

Welcome...



Welcome to the Spring Term newsletter. I would like to begin by thanking all staff for their incredible efforts this term. During the course of this pandemic we have become adept at responding to the changing national context but the sudden instruction to close schools again to most in early January caught us by surprise.

Yet staff have responded magnificently, adapting work practices, embedding online teaching and learning – in many cases balancing all this with home learning for their own children.

This edition highlights some of that excellent work in our schools but it also looks ahead to some exciting developments as we come out of the pandemic. In the meantime, with Easter approaching, stay safe and enjoy – when the break comes – some well-deserved rest and recovery.

Jonathan Culpin
Chief Executive Officer

Celebrating real-life learning experiences at Howard

We are so excited to be able to plan to use our newly acquired minibus – many thanks to local councillor Robert Everitt for arranging this.



We had a lovely surprise when we received Robert's phone call just before the Christmas break, offering us the use of a 13-seater minibus. Councillor Everitt had previously discussed the offer with Anglian Learning's Director of Primary Education, Prue Rayner and Jonathan Culpin, CEO. All agreed that this provision would allow many more opportunities to be possible for the pupils at the school.

Our children were excited to learn about this amazing gift and we already have plans to add our logo. It will be a real enabler, allowing

us to take groups of children out and about without having to fund the cost of transport.

An important part of our curriculum is ensuring that pupils experience hands-on, relevant and exciting real-life learning experiences – for example celebrating different festivals. Early Years enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year, creating their own Chinese dragon and happily drumming and dancing as part of their procession. Pancake Day was another reason to celebrate – making and flipping our own pancakes.

Anglian Learning hosts Whole Education virtual visit

Leaders from 20 trusts around the country attended a Whole Education learning exchange visit.

Former National Schools Commissioner Sir David Carter shared the 'five phases of recovery' (resolve – resilience – return – reimagination – reform) used by other sectors to successfully navigate a way beyond the pandemic. He also posed the top five priorities for school leaders:

1. Reinforce the leadership of people
2. Prioritise school improvement work
3. Reinforce the reality that every child is likely to have fallen behind, even more so for disadvantaged children
4. Reinforce new ways of working
5. Reinforce the role of parents, carers and partners in their children's learning

Professor Philippa Cordingley also provided a keynote input reflecting upon research underpinning school improvement.

She set out how schools begin to transform consistency into coherence through precision and purpose. The research identified the culture and behaviours of schools at different stages of their

development and how a strong cultural momentum and energy often helped to define the most exceptional schools.

Anglian Learning hosted a virtual visit where we shared our Trust journey so far. Following an introduction to Anglian Learning by Jonathan Culpin, headteachers Jenny Rankine from Bottisham Village College and Mark Askew from Fen Ditton Community Primary School led sessions sharing aspects of their recent school improvement journeys, reflecting upon the leadership challenges and the successful approaches taken.

Duncan Cooper concluded the session by sharing the plans and opportunities that the ongoing leadership project Transforming Together – with Dr Karen Edge from UCL – will bring to the Trust. The Summer term will provide further occasions to engage with wider networks, especially those provided by Whole Education.



ANGLIAN LEARNING

TRANSFORMING TOGETHER



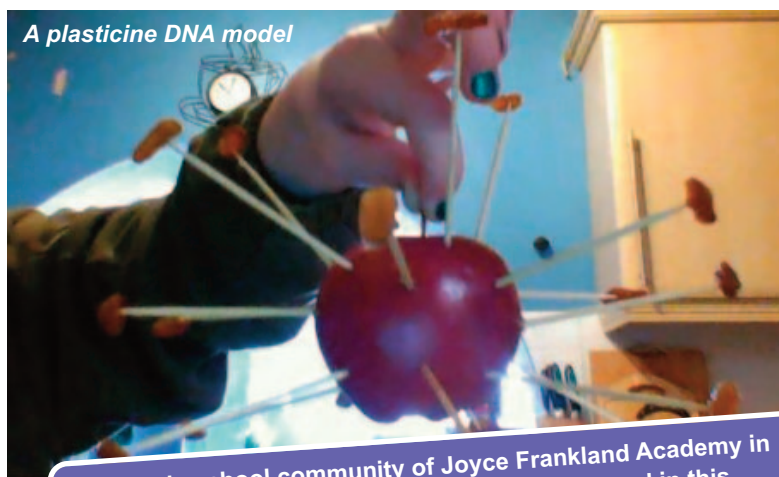


Thrive Thursday at Joyce Frankland

In February Joyce Frankland Academy introduced a new initiative to complement its successful virtual learning provision – Thrive Thursday.

The idea behind this was to get all members of the community away from their screens and to take part in learning activities that allowed them to explore the world around them, fulfil some slightly different tasks and flourish in taking a break from the laptop, phone or tablet.

This was an idea inspired in part by one of our trainee teachers who made local news with her stunning photographs while on lockdown walks – Article can be viewed [here](#).



The whole school community of Joyce Frankland Academy in Newport has been nominated for a Teaching Award in this year's Essex Teaching Awards. The nomination noted how staff have consistently gone above and beyond for the welfare and education of their pupils, well before and during the current pandemic. This is a powerful symbol of the school's achievements this year. Congratulations to all staff – a well-deserved recognition of all of your efforts.

Icknield becomes the latest member of our family of schools

We are delighted to confirm that, following the last legal hurdles being cleared, The Icknield Primary School in Sawston will become the 14th school to join Anglian Learning on 1st April.

As one of the feeder schools into a Trust secondary, it has always been an ambition that Icknield joins the Trust, enabling us to work more closely on curriculum continuity, shared pastoral oversight of pupils and families and to share knowledge and experience across the wider group of primary schools in the Trust. We are looking forward to getting to know the staff and the school in more depth over the next few weeks, in a world beyond Zoom and Teams!



Trust's Head of Estates is first in his class

Many congratulations to Paul Dunn, Anglian Learning's Head of Estates, who has achieved a First Class Honours degree in Facilities Management. Paul is an invaluable part of our team, providing strategic and logistical support and advice to all of our schools – primaries in particular – and this award recognises the wealth of experience and knowledge he brings to the role, and the commitment he has made to his course at Leeds Beckett University.



Marleigh Primary Academy – a state-of-the-art school

We are pleased to confirm that Marleigh Primary Academy – our new two-form entry state-of-the-art primary school and 52-place nursery – will open in September 2022.

The academy will be located on the eastern fringe of Cambridge at the heart of the new Marleigh development on Newmarket Road built by partners Marshall and Hill, architects RH Partnerships and constructors Morgan Sindall.

The school will have capacity for up to 420 primary and nursery aged children and offer education for children from age three through to eleven. We plan to open the school to children across all year groups.

Marleigh will have a particular teaching focus on STEM subjects – science,

technology, engineering and mathematics – reflecting Cambridge's excellence in these areas.

The layout of the school provides generous interior space with two classrooms for each year group set around a shared learning area. It will also have extensive facilities for sports and outdoor learning including a multi sports all-weather pitch, as well as green spaces, a vegetable garden and a woodland area for outdoor learning provision.

The innovative curriculum will include a focus on arts subjects to support

children's cognitive skills and excitement in learning as well as improving their achievements.

The new school and nursery will offer an outstanding environment both indoors and outdoors to excite and engage children in their learning. We plan to offer a vertical entry system so that on opening, children of all ages from the Marleigh community will be able to join the school. We are looking forward to working collaboratively with other community organisations to create a new, vibrant and successful community.

June Cannie



A native Scot, I married and settled in Cambridge – a trained teacher – in 1972.

Initially I taught only daytime community education classes: A-Level English and O-Level German to 'housewives' – it was 1972! – and running a creche alongside.

I had the privilege of working in some wonderful schools – Bottisham and Cottenham Village Colleges and two spells at The Netherhall School. I finished my career as Principal of Sawston Village College, retiring in 2010.

Having taught in three of the Trust's now six secondary schools, it was a natural progression to join Anglian Learning as a Trustee two years ago. I admire the strong moral purpose that guides the Trust, committed not only to achieving the best academically for every pupil, but also to supporting families and the wider communities served by the Trust schools.

In retirement I've trained teachers in Miami, inspected for Ofsted, travelled the world for Cambridge International, inspecting the management of their exams from China to Africa to The Caribbean and beyond, and worked as Executive Education Adviser for The Møller Centre at Churchill College.

To relax I swim, play tennis, read voraciously, and play piano and piano accordion badly.

Sri Lanka trip during lockdown...

Bassingbourn Village College students and staff have been taking part in a virtual trek to Colombo in Sri Lanka – 7000 miles away!

The virtual trek was organised as a positive activity for the whole community to support – reuniting everyone in isolation and promoting the significance of physical exercise on mental wellbeing.

Sri Lanka was chosen as the final destination as it gave a realistic goal of a mile a day for all staff and students, while the route would explore a number of cultural countries.

Before the trek began, students were given a choice of four local charities to fundraise for, with students voting overwhelmingly to support Tom's Trust – a Cambridgeshire charity dedicated to providing psychological support for children with brain tumours and their families. The goal we set ourselves was to raise £3000, a tough target but one we were driven to achieve.

Not only did we reach our destination, we also smashed our target managing a total of 8559 miles, taking us through 16 countries including England, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and finally Sri Lanka. We were overwhelmed with support from our community and raised £4289.83 for Tom's Trust: <https://www.tomstrust.org.uk>



iPad project at Bottisham Community Primary School

Following a successful bid to the Trust, this term we have been allocated eight new 128GB 8th generation iPads with Logitech pens for teachers at BPS to enable us to run a project which will upskill staff, support teaching and learning in the classroom and explore the device's wider potential within education.

The eight iPads run on world-leading Jamf management software which is far more user-friendly than our current systems and presents us with exciting opportunities to explore how we can use them with the children.

As part of this project, our iPad Lead, Emily Cridland, received training last summer exploring the features of iPads and useful apps which led to her gaining Apple Teacher status.

The main aim is that the project participants first and foremost get excited about the technology and confident using the devices in the classroom. We are also keen to support more staff to achieve Apple Teacher status. How teachers explore their potential is very flexible and we are hopeful that this will springboard the school into using the technology more creatively in future.



Celebrating community success at Fen Ditton Community Primary School

Over the past few months, we have been forming stronger links within our school and wider community.



One highlight was to send our senior citizens Christmas cards, letters and gifts created by the children. One comment received stated: "I was impressed with the spirit of outreach from the school into the community". We also supported Abbey People by collecting items for gift bags and families entering the Winter Window trail.

At the end of the Autumn term, in response to pupils learning at home, several competitions were launched including photography, craft and cooking opportunities.

As the engagement was so encouraging, weekly subject specific themes have been posted in Google Classroom this term and have given pupils, parents and their wider community enrichment activities to work on individually or together.

Community involvement has been most evident during National Storytelling Week. The school has worked alongside the PTFA who raised over the £1,000 target for RWIncPhonic book bag books from family, friends and community donations.

One comment received stated: "Thank you to the whole staff at Fen Ditton school for their hard work and great support, especially during these difficult times. Thanks also to the PTFA for supporting the school and the children."



Delight as College's efficient rebuild project is announced

Sawston Village College has been selected as one of the first 50 schools to receive investment from the Government's ten-year school rebuilding programme. Due to deliver 500 rebuilding projects over the next decade, the programme is supported by £1 billion in funding.

The academy will use their allocated funding to make exciting refurbishments across the school site. All building renovations will be energy-efficient and built to provide Sawston's staff and pupils with a positive, inspiring environment for teaching and learning. Sawston Village College is a fast-growing school with pupil numbers projected to increase further over the next few years.

Jonathan Culpin, CEO of Anglian Learning said: "This is exciting news for

Anglian Learning and Sawston Village College. This funding will provide a much longed-for transformation of the school environment for staff and pupils that will maximise learning opportunities. Our estate strategy for the school has been in place for many years and we are overjoyed that we will now be able to see these plans come to fruition."

Jonathan Russell, Principal of Sawston Village College said: "We are delighted our pupils will have the space and



investment they deserve. This is fantastic news as the funds will help us preserve our heritage buildings as the first Village College in the country, and also create a new, dynamic, energy-efficient space that can be enjoyed by all.

"We have done as much as we can to refurbish and maintain our buildings, some of which are listed. This new investment will mean we can future-proof our school and give the community an outstanding school that makes us all proud."

My leadership journey at Bottisham Village College

Helen Slipper, Head of Science at Bottisham Village College, has been a teacher for 11 years.

Having started her teaching career in the Midlands, alongside completing her Master's Degree in Educational Innovation, Helen moved back to East Anglia to be nearer to family – it was at this point that her journey at BVC started. Helen reflects on her leadership journey.

"Having arrived at BVC, I have followed a leadership pathway known to many – 3rd in science, 2nd in science, NPQML and, as it stands, Head of Science. Throughout this journey, my love of curriculum has developed, starting with adapting our KS4 curriculum for the reformed era and we are currently reaching the end of an exciting whole-school curriculum remodelling.

"Over the past 24 months, Bottisham's middle leaders have been supported to root all strategies in evidence and I have never read nor researched more than in this time.

"Motivating and invigorating, the college's approach has given me greater autonomy over developing my practice and my leadership. Exploring research helps inform development plans for both myself and the faculty. I often read various books,

blogs and research papers. For me, great ways of finding reading have been through the Chartered College of Teaching and Twitter.

"Another aspect of my research that has been really fruitful in helping develop the science curriculum has been as a member of the EEF Secondary Science Forum with Dr Niki Kaiser.

"Niki's work has been inspirational in guiding me to explore different aspects of science teaching and learning, and really create a coherent curriculum in science. I have utilised the EEF Improving Secondary Science guidance to frame our faculty work, resulting in a far greater appreciation as a team of how to address misconceptions in science, and how to sequence the Learning Journey to enable students to understand complex scientific concepts.

"My wider reading has also inspired me to share some of my own outcomes of trialling different processes, and in the last year I have started my own education blog – <https://educatingmelon.school.blog>



Kerrie Jones

Clerk to the Trust



I am Clerk to the Trust Board and also to the Local Governing Bodies at Bottisham Village College and The Netherhall School. I provide support and guidance to the Board and its committees ensuring governance adheres to good practice and meets all statutory and regulatory requirements.

I haven't always worked in admin – following a degree in Biochemistry I became a Molecular Biology researcher and worked for a number of years at universities in Leeds, New Zealand and Kent. When my children were small, I decided to be a full-time mum and after moving to Burwell I did a number of volunteering roles including at Citizens Advice Bureau. I started Clerking after applying for a job at Camclerks which was just a few hours a year. Before long one school had turned into six!

I have another role as Administrator to the Cambridge Area 14-19 partnership, coordinating Year 11 Post 16 transition. I also do casual work for CPSL Mind as a Good Life Facilitator providing support for clients with mental health issues.

My passions are animals and travel, and if I can combine the two so much the better. I have a number of pets at home including a tortoise who will probably just be emerging from hibernation in the fridge (yes, you did read that correctly!)

I have travelled extensively including to Costa Rica, Borneo, Vietnam and Australia and have been fortunate enough to swim with dolphins, seals and manatees. My honeymoon was 3 months in East Africa under canvas – not everyone's cup of tea but it was fabulous, and I can't wait until I can start travelling again.

Year 6 Linton Heights World War 2 day

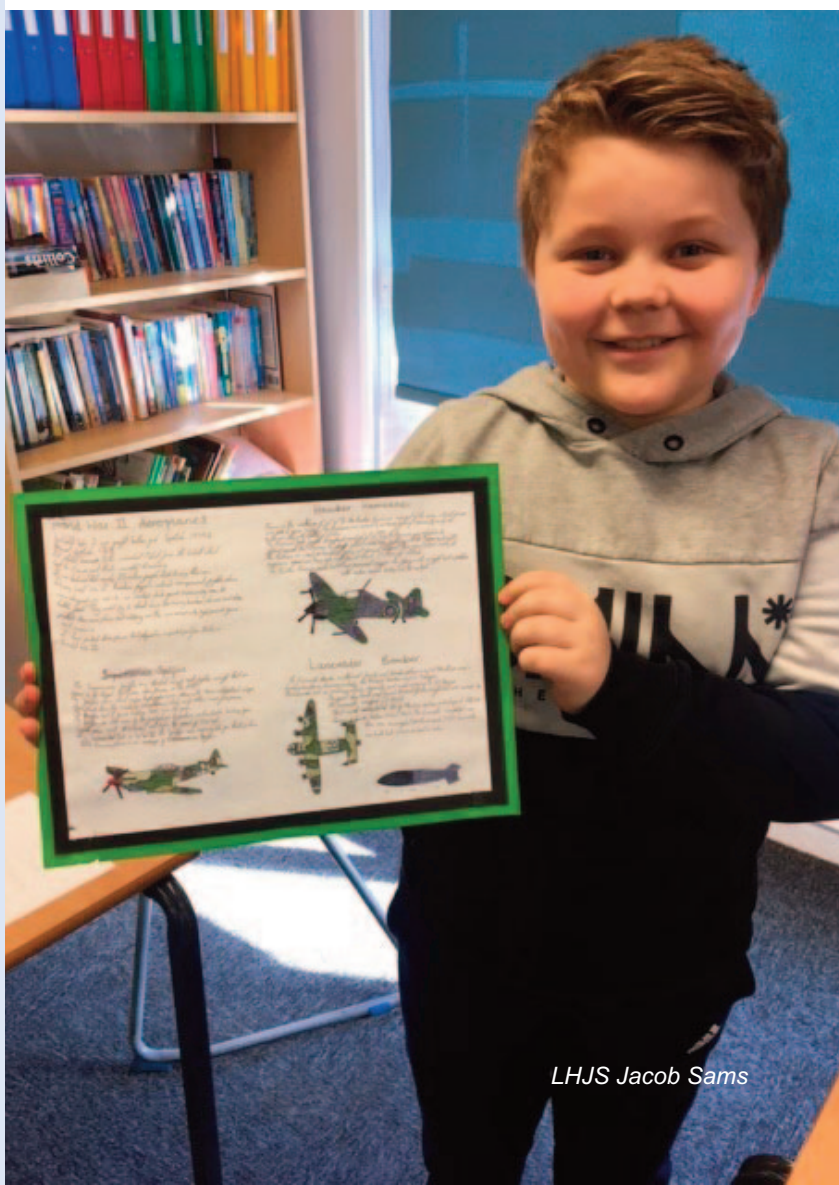
by Toby Rix and Lydia Brown

On Thursday 28 January, Year 6 at Linton Heights had a fantastic and memorable World War 2 day.

Our first activity was creating gas mask boxes out of cereal boxes. The second lesson was decoding messages in Morse code. We worked together with pupils at home to complete this difficult task. Before lunch, we made postcards imagining that we were evacuated children. Most of the places were by the sea but the rest were in the countryside.

In school, we had a socially distanced wartime tea party which included tea (no sugar), War cake, rationed scones, chocolate and oats biscuits and a piece of carrot cake – all surprisingly delicious!

In the afternoon, the air raid siren went off and we had to leave the building in an orderly fashion – 2m apart of course. Whilst outside, we played 4 square, skipping, hopscotch and red light green light. We had a lovely day, but obviously it was a shame that we could not all be together.



Experiences of a Newly Qualified Teacher during a pandemic

Anglian Learning were approached by an Editor of *The Telegraph* to interview one of our junior teachers. Mark Slade, a Maths teacher at Sawston Village College, kindly agreed and shared his personal experience of being a newly qualified teacher. This is an extract of his interview.

“September to February 2021 – the first months of my official teaching career – were hard. Overall, the learning curve has been steep. I was working as a Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) at Sawston Village College in March when the pandemic hit. I have now spent more time teaching under COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns than in the traditional setting.”

During the first lockdown Mark was mostly teaching from home, only being in school once a fortnight to teach key workers' children. In the Autumn term Mark appreciated being able to teach in school despite this being a difficult experience for him due to the many health and safety regulations in place.

Mark remarked: “Instead of a classroom with all my resources to hand, and five minutes to breathe between classes, I found myself finishing one class, grabbing a box of resources and running to the next lesson. It was a lot more fast-

paced with no time to reflect on your own work.”

During this period, Mark was planning lessons for pupils in school and providing quality lessons for those pupils learning remotely at home. Mark stated: “There was a lot of work and no time to reflect on whether I was achieving what I set out to do. As a new teacher I didn't have many resources already created so I had to put them together as I went along.

“Working from home over the Spring term has been the hardest. I have been working eight to eight every day – it has been relentless and tiring. At times I had to remind myself why I chose teaching.”

Mark has personalised his online resources with pictures of his cats and some of the vegetables he has been growing. “My pupils have responded by sending me pictures of their pets and produce. That has been quite uplifting and fun. Connecting with the pupils is the

best part of teaching for me and it has been the most cheering part of lockdown too. When the children tell me that they are feeling more confident with their Maths, that makes it worthwhile.”

Mark concludes: “When I trained, experienced teachers told me to invest in the relationships, not the PowerPoints, and I have taken that advice to heart. It's really helped.”

