

TKAT TERM

Inspiring learners, changing lives.



THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR IS HERE!

I hope that everyone working in our schools and all our pupils and families are enjoying a great start to 2021/22.

Our newsletter is now into its 2nd year, and this edition looks

back at some of the highlights of Summer term 2021 and some of the fantastic things already underway in our schools this year.

I was delighted to see that our young people in Year 11 and Year 13 achieved the outcomes their hard work and resilience deserved, and I trust they are now enjoying and making the most of the next stage of their life. It is incredible to see what our TKAT family is still able to do despite all the challenges. I am genuinely excited for our plans for this year and beyond.

Dr Karen Roberts

TKAT CEO

OUR FIRST EVER WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP EVENT

TKAT was delighted to host our first Women in Leadership event, one of our most successful conferences ever. Around 75 delegates attended the day in person or virtually, and 94% of evaluation responses said that the programme and its impact were excellent.

TKAT CEO Dr Karen Robert's presentation on her path to leadership moved one participant to say, "I was blown away listening to Karen's career journey."

The Learning and Development team put together a fantastic line-up of speakers:

- Diana Osagie, founder of The Academy of Women's Leadership, which supports women to grow the leadership cultures of their organisations and to flourish as leaders:

- Professor Dame Alison Peacock, who was an

executive headteacher and CEO of the Chartered College of Teaching, and one of the first female fellows at Queen's College, Cambridge

- Vivienne Porritt, a former headteacher who is a co-founder and national leader of #WomenEd and the co-editor of 10% Braver - Inspiring Women to Lead Education

Our Chair of Trustees Gaenor Bagley rounded off the event excellently. One delegate concluded, "It was an amazing day, I'm proud to work for a Trust that recognises the need for this type of event"



ORCHARDS GETS GREEN LIGHT FOR A RE-BUILD



Orchards Academy, based in Swanley, has successfully secured funding to be rebuilt as part of the School Rebuilding Programme, announced by the Government in 2020.

The news marks the end of a year-long campaign led by the local MP Laura Trott, alongside local councillors and TKAT.

The school joined TKAT in November 2010 and since then it has become one of the most improved schools in the country and is rated as good by Ofsted.

Following the announcement, Laura Trott MP said, "I'm delighted. It's been wonderful to see the local community truly get behind this campaign."

Executive Headteacher Natalie Willbourn said, "Being able to learn and work in modern, state-of-the-art buildings will be transformational. We're all proud of our school, now we'll be proud of the buildings too."

GARFIELD WESTON FOUNDATION SUPPORTS TKAT ACE TUTORS



In the summer term, we were delighted to learn that we had secured £90,000 in funding from the Garfield Weston Foundation to support TKAT ACE Tutors across all our schools.

The aim of the Garfield Weston Foundation (www.garfieldweston.org) is to support charities that have effective solutions to helping those most in need.

The TKAT ACE (a champion for every child) programme is designed to give 1:1 support to pupils and their

families on a regular and sustained basis, so that they can identify and overcome any challenges to learning.

From January 2021, 7 TKAT schools piloted the programme, and it is now running in all TKAT schools from this September.

TKAT CEO Dr Karen Roberts said, "We were absolutely delighted to hear that we had been successful in our bid. The funding will make a significant difference as we look to roll out TKAT ACE Tutors more widely, more quickly and more sustainably to the children and families who will most benefit from this work."

SEAL PRIMARY WINS READING COMPETITION

Children at Seal Primary Academy, Selsey were delighted to learn that they 'd come top of the class in a reading competition and won 300 books plus shelving for their library.

The competition was sponsored by **Renaissance Learning**, who provide 'Accelerated Reader' across all our schools. This offers reading assessments and engaging quizzes and activities to help hone students' reading skills and develop a love for reading, and it is an integral part of our Trust's reading strategy.

Entrants to the competition read a total of over 12,000 books.

Seal's Headteacher, Melanie Strachan said: "It is so lovely to know that our children are

understanding and enjoying the books they're reading.

We are delighted with our prize. The new books will strengthen the reading culture at Seal even more!"

Dr Mandy Hartley, a published children's author and DNA scientist, awarded the prize.

Her book 'The DNA Detectives - To Catch a Thief' won the ASE Book award. She commented, "It is so pleasing to see reading taking its rightful position at the heart of the curriculum. Well done to Seal Primary Academy."



PARTNERSHIP WITH PHYSICS PARTNERS

TKAT is delighted to be working in partnership with the dynamic educational charity Physics Partners (www.physicspartners.com).

Their mission is to provide hands-on training and support for non-specialist and newly qualified physics teachers in state secondary schools.

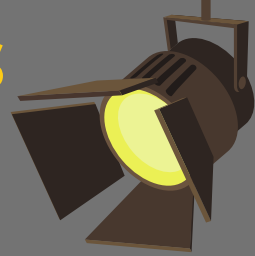
They have already delivered workshops for our Science heads of department, and are now planning sessions on important topics such as

engaging demonstrations, maths for physics, and effective use of technicians, and early teaching of physics.

TKAT's Science strategy lead Tina Manson said, "With a huge thank you to Physics Partners, I'm hoping that more of our schools and teachers will take up their exciting CPD offer."



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: PRIMARY DIRECTORS



To find more about our Primary Directors of Education, we asked them about their summer highlights, their breakfast of choice on a school day, and a film they would recommend...

Gianni Bianchi



Summer highlight: Learning to paddle board.

Breakfast: Gregg's vegan sausage roll.

Film: One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest because it covers every emotion.

Jenni Richards



Summer highlight: Spending treasured time with family and friends, visiting beautiful parts of England (Cornwall, the Peak District and Oxford) and after a challenging time for all, being a super proud Mum when we got our son's GCSE results.

Breakfast: A healthy one for me porridge, mixed seeds and berries - and at least one black coffee (not so healthy).

Film: An inspirational one for me is The Blind Side. It's based on the true story of Leigh Anne Tuohy and Sean Tuohy who take in a homeless teenage African-American, Michael Oher, who has the potential to be a professional American Football player.

James Munt



Summer highlight: Camping with the family next to the steam railway station and waking up to the smell and sounds of the trains getting ready, with burnt toast and tea and watching them leave in our pyjamas!

Breakfast: Crumpets and tea or, if I'm being healthy, crumpet and tea.

Film: Probably Life of Brian or The Pink Panther Strikes Again - both comedy genius at their best.

Neil Small



Summer highlight: Taking my teenage son away for a night and having a conversation without earphones plugged in at the same time.

Breakfast: bacon and tomato ketchup sandwich.

Film: I'm going with two surprise hits in our house
1. King Kong - the black and white 1933 version, so much better than remakes.

2. Sorry to Bother You - funny and more and more bizarre, but thoroughly entertaining.

Nicola Furneaux



Summer highlight: a week in Cornwall with my younger sister and her gorgeous family. We enjoyed lots of cliff-top walks, good food and great conversation.

Breakfast: Orange juice and an egg, cheese and ham sandwich as it is better at keeping me going until lunch. If I'm in a rush, it's Weetabix with raisins.

Film: At the moment, it would have to be Hidden Figures. It is based on a true story and is the amazing story of some truly incredible and inspirational women.

NOMINEE FOR PRIMARY HEADTEACHER OF THE YEAR



We were absolutely delighted to learn that Susan Manzi was one of the nominees for Primary Headteacher of the Year at the National Teaching Awards, and received a Certificate of Excellence in recognition of her achievement.

Susan's response on hearing the news was, "This is strange territory for me - I like praising other people!"

Susan has just retired after almost 20 years at East Wickham Primary Academy, where she was headteacher when it was the first non-secondary

school to join TKAT in 2011.

One of Susan's career highlights was taking on East Wickham Junior School in 2012 when it was in special measures, amalgamating the 2 schools, and leading it to become one of the top 250 schools in the country for outcomes.

Susan said, "We have never stood still in our desire to create the best learners that we can. Through joining TKAT in 2011, we gained a new family of friends and supporters, and whilst we have been held to account, we have been helped too. I have loved teaching, and children always make you smile"

VIRTUAL OXFORD UNIVERSITY DAY



Although we weren't able to attend in person this year, we were honoured to be invited by St Peter's College at Oxford University to attend their first ever virtual access day, exclusively for TKAT students.

St Peter's College is rightly proud of its work to widen access and help more and more state school pupils to see that Oxbridge could be for them.

Derek Hewlett, Head of Sixth Form at Hylands School, said "The Oxford open day arranged by TKAT was a huge success. It allowed our students to realise that they are more than capable of applying to top universities. After completing the day, our students were all excited to start their applications, and were all inspired to aim high and apply to Oxbridge or a Russell Group university."

Each of our 7 school sixth forms was invited to bring 4 of their Year 12 students to the day. It started with an introduction to Oxford life, with very useful tips on the application process and interviews. Then there was a choice of an arts-based or science-based academic taster session.

Our sixth formers had the chance to hear from current Oxford undergraduates, and ask them their burning questions about student life. The day finished with a video tour of Oxford and the university.

A Hylands School student said, "The open day was really informative; the opportunity to interact with an academic at the cutting edge of research left me fascinated and strengthened my motivation to study at a top university. The admissions tutors provided lots of useful information that I've used in my university application."

Professor Judith Buchanan, the Master of St Peter's College, said "I'm delighted to hear that the students enjoyed their day."

OUTSTANDING OXBRIDGE RESULT AT DEBDEN PARK

Debden Park High School was absolutely delighted that three of its former Year 13 pupils had offers to Oxbridge.

Overall, ninety percent of their sixth formers secured their first choice university after another set of outstanding A-Level results.

Executive headboy Max Bolton will be studying philosophy, politics and economics (PPE) at University College, Oxford. He said, "I've had a fantastic seven years at Debden Park and am so grateful for all the support they have given me to help me. I couldn't have done it without them."

Ashwin Gohil has been offered a place to read history at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and Anil Chatterjee has been offered a place to study human, social and political science at Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge.

A number of students in the sixth form join from King Harold Academy, another local TKAT school.



Anil Chatterjee, Max Bolton and Ashwin Gohil

Debden's Head of 6th Form Joe Simm commented, "It is a great example of what we can do in collaboration between our two local schools."

The school and staff put in a huge amount of effort to identify and nurture the potential of all their students, and just one example of that is their work to encourage their sixth formers to aim high with their university choices, and to support them through the application process.

Headteacher Helen Gascoyne said: "We are delighted with the excellent achievement of our students. Despite the disruption of the last 18 months, our students have been rewarded for all the hard work they put in. We are pleased that the exam boards recognised the rigour with which our teachers approached these assessments, with no grades being changed."



John Harrison

MEET TKAT TRUSTEE JOHN HARRISON

What is one of your best school memories?

I really enjoyed my school years. I remember the excitement of getting BBC micro computers and being introduced to IT in lessons for the first time.

Prior to that the only school computer filled a room. I remember the teachers letting us 'play' on the new machines and how quickly they became central to our lives both in and outside of school.

What career did you choose and why?

I started as a maths teacher and spent the last 10 years as a headteacher before I retired. The fact that I enjoyed school, had fun whilst learning and was lucky enough to have some really excellent and engaging teachers fired my enthusiasm and was responsible for me becoming a teacher. I wanted to share my enjoyment of learning and especially of maths. I absolutely loved my time in the classroom, and was very lucky to work with some amazing colleagues.

Why did you become a TKAT Trustee?

I spent a little time as a governor at a TKAT primary school, which I loved, and so when I was asked to consider becoming a trustee I was honoured.

Before the end of my interview with the Board, I was really keen to join the team. There is a strong and tangible desire to help all TKAT schools to become the very best they can be for their children and communities. That enthusiasm is why I enjoy being a trustee.

What did TKAT do well in 2020/21?

The biggest success was the way TKAT schools worked together to support one another in coping with the pandemic and all the additional difficulties it brought. The way school staff and leaders kept their 'eye on the ball' and kept teaching and learning going whilst supporting children and families through such difficult times is something everyone within TKAT should be immensely proud of.

What is a key priority for 2021/22?

I chair the education committee and it's great to hear about the progress of the ACE (A Champion for Every child) pilot.

It is really exciting that we are ahead of the game with this home grown initiative that rolls out across all TKAT schools this year. There is an underlying determination to support those pupils most in need, close attainment gaps, and help children achieve their academic and career aspirations.

SUPPORTING OUR EARLY CAREER TEACHERS AT TKAT

The Learning and Development Team has been really pleased to welcome colleagues back to the Atkins Centre this term.

One of their priorities is support for our early career teachers (ECTs), who are just at the start of their teaching journey and were previously known as newly qualified teachers (NQTs).

It was the launch of the Early Career Framework where teachers found out about the new two year programme of training and support and started exploring some of the key aspects of the framework.

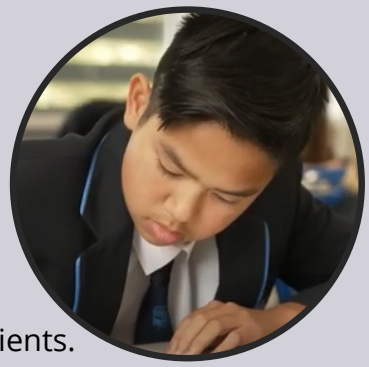
The schools' induction coordinators had done a fantastic job ensuring so many ECTs could get out to this event, and over 130 teachers attended one of the three days in September.

There was lots of positive feedback about how useful the day had been but also how good it was to meet other ECTs and have the opportunity to be in a room together again.



BUILDING HEALTHY HABIT HEROES AT SELSEY

The Academy, Selsey was really pleased at the start of term to learn that it had won £3,000 in funding from the CPL Group (www.cpl.group). This is an education-owned charity that provides procurement services to members and clients.



The funding will support the school's work to build healthy habit heroes. This project complements TKAT ACE - a champion for every child, and provides additional support to Year 7 students who need it most with their transition to secondary school. They work together with a number of partners such as Action Your Potential, ImpactEd, and Albion in the Community, which is run by Brighton and Hove Football Club.

Headteacher Jo Ford said, "This project provides invaluable support to students most in need, and it is helping our school community to grow."



CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM COMPUTERS 4 KIDS

Set up by Colin Hill in response to the BBC's Make a Difference campaign, the charity **Computers4Kids** has continued with its wonderful support for TKAT schools.

In 2020/21, the charity was able to help a number of our primary schools with good quality second hand devices that supported children with their remote learning at home.

This term, they have come up trumps every time we've asked them if they were able to help out our secondary schools.

Chichester High School received 20 desktops to support its students with their

ever-expanding offer of sports courses.

Havant Academy secured 30 iPads to support pupils with their tutoring and additional support.

Craig Noble, the new headteacher at Havant, said, "a huge thank you to Computers4Kids for the excellent news. This IT will really help pupils at Havant!"



Computers for kids

DUKE OF EDINBURGH SCHEME IN MORE TKAT SCHOOLS

The Duke of Edinburgh Award team (www.dofe.org) has very generously offered to support two of our schools, Orchards and Rainham School for Girls, to expand their delivery of the programme for their students.

Their significant funding and advice will help the schools to train up leaders, buy equipment for expeditions, and help less advantaged students with

the participation costs. Since the Duke of Edinburgh's Award started 65 years ago, almost 7 million young people have taken part. The programme has Gold, Silver and Bronze levels, and young people aged 14 - 24 can join.

If any TKAT school would like to learn more about DofE support and advice available, please contact david.churchill@tkat.org



TKAT WELLBEING WEEK A SUCCESS

TKAT hosted its first ever Wellbeing Week in the summer term, with a variety of events and publications to highlight what individuals can do to promote their own positive mental health and wellbeing, and to encourage our staff, pupils and families to support each other.

TKAT schools participated in a "Pay It Forward" exercise, helping others by doing good deeds. Schools were also invited to deliver a special assembly to their pupils which promoted awareness of the importance of keeping well.

Throughout the week there was a 'Wellbeing Tip Of The Day'. Online mindfulness sessions were held for TKAT staff twice a day. TKAT also hosted an online support group for parents

and carers who are caring for someone with a mental health issue.

Some examples of how our pupils celebrated the week included children at Gray's Farm Academy making 'helping hands' and identifying people who they can turn to for support; Bridgemary School pupils left 'thank you' notes in their teachers' pigeon holes; and Royal Park Primary Academy had a day of random kindness and children wrote down how it made them feel.



SUMMER OLYMPICS WITH THE MILL AND THE NHS



Over the summer, Clio Brown and fellow teachers at The Mill Primary were honoured to be asked by Sussex Community NHS to support them with a local campaign called

Chil-led out Olympics to coincide with the Tokyo Games.

The idea was to encourage families with babies and young children to keep happy and healthy by taking part in a different fun activity on each day of the Games.

Each activity matched one of the Olympic sports that was happening at the same time over 16 days.

Clio and her colleagues filmed themselves taking part in the activities, and then local families could follow their lead by watching the video on YouTube.

Also shared across the NHS social media platforms, the campaign reached over 22,000 families in the area. Clio said, "It was great to work so closely with the NHS with such a fantastic idea to help so many families and children.

If your family would like to take part, you can still access all the videos at:

<https://www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/getinvolved/chil-led-out-olympics.htm>

TKAT SCHOOLS GIVE BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITIES

Ten TKAT schools have signed up to be part of the First Give programme in 2021/22. First Give (www.firstgive.co.uk) is a charity that runs a subsidised and fully resourced social action programme for schools. Since it was set up in 2014, First Give has worked with over 115,000 students.

Through a series of workshops and lessons, students are encouraged and supported to identify a local charity or a charity that resonates with them, plan and deliver a series of fundraising activities, and present at a programme finale to their school community, parents and the charities involved. The winner at the finale secures an additional £1,000 from First Give for their chosen charity, on top of the money students have raised themselves. Teachers say that the programme really ignites the spark of social conscience in participating students.



Letter from Liz

Liz Harrison reflects on some recent highlights.



Dear Reader,

We continued to have a series of very positive Ofsted visits right through the summer term, such as at **Grays Farm, Hylands, Orchards, Portfield, The Mill** and **Thomas Bennett**.

I was delighted with the quality of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) training that **Sara Walton** and **Scott Wilson** led for TKAT and external colleagues. I received a tremendous number of emails telling me how high the quality of training was and how great they are.

At the start of this year, we said a warm welcome to **Nick Giles** who is taking the helm for **Milton Cross**, to **Andrew Jones**, who is now head at **King Harold**, to **Andy Lazenby**, headteacher at **Orchards**, and to **Craig Noble** who is the interim head at **Havant**. We also said hello and welcome to our two co-headships – **Abi** and **Ross** at **Hilltop** and **Maureen** and **Jo** at **East Wickham**.

Cleeve Meadow and **The Academy Selsey** have received Skills Builder awards in recognition of their commitment to developing essential life skills in young people through the curriculum and school careers events.

I had a really enjoyable visit to **Bewbush**. The determination of **Christine Dickens** has really transformed the appearance of the school, and the way that The Bewbush vision is communicated is so simple but highly effective.

Also in Crawley, thank you to **Dave Tow** and his team at **Broadfield**, who as well as being a pilot school for our external safeguarding audits, hosted a visit at the start of term from the CEO.

Talking about our CEO, Karen hosted a wonderful afternoon tea for headteachers, the executive team and trustees. I have lost count of the number of people who have said how much they appreciated having primary, secondary and corporate colleagues together. It was something we have been missing for 18 months, and it truly felt like a family event.

We remain grateful and appreciative of the way in which schools and in particular school leaders have adapted to so many unpredictable and unexpected urgent situations recently and still manage to keep the children at the heart of everything they do.

And finally, it was lovely to hear about the Teaching Assistant at **Weyfield** who in her own time and out of her own pocket makes a bespoke full-size birthday cake for every child in her class. Remember that all of you working in the TKAT family will have made a difference in ways that are not obvious but will build other people's journeys to a more positive destination.

Liz

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3. Shop online with participating retailers. (Over 5,000 retailers participate)
4. TKAT will receive a donation at no extra cost to you.

Thank you!

www.tkat.org