from a rather scruffy and smelly farm dog that she and her Mum spotted while on a family holiday. When they returned home the memory of this dog gradually transformed into the shape of Finn, a muddy farm dog who is plagued by five flies that follow him from page to page. As the story progresses, Finn learns a bit of a lesson and just maybe the five flies aren't as annoying as he originally thought...!

The book, aimed at young readers, is written in rhyme which Molly says wasn't her original intention – and was really tricky to achieve – but she decided on this approach to make it more fun for children to read or be read to. Another decision that Molly made was to incorporate the five flies on each page of the book so that young readers could enjoy looking out for and counting them.

Although Emma, Molly's Mum, a collage artist, was chiefly responsible for the artwork in the book, Molly had lots of input too and art is something that she can't wait to study for GCSE next year.

Molly says that working on the book was a really lovely thing for her and her Mum to do together over the last 6 months or so of national lockdown. What initially started as a fun way to pass the time has grown into a big project with Bella and the Bees soon to join Finn in the bookshops and others in the series on the way.

We're sure that lots of young readers will love finding out about Finn and can't wait to see how Molly's career as a writer develops.

*Molly Bennett with her book 'Finn and the Five Flies'*



# Youngsters get creative for ...



Earlier this year we were delighted to announce the launch of the Anglian Learning Writing Prize 2021, an exciting creative opportunity for all of our pupils within our secondary schools.

Work was submitted across these categories: creative non-fiction, fiction, poetry, and comic strip / cartoons. Following a fantastic response, the entries were judged anonymously by our Head Writing Judge, Freya Dean, a published author and literary editor.

We are pleased to announce the overall winners of the writing categories who will each be offered a mentoring session with Freya:

- Thammaiah Calappa, Year 7, Bottisham Village College
- Isla Linsdell, Year 9, Linton Village College
- Essie Opie, Year 10, The Netherhall School
- Isobel Whitton, Year 8, Sawston Village College

All the winning entries and shortlisted entries will be published in the Anglian Learning Writing Prize Anthology 2021, which

will be available in both print and online format. All shortlisted pupils will receive their own personal copies of this publication along with a certificate.

Additionally, there was a special art category to design the anthology's cover which was anonymously judged by Karen Thomas, Community Manager at Kettle's Yard. We are pleased to announce that the winning design was created by Raphael Moreau, Year 11, Sawston Village College. All runners-up will have their work published inside the anthology.

Congratulations to all. A wonderful anthology has been produced which is a pleasure to read and the artwork complements the creative writing beautifully.

We are grateful to Morgan Sindall of Sawston, for supporting us on this project and would like to take this opportunity to thank our judges for their time, expertise and guidance. Thank you to all pupils who participated in this competition. We were delighted by the quality of all work submitted and hope that the Anglian Learning Writing Prize is now set to become an annual feature.

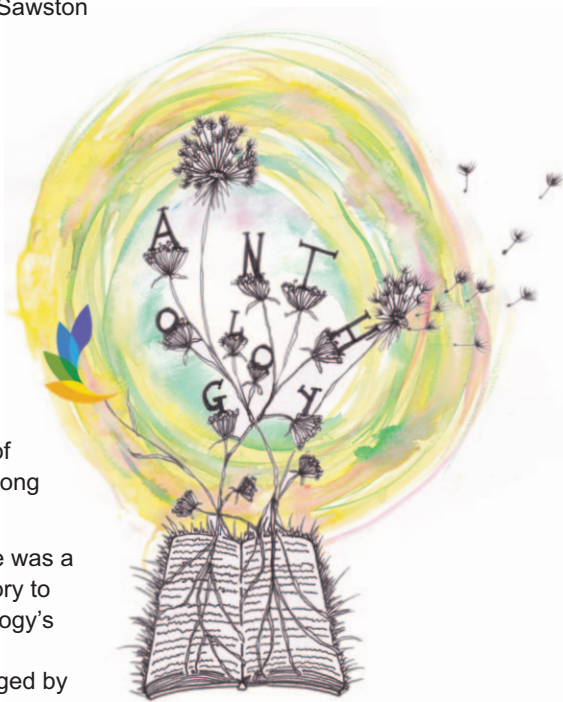
## Professional learning across the board

The Summer term is a busy time for professional learning, not least planning for the coming academic year.

A really promising national policy development is the increased focus on early career teachers (formerly NQTs). Many colleagues will be familiar with the pilot programme this year, which saw Trust NQTs benefit from the more intensive support that the new Early Career Framework promises.

As of next year, all new entrants to the profession will benefit from the Early Career Framework, easing the transition from ITT to qualified teaching and extending formal support and mentoring over two years.

More widely, our anytime-anywhere programme of professional learning is being finalised, ready for the new year. We are also excited to be planning a wider range of subject network groups, building subject communities across the Trust and across key stages, building on the successes of various existing and emerging models.





# Appointments to the Central Team

## Chief Operating Officer Charity Main

Charity Main has been appointed to the new role of Chief Operating Officer from June 2021 to lead the non-educational support services and improve their efficiency and impact for the benefit of the Trust's pupils and staff.

Charity said: "I am delighted to be starting my new role as Chief Operating Officer at such an exciting time for Anglian Learning. We are launching a new ICT support service, planning for the opening of the Marleigh Primary Academy in 2022 and working on making booking easier for our sporting facilities. As we come out of the pandemic, I am also ambitious to further improve our core operations, HR, ICT and finance services."



Charity Main



James Woodcock



Camilla Saunders

## Assistant Director of Education: Professional Learning James Woodcock

James Woodcock has been appointed as Assistant Director of Education: Professional Learning. Having spent over a decade as Assistant Principal at Sawston Village College, a role which James will be retaining part time, he is excited to be working across the Trust from September. James shared his plans: "I am particularly interested in how schools develop a culture of ongoing professional learning, where our expertise is built over time and professional learning is part of our identity as educators."

"I am a great believer in collegiality and collaboration, in engagement with debates and in making informed, well-considered decisions. I believe that teaching practice and curriculum design should be based upon deep professional expertise, so we are cautious about fashions and instead are able to articulate our own vision for education, shaped by research and experience, our values and philosophies, and continuous reflection and evaluation."

"We want Anglian Learning not simply to participate in but also to shape the local and national dialogue, whether that is through subject communities, research projects, inter-school networks, ITT and ECT programmes, or our membership of national institutions. The calibre of our schools and our colleagues warrants this and having such a role and profile will generate exciting learning and career opportunities across our schools."

"Further, we are looking to embed a culture of professional learning and career development that extends beyond teachers to include all colleagues in our schools, whether we work in the classroom or in support roles – to do so is both ethical and important for the sustained success of our schools."

"I am privileged to be able to work with such inspiring schools and exceptional colleagues across the Trust, so fortunate that there is so much excellent practice and expertise within Anglian Learning. I know many of you already and am greatly looking forward to getting to know you and our schools better over the coming months."

## Assistant Director of Education: SENDV and Safeguarding Camilla Saunders

Camilla Saunders has been appointed to the role of Assistant Director of Education: SENDV and Safeguarding with effect from September.

Camilla said: "While I am sad to be leaving Bottisham Village College, I am very excited to be joining the central Trust team."

"I am looking forward to working closely with colleagues across the Trust to further develop the excellent practice of SENDV provision and safeguarding that is already in place. The needs of our most vulnerable pupils have never been more acute as we come out of the COVID pandemic."

"This new role reflects the priority that we place on those pupils who are disadvantaged and I feel privileged to be able to work with you all to improve their educational and life outcomes."

## Retirements

As a Trust we thank the following members of staff who are retiring or who have retired this term for their service and send our best wishes to them.

We are pleased that a number of these colleagues, while stepping down from their current post, will continue to work within Anglian Learning in new roles.

**Angela Fincham**, Head of Languages Faculty at The Netherhall School, 28 years of service

**Julie McGrath**, Head of Art at Linton Village College, 19 years of service

**Ruth McKenzie**, Teacher of Science at The Netherhall School, 2 years of service

**Mike McSweeney**, Senior Science Technician at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport, 9 years of service

**Joe Philips**, Teacher of Maths at Bassingbourn Village College, 7 years of service

**Sandra Thornton**, SIMS Manager / Cover Manager / Secretary at Sawston Village College, 21 years of service

**Linda Vincent**, Student Support Officer at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport, 8 years of service

**Richard Wilson**, Deputy Principal at The Netherhall School, 36 years of service

# Best feet forward for Walking Week 2021

All staff at Anglian Learning were invited to participate in our third Anglian Learning Walking Week.



**W**alking helps to maintain positive mental and physical wellbeing. There was a large uptake for this challenge with almost every school participating, with a total of 389.57 miles being strolled across the Trust.

Six members of staff walked more than 60 miles in the week and everyone who participated deserves recognition – the average distance walked per person being 43.38 miles. The £25 John Lewis voucher for the most miles walked in the week was awarded to Camelia Mihaescu from The Meadow Primary School.

Camelia achieved a fantastic 120 miles, an average of 17.2 miles per day.

In addition to the award of the voucher, the academy awarded the Walking Week trophy for the highest average miles walked was The Meadow Primary School.

A huge thank you to all staff who took part in this competition. The next challenge is Cycling Week which is taking place between 28 June and 4 July. We would again encourage anyone in the Trust able to do so, to embark on this challenge to increase physical and mental prosperity.

## Investment continues to upgrade Anglian Learning school buildings

Despite the challenges of the pandemic work has continued on improving our academies via funding received by Anglian Learning.

**W**ork completed recently has included the replacement of windows at Sawston Village College (pictured) which will contribute to energy savings.

Most of our investment in the estate of the Trust happens over the summer holidays and there are in excess of 20 projects scheduled for July and August.

Projects in our secondary academies will include major toilet refurbishments at Bassingbourn Village College and The Netherhall School, two state-of-the-art science laboratories at Bottisham Village College, fire safety works at Linton Village College and a canopy at Joyce Frankland to give an improved outdoor dining space for pupils.

Projects in our primary academies will include fire improvement works at Linton Heights Junior and Meadow Primary and toilet remodelling at Stapleford Primary. A project to bring the sports barn at Howard Community Academy back into use following a serious flood in 2019 is also progressing and will start in the autumn.





# First visit to the building site of Marleigh Primary Academy



On a bright, blustery day in June, five members of the Trust central team arrived at the Hill sales office on the Hill / Marshall Marleigh development. Five years after submitting the bid for the 420-place primary academy, levels of anticipation were very high as our dream starts to be realised.

**W**e were met by a member of the Morgan Sindall team who provided most of us with high vis jackets, steel toed wellies and hard hats! It is so exciting to see that a number of the new houses are built and already occupied. The community building is well under way and what to date has been a 'virtual reality' is being realised in bricks and mortar. As for Marleigh Primary Academy, the foundations are in and the years of input to the design, challenges around what we can incorporate delights and disappointments. Everything is suddenly becoming very real.

It is such a privilege to be influencing the design of a building that will host education for so many children and young people well into the next few decades and beyond.

We have worked to create flexible spaces that will allow provision to change and flow, meeting the technological changes that will undoubtedly influence how we work and how learning takes place.

The internal environment is key in our planning, reflecting the highest of standards we wish to create and externally providing opportunities for practical, land and forest-based activities that will enhance adult and children's wellbeing.

Marleigh epitomises all that Anglian Learning is, a truly collaborative project that draws on the skills and expertise of our central team, as well as the knowledge and expertise found in our primaries as we move into establishing an innovative and exciting curriculum and focus on building positive community relationships.

We are working in close partnership with the Local Authority, the DfE, Marshall, Hill and Morgan Sindall to create the best provision we can. Marleigh Primary Academy will certainly reflect all that we are in Anglian Learning.



# New multi-use games area at Joyce Frankland

A complex transaction led by the Trust's central team to dispose of surplus land at Joyce Frankland has finished. The proceeds from this are being reinvested in improving the school site.

Following the completion of a new car park earlier this year, work on a new Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) which will be available for hockey and other sports, as well as new tennis and netball facilities gets underway in July. Getting started on the MUGA has been challenging – not least because of badgers on site!

The new facilities are scheduled to be finished by November and will be available for community use. Further investment will include upgrading the Academy's ICT infrastructure.



## Stapleford Community Primary School pupils learn about e-safety

Children from years 3, 4, 5 and 6 across the Primary Schools in the Trust – over 750 youngsters – listened to e-safety trainers The 2 Johns learning about how to keep themselves safe online. This was followed by a session for parents with 178 joining in on Zoom.

Parents reported that it was a real revelation. With some children feeding back to The 2 Johns that at times they were scared by what they saw for example on TikTok.

The question followed: "Why don't they tell?" and the answer was because they think parents will tell their children off and confiscate their games or devices. Parents were therefore urged to have those conversations with their children about being open and honest and the parents checking regularly that their children were staying safe.

The key message really is to use the parental settings carefully – removing the location finders. Plus being aware of multi-player games – strangers have many devious ways of joining,

and beware the moment your child starts receiving gaming gifts. Stop and ask why is a stranger buying gifts in games like Skins – the modern day groomer is definitely in action.

The 2 Johns, both ex-police officers from the child exploitation team in Essex, really helped the children to be more aware of how to keep safe online.

Feedback from parents has been great and can be summed up by: "Thank you so much for organising this. Very informative, quite scary, amazing, informed, fast paced, accessible, friendly teaching."

The 2 Johns can be followed on Facebook: EST E Safety Training@The2johns or twitter@2Johns



# Claudine Bateman

Director of Operations



We moved to Cambridgeshire in 1996 from Surrey where we owned a leather bookbinding then amalgamating with Cambridge University Press binding.

I started working at Bottisham Village College in October 2000 as part time finance assistant, I was asked to oversee operations and realised this was an area I enjoyed. The Trust have provided

opportunities for personal development, supporting me in achieving a Diploma in Office Administration and School Business Management.

In 2019 I joined the Trust Central Team as Director of Operations now overseeing and supporting 14 academies. Working within the Trust has built up many friendships and colleagues where teamwork is essential to embrace change, create, and innovate.

I am married to Ray and we have two daughters who both attended Bottisham Village College. In my spare time, we enjoy long walks in the beautiful Cambridgeshire countryside with our dogs.

We love winter sports and travel when we can, while I have also recently taken up golf lessons – quite a frustrating sport! My parents are of French and Belgian origin, having spent much of our summers with family in France, I speak French but not mastered the language of Flemish.

Lockdown and Covid have brought many challenges but also new members of our family – two beautiful granddaughters.

## The Arts are back at Linton Village College

After our lockdown competition, inviting students to submit 45-second videos of their own Arts creations on the theme of 'Connections', we have enjoyed reviving live extra-curricular activities at Linton Village College.

Art clubs are back and, after some outstanding ABRSM results, the sounds of our Year 7 Orchestra and Year 10 Jazz Band can be heard floating through the corridors of LVC.

In May, Stage-ed Theatre Company delivered a *Blood Brothers* workshop to Year 10 Drama students, who will also be attending Cambridge Arts Theatre live for the first time in too long to see a production of *The Woman in Black*. Discussions for next year's musical are already underway.

Lower School Dance Company auditions take place soon and will run alongside Year 7 and 8 Dance Club.

In addition, Year 7 students have been creating their own exciting version of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* within their Dance lessons. They hope to share their work with Year 6 students in the summer sunshine later this term.





# Apple iPad project

By Lee Anderson, Dom Fullman and Ben Farrar – Bottisham iPad development team

**B**ottisham Village College has embarked upon an ambitious project this year to move towards 1:1 iPad provision for all staff and students. The initial stages have begun with a pilot being set up with 65 year 10 students in music and science lessons.

Our vision for the project, and the benefits we feel it will bring to the college, include:

- To enhance our teaching and learning strategy
- To prepare learners for the 21st century workplace
- To provide equity for all students
- To nurture curiosity and inspire creativity

The pilot has proven to be a great success and staff and student feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

"Nearpod is a good app for doing exam questions and getting quick feedback from my teacher" – year 10 student A

"Having Google Classroom on an iPad means I get notifications from my teachers so I don't miss any work that needs doing" – year 10 student B

"I feel I am much better able to teach responsively and identify areas where students are finding a concept difficult" – Science teacher

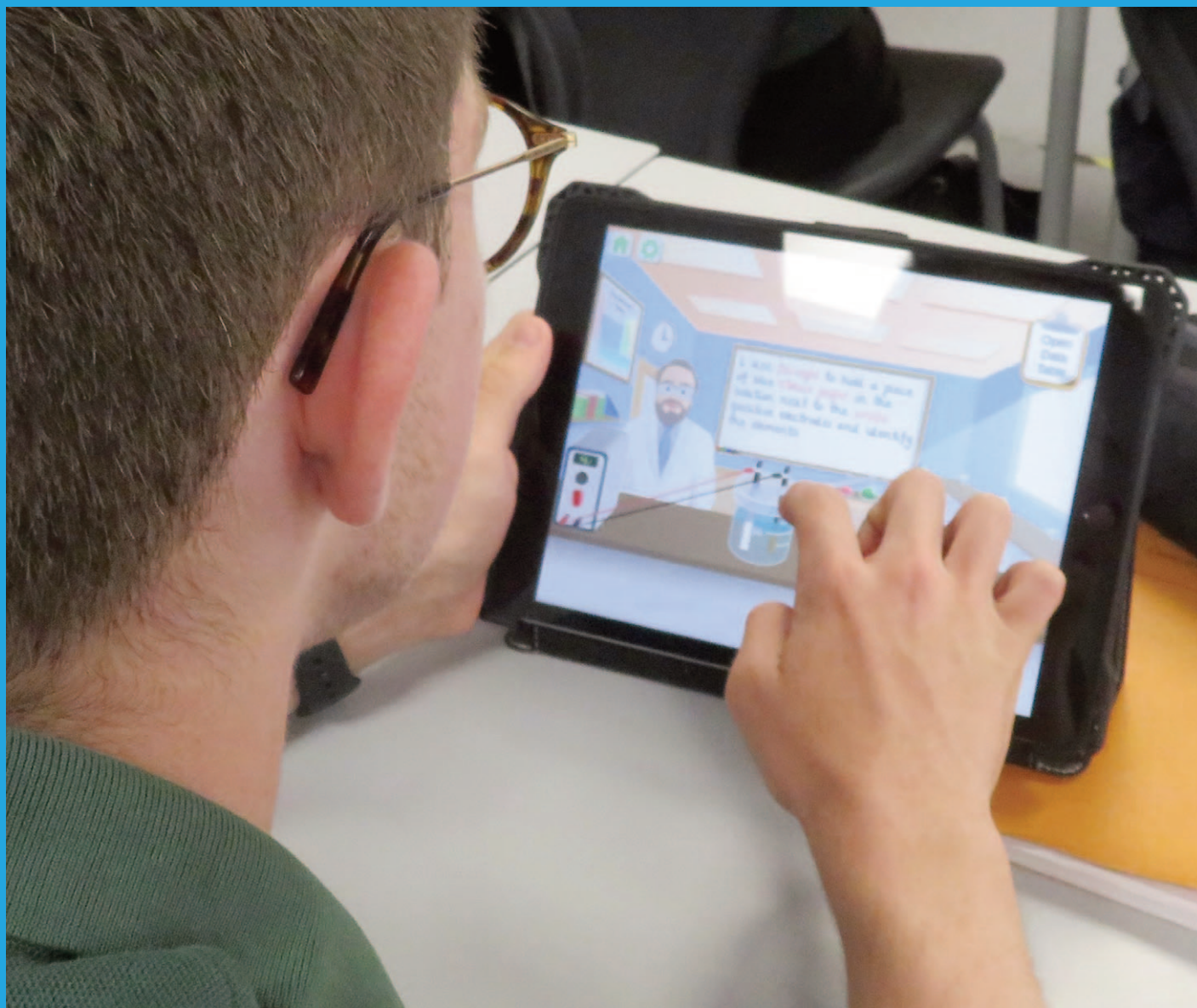
"Using Garageband has opened up composition options that would normally be restricted to a small number of students" – Music teacher

We have now embarked upon a wider staff roll-out, recruiting a team of iPad champions in each faculty.

We are working hard to provide extensive CPD courses to these staff this year to then make a smooth transition to the wider school community. We are excited to develop this programme further with the ultimate aim that all students will benefit from having a device to aid their learning both in and outside the classroom.

We strongly believe that consistent access to technology, for all students in every classroom, provides teachers with the ability to upgrade their instructional practices by integrating technology into daily learning activities in meaningful ways that will result in increased student efficiency, productivity, engagement, motivation, and inspiration.

We also believe the devices will reduce teacher workload, with teachers deploying more efficient methods to provide feedback to students and send them work to complete.





# Memories of the Duke of Edinburgh at Sawston Village College

The death of the Duke of Edinburgh prompted memories of his much-documented visit to Sawston Village College in 1979 and sharing photographs of this occasion on social media seemed to inspire many happy reminiscences among former pupils.

However, amidst the exchange of memories, we were also interested to see a reference to an earlier visit by the Duke, in 1963. This was a visit we had no record of, so we were delighted when a former pupil shared a newspaper cutting from May 1963 which provided further details.

The Duke's 1963 visit had, we learned, been focused on his meeting young people from Sawston Village College and four other schools who had gathered there to discuss and demonstrate activities they were involved in to complete their Duke of Edinburgh Awards, and among them were Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold Medal winners from Sawston Village College.

Since the scheme was only launched in 1957 these must have been among the first to achieve this. As a school committed to DofE, we were pleased to learn of our long association with the Award, and also to discover that the Duke had visited the College not once, but twice.



*Above: DofE 1963 Visit – Meeting Gold Medal Winners*

*Below: DofE 1979 Visit – Sawston VC*







# Returning to normal at Ickniel Primary School

We have been busy at Ickniel getting back to normal – who remembers that?

One Friday in April, years 3, 4, 5 and 6 went on their first trip outside of school for a long time – a geography field trip to the River Granta, a tributary of the River Cam, as part of their topic on rivers.

It was the first time we had been out of school as a group for over a year and we were worried that because it did not involve a coach trip to London or a trip to a chocolate factory or necessitate an over-large packed lunch, it might be a bit of a disappointment for the children. We could not have been more wrong. The weather was wonderful – sunny and just warm enough to remind us that spring was in the air and we were turning a corner on the COVID front.

Our journey took us to the Babraham Estate past the new-build housing and down a bridleway to the river. We passed walkers and their dogs, all of whom were somewhat taken aback to see such a large group of children – this was still lockdown for everyone else after all.

When year 4 and year 6 arrived at the river they were lucky enough to meet a couple of ecologists working on clearing the



river and shoring up the banks. They spoke to the children about their work and the importance of having a healthy river to sustain local wildlife.

During the trip, children collected, counted and identified the number of different leaves they could find and took time to stop, take in the views (they thought they spotted a hare racing across the fields) and sketch the scene before them.

The best bit of the trip was when they got their wellies on and went into the river to measure its depth and flow near the banks and in the middle. The river was higher than expected and some wellie boots were not quite high enough to prevent an ingress of water!

The children were warned and given the option of staying on dry land, but most chose to clamber in and suffer the consequences. As Bear Grylls says: "You don't need to go to the ends of the earth, you don't need to climb Everest to have a great adventure – it's invariably on our doorstep." We discovered this for ourselves that Friday in April.



# Super sports stars at The Meadow Primary School

Keeping fit and staying active is something we work incredibly hard to promote at The Meadow.

During the January lockdown we gave every child a skipping rope to practise their skills. In April we put this to the test when we hosted 'Skip Beatz' – a 5 times world record holder in skipping for a whole day.

Throughout the day, with the help of some fantastic music, every child had the opportunity to participate in a skipping workshop – learning skills from the basic skipping motion to cross overs and backward double bounces.

We also participated in the School Sports Partnership record attempt for the largest number of children who were skipping. A daily skip has been introduced and with every class having a class set of ropes, we are seeing children's skill level, perseverance and determination increase hugely.

We didn't stop there though. Onto our next new sport to try which was Quidditch – except much to the disappointment of a small group of children, there were no broomsticks involved.

Children learnt the rules of Quidditch and how to capture the snitch. The feedback from this was so good, we are also purchasing the equipment and training the staff – watch out Hogwarts!

Our Y6 children managed to get away on their week-long and much anticipated residential trip, participating in activities such as high ropes, stand up paddleboarding, bouldering, kayaking, obstacle course to name but a few.

Our children shone. They embraced every activity, showing resilience, enthusiasm and consideration to their peers. Many have come back determined to have another go at some of the sports they had tried.

As we go into the final few weeks of school, not only do we have sports day to look forward to, but also the introduction of more new sports. Pound (aerobic exercise with sticks), mini Olympics and orienteering to name but a few. By the time the summer holidays come, we will definitely all have earned a rest!





# Howard Community Academy

Following an exciting rebranding process, we launched our new logo at Easter.



Parents, leaders, staff and the children were all involved in sharing their thoughts and ideas about our wonderful school.

We decided it was time for a new image. With a big focus on community, we decided that we would be known as Howard Community Academy and launched our name change with some new signage. Our new logo represents our four keys values of aspiration, experience, nurture and community.

After a rigorous interview process, we were delighted to announce that Alison Weir had secured the role of substantive Headteacher which started at the start of May and brings increased stability and purpose to Howard's journey.

Alison is looking forward to continuing to lead the exciting journey of improvement at Howard with a strong focus on using the Arts as a tool to develop literacy.

The Arts continue to be a focus across the school this term. An exciting research project with Anglian Ruskin University, Cambridge Curiosity and

Imagination focusing on Artscaping, exploring the use of outdoor space to promote wellbeing and creativity, has captured the imagination of our young people in years 3, 4 and 5.

The project has allowed our staff to develop in the role of teacher – researcher, working alongside artists, Carolina Wendling, Filpia Pereira-Stubbs and Alfie Carpenter.

Our young people will be curating their own works of art in their outside gallery for their celebration event, inviting children from their bubble and parents to visit and be guided around their exhibition of life-sized models of themselves.

In addition, our Year 6 have worked with the Theatre Royal to write their own playscripts and will be part of the audience to see some performed on stage as part of the *Tiny plays, BIG ideas* workshop.

KS2 children have been working towards the first stage of their Arts Award through workshops with the Theatre Royal. Years 2/3 and children from our Hive provision will also be working with printmaker Ricki Outis to create and print their own designs on banners and book bags.

All classes took part in the Guinness World record attempt with Young Voices to perform the



Largest Simultaneous Sing-along as part of the Biggest Sing on 15 June.

It has been rewarding to see the impact these projects are having on pupils' engagement in, and enjoyment of, their learning. We are tremendously grateful to Trust leaders Lesley Morgan and Jenny Rankine for working with us and with various other organisations to enable us to access these inspiring projects.

In the future we will be analysing their impact on staff, pupils and families helped by Dr David Parker, whose research aims to understand the impacts and effects of the arts in education and explores creative approaches to pedagogy.

