

Tandridge Learning Trust

Trust Talk
Parent Edition
March 2024



Welcome to the Spring Edition of our 'Trust Talk' from Tandridge Learning Trust. As always, we have lots of articles from across our schools celebrating learning in action.

We are very excited to be welcoming Hurst Green Infant School & Nursery into our Trust from 1st April of this year. This exciting addition to our group of schools comes after careful consideration and a great deal of collaborative work. Hurst Green joining the Trust fits well with our strategic priority of sustainable growth which allows us to continue to invest in providing exceptional educational opportunities for all pupils within Tandridge Learning Trust, whilst supporting the professional development of all our staff. We look forward to welcoming Sarah George, the Headteacher at Hurst Green, onto our Executive Board and sharing their school

successes with you in our Summer Term edition. Please see our article on pages 4-7 for more information.



The Bridge, our new wellbeing and mental health hub, continues to grow in terms of the range of events, activities and support it offers to our entire community. In partnership with the YMCA, our mental health support team have offered parent information evenings this term on Managing Exam Stress, Anxiety, and Body Image & Self-esteem. If you have not managed to attend one of our popular coffee mornings yet, then do please sign up for the next round being held in the Summer Term. Please find details of parent information events coming up on pages 18-20 which you can quickly sign up for using the active link. Staff at Warlingham have trained Wellbeing Ambassadors in Years 10 and 11 to support our younger pupils across all schools. They are currently delivering assemblies

to each of our primary schools on positive ways to manage wellbeing. We are very proud of the work they are doing to support others.

We continue to offer online safety information for parents in every edition of Trust Talk. This term we have an article on 'Influencers' on pages 30-31. Our aim is always to provide you with facts and information about certain sites to enable you to understand and monitor what your child may see or have access to online. We also have some useful information and guidance on other areas which you may be interested in knowing more about. We want to ensure that the information we provide is relevant for our parents, so we would very much welcome your input into what we feature in future editions. Please contact us by emailing Info@TandridgeLearningTrust.co.uk if you would like to suggest a particular subject or an area of concern for us to feature.

This edition has a 'spotlight feature' on our new Director of Finance & Business Operations, Suresh Shan. This is a key leadership position within our Trust and Suresh has a

Rebecca Plaskitt

wide remit in terms of our Shared Services functions. Suresh joined us in January of this year and is already having a very positive impact on our ways of working. He is absolutely committed to our Trust values of Equity, Collaboration and Integrity and is demonstrating this in all his interactions with stakeholders across the Trust. We warmly welcome Suresh as a valuable addition to our team.

We are also welcoming three new Trustees to the TLT Trust Board to replace the long serving trustees, Steve Burn and Alex Ghattas, who

stepped down last term. Vanessa Dacres, Linda Harvey MBE and Joel Adaah have all joined us at a very exciting time of growth and development. You can read more about their impressive backgrounds and the skills and experience they bring to our Trust Board on pages 8-9. It is important to note that our local Governors, Trustees and our Members are all volunteers who kindly give their own time to support and help guide the strategic direction of our multi-academy trust. We are incredibly grateful to



them all for this generous service to both our trust and the communities we serve.

May we wish all our families a happy, and hopefully warm, Spring Break.

Rebecca





We are delighted to announce that Hurst Green Infant School & Nursery will be joining Tandridge Learning Trust (TLT) on 1st April 2024.

Hurst Green is a successful and popular one form entry infant school (4-7 years old) and nursery (2-4 years old) based on an attractive, large site with a wooded area in Hurst Green, Oxted. The school was rated 'Good' by Ofsted in November 2022 and benefits from an abundance of green space.

This addition to our group of schools comes after careful consideration

and aligns with our strategic priority of sustainable growth whilst continuing to provide exceptional educational opportunities for students within TLT. We are confident that both the Trust and Hurst Green will benefit from this addition to our learning community. We know we are stronger together, cherishing individuality and celebrating differences whilst

ery joins Tandridge Learning Trust



embracing our shared values and common goals.

This change will ensure greater financial stability for all the schools in our Trust, providing a solid foundation for our continued investment in high-quality education, including offering an extensive array of educational resources, and supporting the professional development of teachers. We will continue to collaborate to create strong and sustainable schools, sharing best

practice to foster innovation, and improve teaching and outcomes for all our learners.

On Monday 18th March, the Governing Body of Hurst Green Infant School & Nursery met for the last time before the school joins TLT, and as they did so, they reflected on their journey to this point. Katherine Saunders, Chair of Governors, said:

"The decision to join a Multi-Academy Trust is probably the single most


important one a governor will take. We have felt supported throughout what has been for us a long (and some would say, ridiculously labyrinthine!) process. We knew that we needed to choose a MAT whose vision and values aligned with our own, where we would be able to retain our deeply rooted community links, within an organisation, which supports our individuality.

We're looking forward to our next chapter together and to further developing our potential."



Tandridge Learning Trust Executive Board from 1st April 2024

L-R: Suresh Shan (Director of Finance & Business Operations), Sarah George (Headteacher, Hurst Green Infant School & Nursery), Debbie Gregori (Headteacher, Bletchingley Village Primary School & Nursery), Rebecca Plaskitt (Chief Executive), Paul Foster (Headteacher, Warlingham School & Sixth Form College), Nina Gambier (Headteacher, Woodlea Primary School), Nikki Mace (Headteacher, Hamsey Green Primary School) and Rachel Jewitt (Headteacher, Tatsfield Primary School)



Sarah George, Headteacher of Hurst Green Infant School & Nursery, officially becomes a member of the TLT Executive Board on Monday 1st April. although she has been

attending meetings for some time. Sarah said, "We are delighted to be joining Tandridge Learning Trust as a school and are looking forward to the many benefits of being part of

Nursery joins Tandridge Learning Trust



a collaborative trust. The venture will enhance the amazing provision we provide for our children and staff here at Hurst Green Infant School & Nursery. We are passionate about building firm foundations in the infant years for children to enjoy learning and to thrive and grow as individuals. We are enthusiastic about outdoor learning and use our extensive grounds to facilitate this, as well as using

a bespoke curriculum to develop children's learning and thinking. We are looking forward to collaborating with the other TLT schools, building relationships and continuing to provide the very best for the whole of our community."

We are confident that Hurst Green Infant School & Nursery joining TLT is a positive step forward, one that will contribute positively to the

overall success of our educational community.

For more information on HGIS, please see their website or the school's social media channels:



www.HurstGreenSchool.org



www.instagram.com/hurstgreen_sch/



www.x.com/HurstGreen_Sch



Vanessa Dacres

During the course of this academic year, we have welcomed three new trustees: Vanessa Dacres, Linda Harvey, MBE and Joel Adaah.

Vanessa Dacres has over ten years' experience in the Financial Services industry, dealing with the financial markets and commodities across developed and emerging markets worldwide. Her main expertise

is centred around Anti -Money Laundering (AML) and due diligence, which she specialised in following the completion of a BA (Hons) in Criminology at the University of Greenwich, London.

More recently, Vanessa has embarked on specialising in Technology Risk and Cyber Security, where she focuses on Technology Governance such as Frameworks, Risks and Artificial Intelligence. Her commitment to youth development is evident from her early involvement in Southwark Youth Council, and this, amongst other reasons, is the main driver for her becoming a trustee.

Vanessa has been a Trustee since October 2023, and she applies her experience and knowledge of the Financial Services industry - particularly governance. She sits on the *Pay & Remuneration Committee* and the *Risk Committee*.

Vanessa lives in Purley and is married with two young boys. She balances family life with her passion for football, culinary experiences and regular trips to her home town of Lisbon, Portugal.



Linda Harvey MBE

Linda Harvey, MBE has had a long and varied career in Education. She served as an Executive Headteacher and a Primary School Headteacher for 18 years, specialising in school improvement and achieving an Outstanding rating from Ofsted.

Linda received the London Mayor's Award for exceptional quality of leadership to support disadvantaged pupils and has been designated as a 'Local Leader in Education' by The National College of Teaching, advising schools on systems and improvement strategies, addressing diversity and promoting inclusion to unleash potential through

Our new Trustees

equality of opportunity. Linda holds the NASENCO award, ensuring children with special educational needs have access to support with effective systems. During her time as an Ofsted Inspector, Linda led inspections with a focus on safeguarding, standards and quality of education.

At present, Linda is a Director of School Improvement for Leadership and is responsible for supporting headteachers and senior leaders to raise standards through strategic thinking. She specialises in professional development at all levels through planning conferences and wider training. She is also currently the National Professional Qualifications Local Delivery Partner Lead for UCL. She has facilitated various programmes and specialises in the NPQ for Early Years.

Linda was honoured to receive an MBE for 'Service to Education' in January 2022.

Linda was appointed a Trustee in October 2023 and sits on the *Learning & Development Committee* of the Trust Board.



Joel Adaah

Joel Adaah joined the Trust Board in February 2024.

Joel has a decade of experience in various roles within finance in both private and public markets, including in sales, investment/financial analysis and fundraising. Joel currently works as an investor

relations professional for an investment company which focusses on infrastructure investments in Europe and North America.

Joel brings his experience of finance, business development, marketing and communications to help the Trust achieve its strategic objectives. He is a member of the *Learning & Development Committee* and the *Finance & Operations Committee*.

Joel grew up in South London and his positive experiences within the education system have fuelled his aspirations to support others to have a comparable, if not better, experience than he had.

Joel lives locally with his wife and young son. Outside work, Joel enjoys spending time with family and friends, cooking, watching football and gardening.



STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

We will ensure that the strategic work of our Executive Board and our Governance Structures are aligned and provide clarity on how we operate to anyone joining TLT.



This term, HGPS has welcomed parents / carers into school. The school has a focus on building on its strong community ethos, continuing to raise funds for the school in this currently challenging climate and engaging its families in ways that will help them to support their child / children.



The Early Years teams have hosted Maths and Phonics workshops to show new parents how

we teach our children numbers, sounds and handwriting. This is so important as staff are working hard





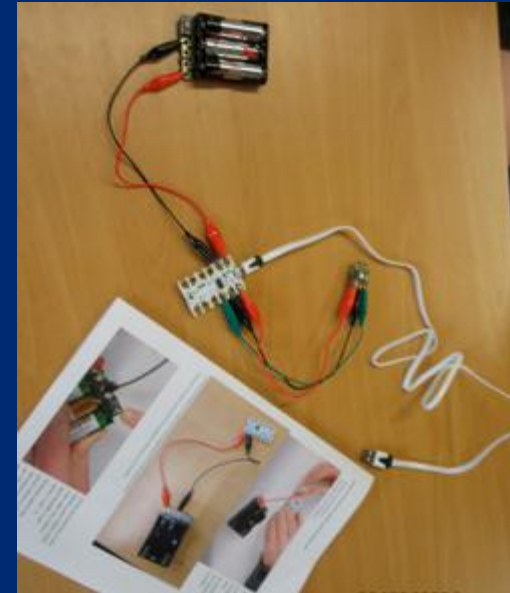
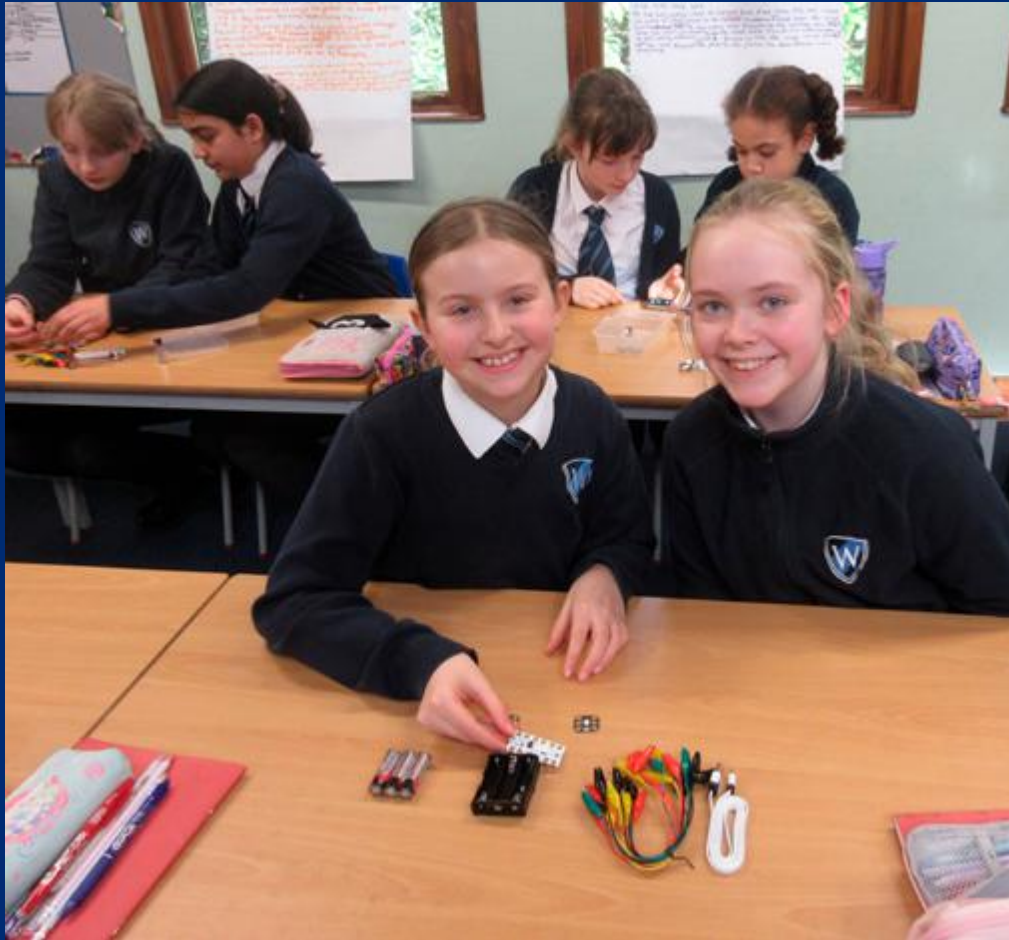
to improve maths, handwriting and application of phonics across the school.

In book week, the school hosted a Read With My Child afternoon, as is mentioned in the article on Book Week. We all know how important it is for them to read to an adult but also for them to have an adult read stories to them, so it was so heart-warming to see the school filled with families reading with

their children, just enjoying book talk and sharing stories with them.

The newest fundraising event, one designed to promote a positive start to a day, was to host a “Breakfast With Your Loved One.” Sometimes the morning school run is very pressurised, so the school opened very early so that families could spend time having a continental breakfast together. It was lovely to see the children engaging in

conversations, laughter and being relaxed at the start of the day. It was also so nice to have parents in to enjoy time in school, especially for our working families who may not always have the opportunity to spend time at school. There were 160 hungry families who enjoyed a selection of hot cross buns, waffles, toast, croissants, jams and spreads and hot and cold beverages! Some of the school prefects helped with the little ones.



The Crumble is an easy-to-use programmable controller. It can drive two motors forwards and backwards at variable speeds. It has 4 IO (Input/Output) pads which allow connections to switches, LDRs, low power LEDs and so on. This equipment helps the children to develop their Design Technology (DT) skills with projects involving controlling and monitoring. The projects combine their computer programming skills and their circuit knowledge (learnt in Science) with their DT skills to create products

Crumbles come to Woodlea

Thanks to the generosity of the Woodlea PTA, the school has been able to purchase a class set of Crumble kits.

Man and the Old Operating Theatre



Crumble. They grasped the skills of wiring and programming the Crumble to control lights (known as Sparkles) very quickly. Once they had followed the instructions to complete the basic project of an alternating flashing blue and red light, they applied their learning and experimented with other lighting combinations. After just one practical lesson, the children had ideas for what they could design using the things they had learnt.

Over the following weeks, they will be learning how to incorporate light sensors, switches and buzzers. Once they have learnt these skills, they will be able to develop designs for a real life product. The school hopes to invest in additions to the kits so the children can develop their skills and knowledge further in this very practical area of the curriculum.

The Gingerbread Man

In the first half of the Spring Term, the children in Reception looked at the story of the Gingerbread Man.

The Reception class were amazed when they saw the video of the Gingerbread Man sneaking into their classroom leaving a trail of



crumbs. ([Click here](#) to watch the 16 second video on Vimeo.) This video began the quest to find the Gingerbread Man.

They then received a big brown envelope labelled "You Can't Catch Me!" which contained pictures of the Gingerbread Man on the school field.





Throughout the first week, the Reception class were busy making traps and “Wanted” posters to see if they could catch him. They then received an email with another video of the Gingerbread Man in the local area. The children identified him in their local park, by the church and on the Glebe. Over that weekend, the Reception class were set a task to go and find the

Gingerbread Man’s trail. Following that weekend, many had pieced the puzzle together with the words “Missed Me!”.

The following week, the Reception class made Gingerbread Men, following a recipe. The children then decorated the finished Gingerbread Men. The story didn’t end there though. The following day when the children went to collect their Gingerbread Men, they had run off! To conclude the story, the Gingerbread Man emailed in to say “Run, run as fast as you can, you might catch me, love the Gingerbread Man”. Without

a second to lose, the children ran outside to find their Gingerbread Men. Judging by the children’s faces, they really enjoyed their Gingerbread Men.

Year 5 Trip to London and the Old Operating Theatre

During the Autumn Term, Year 5 were learning about the Victorians in History; therefore, it was only fitting that staff took them on a Victorian-based trip. On February 5th 2024, the staff left school early and walked to Woldingham Station with 31 very excited but impeccably behaved pupils, all ready for a long, educational day in London.

and the Old Operating Theatre



Once they arrived in London Bridge, they made their way around Potter's Field in small groups. The children were given several questions to answer and looked at several different landmarks in the area. One of the pupils stated *"We walked around London and we saw lots of landmarks like the Shard, The Gerkin and the Walkie Talkie Building!"* After they had walked around London Bridge and had looked at many of the famous landmarks, everyone sat down in Potter's Field and had some lunch in the hustle and bustle of the city. They soon learnt that pigeons are incredibly good at sourcing food from children!

They then went to the Old Operating Theatre, of which one of the pupils said, *"It was gruesome, and we even got to see a real brain!"* The children sat down in the theatre



and had a talk about what the place was used for and the history of medicine. One of the children was used as a volunteer to go onto the theatre bed, where the presenter showed them (not literally) how these "operations" would have taken place! After this, all were able to look around the theatre and see how medicine and theatre instruments have developed over the years. The children were encouraged to write down lots of facts about the museum and produced some great work. Some quotes from them included:

"It was very good, but it was also disturbing!" - Calum

"I liked seeing what they used in surgery." - Camila

"I liked looking at the brain!" - Saffi



The children were also allowed to act out how the operations would have taken place whilst they were observing in the theatre; for example, they were able to dress in aprons and have (fake) equipment to use on each other!

After a fun-filled day in London, the children then made their way back to Woldingham. The teachers were so proud of them because they behaved impeccably on the train, around London and in the Old Operating Theatre. They did a great job of representing Woodlea in the community!

A report issued by Public Health England stated that in 2019 to 2020, only 44.9% of children and young people in England met the Chief Medical Officers' guidelines of taking part in sport and physical activity for an average of 60 minutes or more every day. Engagement in sports is not only beneficial for health, but playing as part of a team equips children with essential life skills around communication, competition and resilience. Tatsfield has been focussing on increasing the amount of physical activity its children are involved in.

At the start of the academic year, the Year 6 Activity Leaders (as part of the Junior Leadership Team) took part in a training session with the PE Subject Leader, Mrs Collins. Pupils were trained to lead 'Physifun' activities during lunchtimes, promoting teamwork and activity for children in all year groups.



Increased sporting opportunities have also been developed at school through inter-house competitions. Early Years and Key Stage 1 classes competed in a multi skills event – all representing one of the school's four houses. Children completed seven activities for their houses, trying their hardest to score as many points as they could. It was wonderful to see them working together across the year groups and showing brilliant sportsmanship.

Then, one misty afternoon in December, pupils in Key Stage 2 competed in a dodgeball inter-house competition. Across Years 3 to

6, children played in three games for their houses, trying to hit their opponents out or catching a live ball to gain a player back onto their side. Everyone working together across the year groups was so positive that the competition was a huge success.

Opportunities to develop team sports and activity have also taken place out of school. Pupils in Years 3-5 took part in the annual Primary Schools' Cross Country event at Oxted School. The children all competed brilliantly and represented Tatsfield with resilience and determination. Staff were especially proud to see



the sportsmanship the children demonstrated - applauding the final finishers from all schools in each race. This showed fantastic respect for their fellow competitors.

Pupils from Years 5 and 6 competed against other Surrey Schools in the Quicksticks Tournament held at Oxted School in January. The team showed fantastic sportsmanship, excellent defending and attacking skills and worked well together to come second place in their pool. Most recently, a Year 5 and 6 girls' football team competed in the Tandridge Competition.

Throughout the event, the girls played four matches against very strong competition. Their footwork and knowledge of the game was superb, which resulted in them only losing one game (3-0), drawing two (both 1-1), and winning one (1-0). However, their sportsmanship stood out - shaking the hands of every opposing team member, encouraging each other when things didn't go to plan and having fair discussions about positions of play. Overall, Tatsfield placed joint 2nd out of five schools in the A Pool of the competition.



The school is now looking forward to a Year 2 team participating in a gymnastics tournament at Bletchingley Village Primary School & Nursery in a few weeks' time and staff are confident that the same positive teamwork and collaboration amongst the children will be shown at this event.

Participation in team sports not only promotes positive physical health for the children, but also helps to prepare them for losses as well as wins, and to develop respect and empathy for others. Let's cheer our teams on, knowing that these opportunities increase the amount of activity children are involved in, whilst helping prepare them for life in the wider world.



We have had a busy term moving forward our mental health and wellbeing programme involving a range of events, interventions and opportunities for parents, carers, staff and students to get together and discuss mental health.

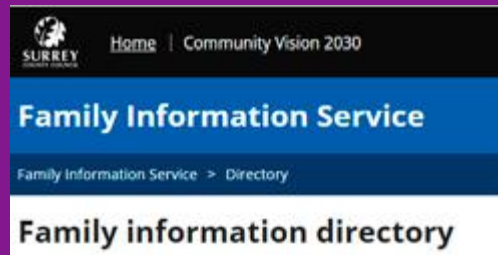
Parent Information Sessions and Coffee Mornings

This term, we have held parent information evenings on managing exam stress, anxiety and body image and self esteem. These have been run by our Mental Health

Support Team and the YMCA who offer school-specific mental health expertise. These sessions have been hugely informative for those who attended. We were thrilled to see over 50 parents and students attend our Anxiety session!

We held our first coffee morning in February where we met together as a group of parents and staff to discuss our own mental health and how we can support ourselves and each other. It was a really valuable experience to sit and discuss some of the challenges we face as parents and carers and the impact this can have on us as well as our children.

We were also joined at our coffee morning by Surrey Family Information Service who had a



wealth of resources and were able to signpost to a number of other agencies. They have also compiled a list of services based on our own concerns which you can find by [clicking here](#).

Wellbeing Ambassadors

Warlingham's Year 10 and 11 Wellbeing Ambassadors have been busy preparing assemblies to deliver to our primary schools on 'The 5 Ways of Wellbeing'.

On Friday 15th March, they travelled to Tatsfield Primary School and delivered the first of these assemblies to Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. During the assembly, the students were encouraged to think about ways to connect, stay active, take notice, keep learning and give. It was a really positive experience for all involved and we hope to

Health & Wellbeing Hub



be able to visit all of the Trust's primary schools in the upcoming term. Warlingham has been so pleased with the engagement and enthusiasm from their Wellbeing Ambassadors and are keen to train more as their current Year 11 mentors sadly leave for pastures new.



The Bridge

Supporting Mental Health & Wellbeing

Upcoming Events

Our next events for you to get involved with are the parent information sessions running next term.

Online Safety – Wednesday 24th April 18.15 – 19.15 (Warlingham School) – if you would like to attend please [click here](#) to complete the form.

Depression and Low Mood – Wednesday 22nd May 18.15 – 19.15 (Warlingham School) – if you would like to attend please [click here](#) to complete the form.



We have been made aware that Surrey is offering online parenting workshops in the next few months on a range of topics such as:

- helping your child make friends
- building your child's resilience
- helping your child with anxiety

- who's in charge for aggressive children
- understanding your child's behaviour
- developing self-esteem
- managing your child's self harm
- supporting your teenager
- building your child's confidence
- understanding masking
- supporting your child with LGBTQ+
- first steps to understanding Emotionally Based School Non Attendance (EBSNA)

To find out more about any of these courses please [click here](#).

Feedback

We are keen to run more of these events and would like to get as many parents involved as possible. The programme we have developed is based upon the needs in our schools and we know that lots of the issues we are discussing are relevant to more parents than are able to attend so we would really appreciate your feedback on how to make these events more accessible to you and to others. Please [click here](#) to provide your feedback.

Spotlight on... Suresh Shan, Director of Finance & Business Operations



Suresh joined Tandridge Learning Trust (TLT) in 2024 as Director of Finance & Business Operations, overseeing a broad spectrum of essential shared services. His responsibilities include Finance, Human Resources, IT, Governance, and Estates Management.

Suresh has held the position of

Chief Financial Officer in both mainstream academies and special schools throughout the Southeast of England and has worked in Education since 2014. He has been instrumental in shaping and implementing financial strategies, budget management, overseeing audit and risk management,

crafting HR strategies, and maintaining robust IT operations and infrastructure. In a time marked by financial challenges within the educational landscape, Suresh is committed to helping school leaders to navigate this difficult terrain while safeguarding the quality of teaching and learning. He has visited all our schools to help understand the priorities for each of them. He has also been getting to know the Shared Services team and how they support our schools to be successful. He sits on the Executive Board of TLT, alongside the Chief Executive and the Headteachers of all our schools.

Suresh has a BA in Marketing & Management from Middlesex University, and holds the CIPFA qualifications, Advanced Professional Certificate in School Finance and Operational Leadership, and Financial Reporting for Academies.

Beyond his professional commitments, Suresh dedicates his time to coaching a women's football team – a passion he has pursued since 2005.

At Bletchingley, they are dedicated to ensuring their pupils become confident, effective, and passionate readers. They aim to develop a love of reading and it is therefore a central part of their curriculum. Children have regular opportunities to access the school library. They also use Lexia throughout the school which supports children in key areas of reading, including vocabulary, fluency and comprehension.

Poetry at Bletchingley

This year, the whole school poetry assembly coincided with the Lunar New Year, so it was only right for this to be the chosen theme. Every class from Reception to Year 6 selected a poem, explored the poetic devices, rehearsed and then performed it to the rest of the school.

Year 6 performed *The Rainbow Dragon* by Drake Wurm and focused on rhythm and expression.



Each stanza looked at different characteristics of fierce dragons which they matched to the tone and volume of their performance.

The children in Year 5 wrote their own Haiku poems using Chinese New Year as their theme. They worked in groups to select a poem written by a group member and then performed this as part of their class performance.

The children in Year 1 performed *Chinese New Year*, which told the story of Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated, with “banners flying, bands playing, lions prancing, dragons swaying”.



Phonics

At Bletchingley, they use the Twinkl Phonics scheme to support their teaching of systematic phonics. Delivered through the stories and adventures of Kit, Sam and the Twinkl Phonics family, the scheme builds and develops the skills and understanding children need to become effective, independent readers and writers.

Phonics begins in Nursery, where the focus is on Level 1 phonics and developing Phonological Awareness - fundamental skills needed for future reading. Levels 2- 6 are typically taught throughout Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

ussing on reading



Lessons focus on rapid recall of sounds, rapid recall of tricky / common exception words, efficient blending skills (reading) and efficient segmenting skills (writing).

At the start of each academic year, Bletchingley holds a phonics parent workshop. They have had fantastic feedback from both parents and children since implementing the scheme last year:

"I think this scheme is much better in terms of books and online resources than some of the other schemes. I know you did a lot of research into the scheme and I think it was a really good decision to go with Twinkl." - Reception Parent

"My favourite thing about phonics is when Kit and Sam travel to different places in the PowerPoints." - Year 1 Pupil

"The stories are cool because they can go into the future and the past with their magical things." - Year 2 Pupil

The Rhino Readers Reading Scheme

At Bletchingley, they use the Rhino Readers Reading Scheme. The books keep the focus on phonics and practising and developing early decoding skills. This ensures that children only read the sounds and tricky words that they've already learnt, which is great for their self-esteem. The Rhino Readers books have colourful and engaging *Before Reading* and *After Reading* pages. The *Before Reading* page, gives them the chance to practise the sounds and tricky words. The *After Reading* pages focus on comprehension, recall of information from the text and language development.

"The books are great - generally interesting for children and I like that the first 2 pages are always there to help you as a parent at the start." - Reception Parent



Twinkl Go

Twinkl Go is a digital learning space that Bletchingley uses both in school and out of school to support the children with their phonics learning. They tailor content to the children and their current phonics level. Staff, children and parents, can access a vast amount of Twinkl resources such as handwriting practice sheets, interactive games and eBooks using a simple six digit code. These codes are renewed every couple of months.

[Click here](#) to access more information about phonics on the school website.



Hamsey Green celebrated World Book Day in style! From their two year olds up to their eleven year olds (and staff - but we won't reveal their ages!!) all dressed up in either their pyjamas to snuggle down for a story or as their favourite book character. There was an array of Oompa Loompas, princes and princesses and various super heroes - as well as characters from



traditional tales such as Goldilocks, Peter Pan, characters from Dear Zoo to the Highway Rat and Evil Pea!

The children were delighted to welcome back M&M productions to perform The Jungle Book. They were mesmerised by the actors in their animal costumes and the songs. As a school they have been learning 'The Bare Necessities' and it was lovely to see the recognition of it and hear them all singing along when the song started!

There was also a book swap day to promote a love of reading. Children brought in a preloved book they no longer read. All of the books were laid out and they were able to select another one to read and love. The children were very generous in their donations and were very excited to start reading their new ones.

The school also hosted a children's book sale at knock down prices to raise funds for their new phonics/reading books from Little Wandle which was very successful.



ooks at HGPS



As a finale to Book Week, Hamsey Green hosted a 'Read with My Child' afternoon. Seeing so many families come to support their child reading and enjoying talking about books was heart-warming.



Warlingham School & Sixth Form College is committed to providing a planned Careers Education and Guidance (CEG) programme for all students in Years 7 - 13. The School works in partnership with the Careers Service provided by

Innervate and Changing Education, supporting the Work Experience programme for Year 10 and Year 12.

The careers provision at the School was praised by Ofsted Inspectors in 2022:

“Careers provision is a strength of the school. Younger pupils begin to explore career opportunities at an early stage. Leaders ensure that students are well prepared for their next steps. Pupils in Year 10 and the Sixth Form

benefit from annual work experience placements. Sixth-form students get appropriate advice and support, which they greatly appreciate. Many go on to higher education or apprenticeships.”

The CEG programme is central to Warlingham’s overall aim of raising achievement and developing high aspirations for all students. A young person’s career is their pathway through learning and work. All young people need a planned programme of careers related learning activities to help them make decisions and plan their careers, both in school and after they leave full time education.

Laura Langley is the Careers Lead at Warlingham and reports on careers activities at Warlingham this year:

“As a Careers team, we have been kept very busy since September delivering a wide range of careers activities for all students. This has included mock interviews for years 10 and 12 as well as the annual ‘Futures First Careers Fair’. We have also provided careers-focused Inspire sessions, weekly one-two-one guidance interviews with an external advisor, support at Open

Spotlight on careers



Evenings and Options Evening, a 'Careers in the NHS' presentation for Year 8 as well as launching work experience. Upcoming events include Options Workshops for Year 9 as well as the first Speed Networking event for Year 8. We are also looking forward to 'Warlingham Careers Week' in the Summer Term.

We were able to welcome the NHS Solutions Enact talk to school on Monday 13th November to talk to the whole of our Year 8 cohort. This was a drama-based performance called NHS Success, fully funded by Careers Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership NHS. The performance aimed to inform students in Year 8 about the



diversity of opportunities available to them in the NHS and explore the fascinating world of health and care.

This was a fun and engaging performance presented by professional actors which also aimed to be informative and inspirational. These actors took on a wide range of roles, accents and costumes to depict various employees of a fictional hospital with a core character of a school student who has visited for the day having broken her arm. There was also an opportunity at the end of the performance to ask questions of Helen Beckenham, the Careers and Apprenticeships Lead at Surrey Heartlands, about any aspect of careers in the NHS.

Feedback received from the performance was overwhelmingly positive, with many students finding it has given them ideas for their future career paths and a better understanding of the health and care sector.

On Wednesday, 15th of November we were able to provide the whole Year 12 with a personal, one-to-one mock job interview. Students were asked to write and submit a CV beforehand during an Inspire session, and these were provided to the interviewers. They were also asked to apply to one of five fictitious jobs and provide a covering letter. The atmosphere in the room was full of nervous tension as the students signed in and waited to be called. They were given a short 10-minute mock interview and then provided with verbal feedback. They have also been provided with written feedback on their interview technique as well as their submitted CV and covering letter.

The interviewers were all volunteers from amongst our parents and local businesses who gave up their time to support this



opportunity. This event would not have been possible without their help, along with the team behind the scenes in the school.

The students did us proud with many turning up in full suits and smart business attire as they were requested to do. It was impressive to see them put so much energy and thought into how they presented themselves and how they came across in the interview. It was clear that they were determined to make the most of this opportunity.



Spotlight on careers

On Tuesday 23rd January we were also able to provide the whole of the Year 10 cohort with a personal, one-to-one mock job interview. This followed exactly the same structure that the Year 12s had been given. Students were asked to write and submit a CV beforehand, and these were provided to the interviewers. They were also asked to apply to one of five fictitious jobs and provide a covering letter.

It was fantastic that many students were identified by interviewers as being particularly strong and earning the accolade of being immediately employable. It was impressive to see them put so much energy and thought into how they presented themselves and how they came across in the interview.

On Tuesday 6th February we were delighted to host the third annual Futures First Careers and Universities Fair. This event was even bigger and better than last year, we were again able to invite all students in years 10-13 to attend, so nearly 700 students were involved. We also had some very exciting exhibitors who were able



to provide them with invaluable information on potential future careers and qualifications.

During their visit students spent time talking to the exhibitors, interacting with games/quizzes, engaging with various activities that promoted different industries and institutions and collecting a whole host of information leaflets and freebies. This event could not have happened without the time and energy of all our exhibitors, so we are very grateful to all involved.

We are currently looking for working parents to support our Year 8 speed networking event from 9am to 11am on Thursday 18th April.

During this event, students will be in teams, playing 20 Questions to guess your job role. If you can spare the time, please contact the Careers Team on Careers@WarlinghamTLT.co.uk for further details.

Laura Langley
Careers Lead

What does an influencer do and how can they affect children's behaviour?

Influencers are people who have a large following on social media. The term 'influencer' comes from promoting products, behaviours and ideas to their followers. Influencers can range in popularity, with some having a thousand followers right up to those with millions of fans.

Influencers use their platforms in a variety of ways, including encouraging people to:

- buy specific brands, products, or services, that the influencer is advertising.
- spend money on other things, for example wanting to replicate the activities or lifestyle that the influencer enjoys.
- change people's ideas and opinions about topics, to match the influencer's own values.

TAKE NOTE!

Communication: Talk to your child about the content they consume on social media and the influencers that they like.

Set Boundaries: Agree age-appropriate boundaries for your child's social media use.

Support a Healthy Self-Image: Make sure your child knows that real life isn't as it may appear on social media.

Act: Report harmful content!

Influencers often have a large following of people who pay close attention to their views. The content they share can affect a young person's mood and mental health in both positive and negative ways.

Influencers can be good role models for children, encouraging habits such as inclusivity and good self-esteem. But, they can also have a negative effect, encouraging unsafe or unhealthy behaviours and views.

Many influencers use their platforms for worthy causes, for example:

- to raise awareness about issues that are hard to talk about.
- to fundraise for charity.
- to celebrate difference.

- to promote social change.

However, if you think that the content your child is seeing is affecting them in a negative way, it's important that you talk to your child about it and seek the appropriate help if necessary.

Useful articles and information

- Social Media Safety: What are Influencers? (*The National College*) - [click here](#)
- What you need to know about online influencers (NSPCC) - [click here](#).
- A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers (*Skips Safety Net*) - [click here](#)
- Help and Advice: Influencers (*Childnet*) - [click here](#)

Parents: Influencers

- How can I help my child think critically about social media influencers? (*Internet Matters*) - [click here](#)
- What does an influencer do and how can they affect children's behaviour? (*UK Safer Internet Centre*) - [click here](#)
- What Parents and Carers need to know about Influencers (*National Online Safety*) - [click here](#)

If there is a particular subject that you would welcome more information on, please do let us know by emailing us: Info@TandridgeLearningTrust.co.uk.



MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

Earlier this month, we emailed all parents via Arbor with a leaflet about the importance of attendance.

“Every day counts: when children miss school, it’s not just about missing lessons, it’s also about losing valuable moments spent with their friends and teachers.” - Rachel De Souza, Children’s Commissioner

Please click the image on the right to read the leaflet.

Tandridge Learning Trust

FROM THE FIRST DAY OF TERM TO THE LAST, THE SMALL MOMENTS IN A SCHOOL DAY MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE TO YOUR CHILD...

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

Missing one week of school means missing at least five hours of English and five hours of Maths.

Lessons follow on from each other, so missing even one lesson could mean that your child will fall behind in that unit of work.

Punctuality matters too! Being late to a lesson can lead to children becoming anxious or embarrassed and can lead to them having difficulty learning in that lesson.

Being around teachers and friends in a school environment is the best way for pupils to learn and reach their potential. Time in school also keeps children safe and provides access to extra-curricular opportunities and pastoral care. Regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing.

For more information, [click here](#) to read the article, *Why is school attendance so important and what are the risks of missing a day?* on the Government website.

The NHS and the Chief Medical Officer state that it is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses, including general cold symptoms like a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat, but not if they if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. [Click here](#) to read the Government's guidance on this.

Did you know?

84% of pupils who had 100% attendance achieved the expected standard at the end of Year 6.

60% of pupils who were absent (usually absent) (more than 10% of term lessons) did not achieve the expected standard at the end of Year 6.

Poor attendance can affect a child's ability to make and keep friendships which is a vital part of growing up and socialisation. Setting good attendance patterns from an early age, from nursery through primary school and on through senior school will help your child develop good habits for later on in their life. Being on time is also vital. Arriving late at school can be very disruptive for your child, their teacher and the other children in the class. Research has also shown that children who are not in school can become vulnerable.

For example, children who play truant are more likely to be drawn into crime than those who do not. All parents want the best for their children and for them to get on well in life. Having a good education is important to ensure that they have the best opportunities in their adult life. They only get one chance at school, and your child's future may be affected by not attending school regularly. We ask all parents to make sure that your child attends on every school day unless they are unwell.

Each of our schools has an attendance policy which all parents should be aware of. For any queries regarding absence, attendance or for further information, please contact your child's school on the appropriate email address below:

info@etchingleyLT.co.uk
Office@HamseyLT.co.uk
Office@HuntGreenSchool.org
School@TatfieldLT.co.uk
info@WoodleaLT.co.uk

The Education Hub has published a blog, *How to improve your child's school attendance and where to get support. [Click here](#) to access it.*

THIS MORNING, HE HAD A RUNNY NOSE... BUT LOOK AT HIM NOW!

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

HM Government

NHS

Ages 4-14
Sports multi-skills
**camp 4
champs**
Book NOW!
camp4champs.co.uk

School Holiday

Sports & Activity
Camp



Camp 4 Champs provides an active environment where children can experience fun, make friends and develop new skills. Their excellent staff can help children understand the power of sport, without the pressure of competition. The activities are inclusive to all abilities so everyone can achieve and have fun.

The sports and activity camps are open to children from 4-14 years old and run from 9am-4pm, (with extended hours available, 8am-6pm). There are camps

running during the Easter break at Warlingham School & Sixth Form College from Tuesday 2nd to Friday 12th April 2024. Children can take part in a variety of activities, which are different every day, including: swimming, nerf wars, arts and crafts, cookery, and various sports, so will have lots of fun!

Camp Prices

Single Day £39

Full Week £180

Early / Extended Camp £7

To book, [click here](#).



Funding

Camp 4 Champs has secured funding for this Easter camp for those parents/carers eligible for benefits-based Free School Meals (FSMs) including the provision of lunch. If you are eligible to book a FREE place, you will receive an email from your child's/children's school with a unique code.

Tandridge Learning Trust



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