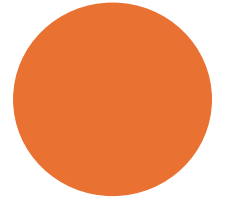


CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2024



A Christmas Message from Our CEO

As we approach the festive season, I wanted to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for your incredible hard work and dedication throughout the year. You are truly outstanding, and it is inspiring to see the passion and commitment you bring to our community every day.

Reflecting on this year, there is so much to celebrate:

- **The conference** was a standout event, highlighting the power of teamwork across our schools. It was wonderful to see everyone collaborating and sharing ideas.
- **Langham's GREAT Ofsted outcome** was a testament to the hard work and expertise you bring to the table - congratulations!
- **At Thriftwood**, the strides made in careers and work experience have been remarkable, opening new doors for our students.
- **Kingswode Hoe's recognition by Challenge Partners** for excellence in Design Technology – a well-deserved accolade that showcases innovation and impact.
- **Across all our schools**, the way you have supported one another and collaborated with other schools speaks volumes about the talent and generosity within our community.

We are also approaching a milestone moment with the **move to the new building at Hawthorns**, a major step forward for the future! Meanwhile, at **Grove House**, the coffee shop and volunteer hub, continue to be truly innovative initiatives, making a real difference.

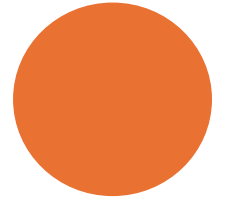
None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our central team and all the support staff across our schools, who work so tirelessly behind the scenes, ensuring everything runs smoothly. Your contributions are vital and deeply appreciated.

As we reflect on all we have achieved together, let us take a moment to celebrate our collective successes. You make a profound impact on the lives of our students, their families, and the wider community, and for that, I am deeply grateful.

Wishing you all a joyful and restful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Here's to even greater successes in 2025!

Ruth



Business Team- Wonderful Work this term!

- The annual external audit of our Financial Statements by Price Bailey involves all the business teams across the Trust from the beginning of September to mid-October. The level of preparation followed by scrutiny is highly involved and we are very grateful for everyone's input in achieving a clean report. This demonstrates the dedication of our teams throughout the year in supporting our provision. Like everyone, they will all be very much looking forward to the Christmas break!
- At the start of the term, we said goodbye to one of our Co-Directors of Business, Tamsin Owens, who moved to be a Chief Financial and Operations Officer at a mainstream trust.
- At Christmas, we also say goodbye to the remaining half of our Co-Directors of Business, Wendy Antoniou, who is moving to work in compliance for a firm of Chartered Accountants. **We wish them both well in their new roles!**
- A new team will start work in January – exciting times ahead!



Governance Matters

New Starters- Local Governance

We have worked hard to ensure we have people with a range of skills and knowledge governing at SEAX Trust. We are very lucky to have welcomed the following:

The Hawthorns School Local Governance Group

- Sally Stainton- Parent Governor

Thriftwood School & College Local Governance Group:

- Suzanne Bayliss- Parent Governor
- Charlotte Cunningham- Community Governor

Kingswode Hoe School:

- Alexander Everitt- Parent Governor

New Starters- the Trust Board

- **Robyn Hampson:** Robyn is now Chair of the Resources, Audit and Risk Committee, with a background in finance and strategy.
- **Caroline Sutton-Reid:** Caroline has joined the Curriculum & Standards Committee, and is a Whole School SEND National Co-Ordinator.
- **Ying Ying Naomi Ma:** Naomi is joining the Resources, Audit & Risk Committee. Naomi has significant finance experience.
- **Ian Sivyer:** Ian is joining the Resources, Audit & Risk Committee. Ian comes from a risk management and charity background.

It is a testament to our Trust that such skilled and experienced people want to join us.

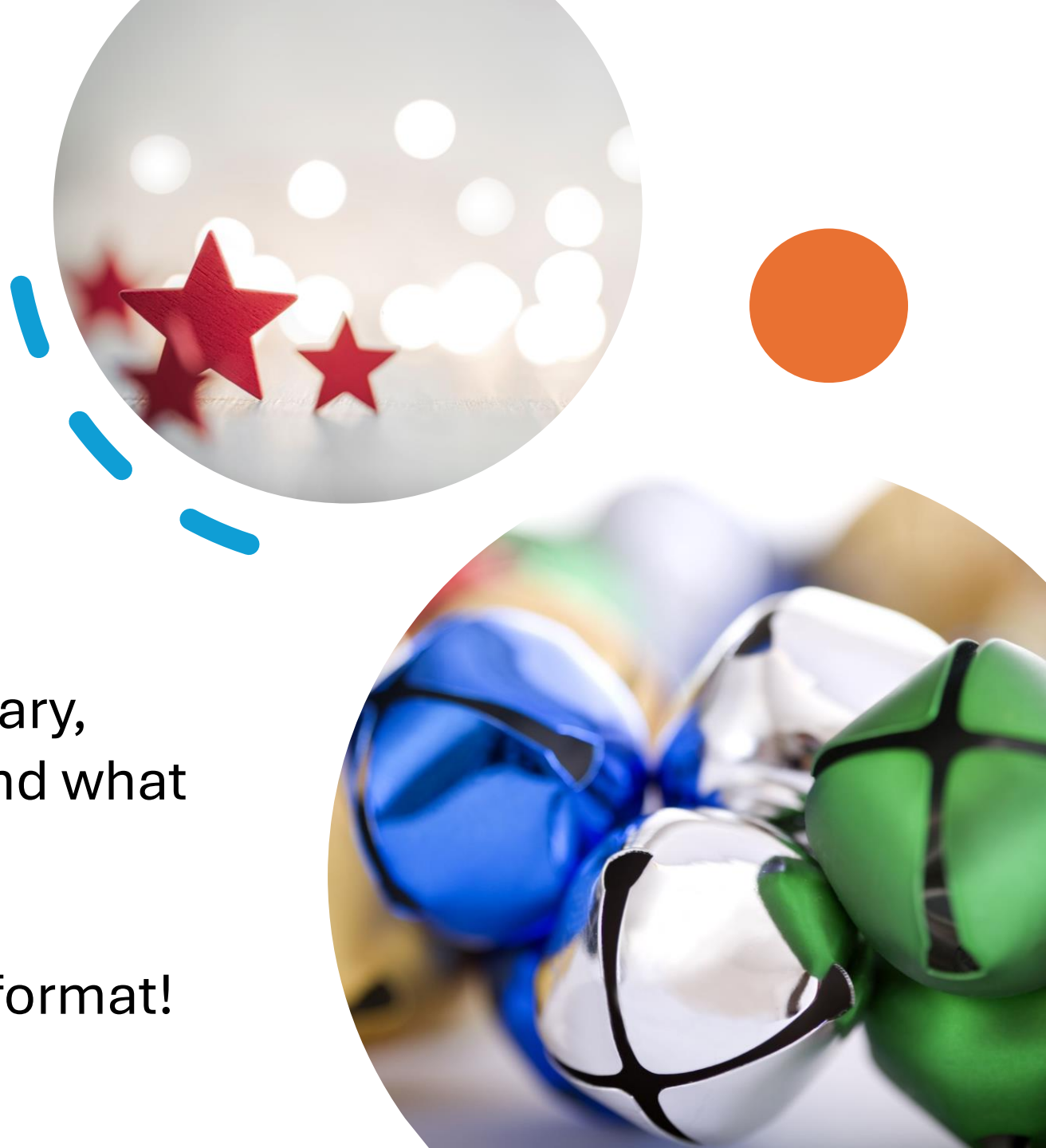
Thank you all!



SEAX Staff Wellbeing Survey

You will have a full report in January,
which will show what you said and what
we have done.

We hope you like the shortened format!



Some highlights and some challenges

Our last survey was based on a 'Teacher Tapp' survey - a new and much shorter format, asking simply about your morale. **By far, the majority of staff said that at that moment, their morale was good!** A small number of staff had some concerns, and we have listened to you, if you are one of those people.

We want you all to feel positive in your role, and we acknowledge that you work in challenging circumstances on occasions. We will continue to work hard to ensure your wellbeing is a high priority for us.

The report that will appear in your inbox, after the holiday, will give you more detail on how we are working to ensure that all our SEAX Trust staff have a positive and rewarding experience at work.



ANNOUNCEMENT

We are excited to share that our Trust will be unveiling a brand-new logo.

When will the new logo launch?

We will officially roll out the new Trust logo in February- we will let you know more nearer the time.

After this date, you will begin to see the updated logo across all Trust materials, our website and communications.

We have been collaborating with a graphic designer who has produced many designs while we have been deciding which best reflects our Trust.

We hope you like it – watch out for it appearing before the official launch!

We hope that you will join us in embracing this exciting fresh new look.

Ruth



A HUGE SUCCESS!

A Big Thank You to Our Amazing Workshop Facilitators!

Ben Lee - Emma Baker - Ed Constantine - Ed Hughes –
Jade James - Jennifer Burchett - Libby Walters - Lina
Johansson - Sam Deal - Sarah Milligan - Simon Connolly
- Tom Coxall - Verity Whiteside - Vicki Wilkinson - Kate
Stannard - Kim McWilliam - Wendy Antoniou

AND not forgetting all those behind the scenes who
contributed their time, expertise and energy to making
our workshops **ON & OFFSITE** such a success.

Thank you for being an essential part of our
ongoing mission to inspire and uplift those we
serve.

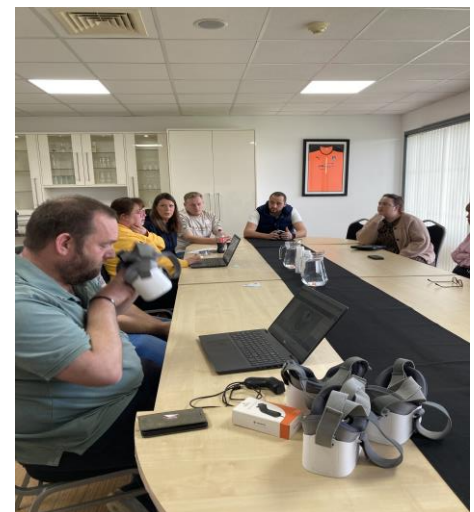
SEAX CONFERENCE 2024



“True Colours”

An opportunity to share & celebrate our
similarities & differences to enhance how we
work together for the benefit of our young
people!





"True Colours"





SEAX Conference 25.10.24
Working Together for the benefit of our young people

"True Colours"



FEEDBACK

WHAT YOU SAID.....



Well organised event with much thought gone into the inclusion of all staff whatever their role.

The tour of Langham Oaks with Alan was really fascinating. As a new joiner to the trust it was great to see their site and hear about the challenges and triumphs that they navigate.

Nick Saunders was brilliant. I enjoyed talking about people's colours on the table with cards. I will definitely think about this technique in the future, not only in my workplace but overall in general.

Workshops were very good. Having time to do two workshops was really beneficial and the variety of workshops to choose from.

Loss, separation and trauma was my favourite experience, Emma was very helpful as we have increasingly complex children and she offered insight into extreme behaviours

Sam was amazing leading the KHS outdoor activity and answering all questions & sharing her experience

Talking & Drawing workshop, talking about how this may work well with some of our students.

I really enjoyed the music session. It gave me valuable insights, which I can refer to in my practice.

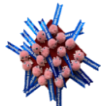
Watching the video of all the provisions that was filmed by ex-pupil & employee at Thriftwood School – Jake Pursey

I really enjoyed True Colours AND the music session. Both gave me valuable insights, which I can refer to in my practice.

Being at my first Seax Conference was a positive experience and I enjoyed catching up with colleagues from other Trust Schools.

Getting new idea and being able to liaise with others across the Trust



 My son loved the Kingaling I made him in the workshop

Leading, Learning workshop felt purposeful.

Sharing what we do well!

Being inspired by Emma Baker. She spoke from the heart with a wealth of experience and knowledge. She gave us the opportunity to open our understanding and to think deeply and consider how we can help our young people going forward and what change can we offer, going forward.



Drawing and Talking

I enjoyed role playing and talking about how this may work well with some of our students

The Attention Autism session was really interesting and useful. It was well structured and very well presented.



My favourite experience was the Attention Autism session, would of loved it to of been longer.

Talking with others in the afternoon about their outdoor provision and providing ideas with how to deliver outdoor sessions

I enjoyed the coaching workshop – it is always good to have allocated time to reflect and consider the use of coaching alongside other tools



The music workshop was particularly helpful and relatable. Offered some great ideas to enhance teaching.

I felt the structure of the day worked really well.

Ruth's ending speech, I felt it was from the heart.

ADHD course was fantastic, I wish Ed could come to Grove House School

Enjoyed all the workshops this year!

I really enjoyed being able to tour another school within the trust and see the differences in provisions

I found the music curriculum very informative and some great ideas to share with my teacher for transitions

My favourite moment from the event was the Mixing Colours workshop

The talk from Jake Pursey who used to be a student and watching the video, it was wonderful and positive.

Attending the ADHD workshop ran by Ed. I developed valuable insight and I'm planning to use it to adjust my own practice.



Forest school was fun and I can see how it is useful for pupils

The trip to Kingswode Hoe School – tour of the school, very interesting to see another school set up



Learning practical activities that I can use in my day-to-day



Visiting Langham Oaks and hearing how they use their space to enable children an opportunity to regulate independently.



Great content, incredibly valuable (Digital Strategy)

Catering Collaboration- it was great to spend time with Simon and his team. Gave us a chance to see what he was offering and how he ran his kitchen. Please can we do this again in the future?!

Overall positivity of the day, felt meaningful and constructive



Thanks Lina – very helpful and informative

This is the third or fourth Seax Conference I have attended and this was in my opinion the best and very beneficial, thank you!

EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT

Health & Wellbeing Package for all Directly Employed Staff!

We are excited to announce the launch of a brand-new **Health & Wellbeing Package**, designed to support your physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing for all our directly employed staff. As part of our ongoing commitment to create a healthy and happy workplace, we are pleased to offer a variety of services and resources to help you thrive both inside and outside of work.

What's included in the Health & Wellbeing Package?

Details can be found on the poster here.....



How do I access these services?

Please scan the QR codes with your smartphone

We encourage you to take full advantage of these offerings. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to your school HR Leads.

Together, let's make health and wellbeing a priority in our workplace!

Education Mutual

Health is on the way

A wide-ranging of comprehensive services at your fingertips

Gold Trusted Service Award 2023 feefo

Gold Trusted Service Award 2023 feefo

Services included:

- Flu Vaccines
- Maternity + Paternity Support
- Bereavement
- Men's Mental Wellness
- Stress Management
- Financial Wellbeing Coaching
- Counselling
- Mental Health First Aid Training
- Live Webinars
- Menopause: Supporting Staff
- Menopause: Navigating your personal journey
- Menopause Counselling
- Physiotherapy
- 24/7 GP Service
- Nurse Support Service
- Surgical Assistance

SCAN ME

Browse the services available:

Please scan this QR Code with your smartphone to read our services in further detail

SCAN ME

How do I access these services?

Please scan this QR Code with your smartphone to complete a Healthcare Request Form

Opportunities to learn for us all

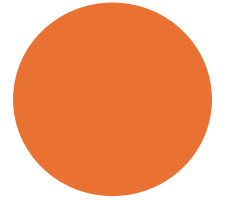
Did you know you now have access to a huge range of training and development opportunities through the **National College**?

You should have all received a login which will allow you to take part in a vast collection of training. **Have a look!**

There is now a professional development lead in each of your schools – expect to hear more from them in January about what is available.

"The Key to Success is dedication to life-long learning"

Stephen Covey



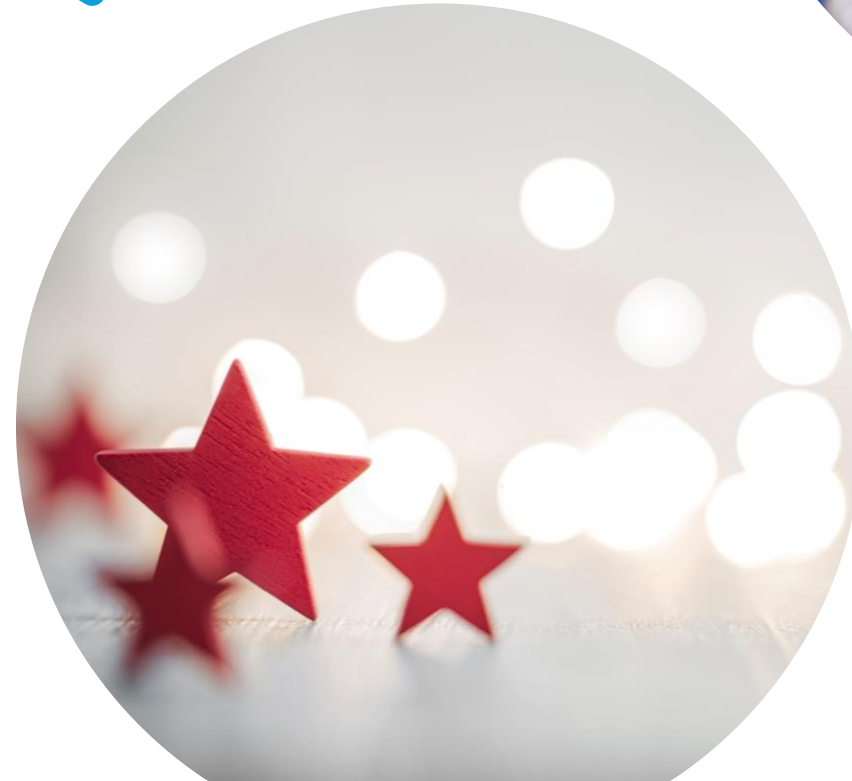
Interested in moving from Ed tech to Ped tech?

Want to know how to use IT to break down barriers to learning?

Worried about AI?

If you want to know more about the wonderful world of IT and AI, then I would recommend you follow **AI Kingsley** on BlueSky or LinkedIn.

His weekly updates on everything IT and AI are a great read and there are lots of links to articles to dip into.



Grove House School

Outstanding Achievements & Excellence 2024



The Grove Coffee Shop

On Monday, 18th November, we celebrated the grand opening of The Grove Coffee Shop, following a complete refurbishment, largely carried out by the school's oldest pupils.

The school's new 'fancy restaurant' (as it has become known by the primary class!) is open throughout the day for staff and visitors and operates a tuck shop for pupils at breaktime. There is also a well-stocked shop selling pupil's artwork, photography and DT projects.

In the past week, every pupil has visited The Grove during their social skills lessons; primary pupils have used the shop area to practice buying and selling items with coins and post 16 have learned how to make hot chocolate.

The coffee shop is being run by school leavers with speech, language and communication needs, who are following a programme of on-the-job training as 'volunteer' workers. In the longer term, The Grove will hope to provide paid work for school leavers, offer safe work experience placements for older pupils, support curriculum work in all key stages and offer a range of accreditations in hospitality and enterprise.



Below are some quotes from some of our pupils;

The best!

Jolly

The fancy restaurant

Relaxing

Calming





PTFA Christmas Bazaar

On Saturday 30th November we held our PTFA Christmas Bazaar. This is an annual event organised by our hardworking PTFA team and is loved by many pupils. It was well attended and our PTFA raised over £3400 for our school. The hard work and determination put in by our PTFA and staff is really appreciated and all monies raised directly benefits our children.

Previous PTFA donations:

- Table & Chairs for The Grove Coffee Shop
- Summerhouse for outdoor reading & rabbits
- Wooden benching with planters for sensory area
- Fitted kitchen for GHS Flat
- Costumes for Beauty & the Beast Show
- Upper School Prom
- Gazebos for Sports Day
- Coach Travel for outside events & Trips
- Lower School Disco
- Plus, many more





The Grove Farm

Grove House pupils are very excited about the new outdoor learning provision. This developing curriculum provision will provide many opportunities for our pupils including supporting the science curriculum, developing independence, preparing for adulthood, therapeutic support and for providing ongoing vocational and work experience opportunities.

This term we started “The Grove Farm” off with two guinea pigs, Alvin and Oreo. This soon extended to two rabbits, Roger and Leo, who were kindly donated to us, along with their hutch, by Woodlands School, Hutton Manor.

All pupils are looking after our animals, learning how to clean the cages, check over their health, knowing what and when to feed them and ensuring they get enough exercise. Our older pupils are modelling these skills to the younger ones.



Spotlight on outside achievements



Daniel has been playing the drums since he was 7 years old. He joined the Brentwood Imperial Youth Band in April 2023 and through hard work and dedication he earned his uniform quickly and participated in the Brentwood Remembrance parade later that year. He performed with the band in France and Dorset and marched for Mr Don Shepherd's military funeral in October 2024. Daniel is now looking forward to performing for their Military Tattoo show in Bremen, Germany in January 2025.

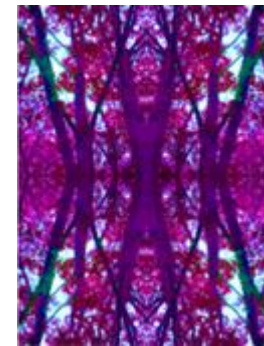
Harry's love for horses started when he was just 3 years old after his first horse riding lesson. He qualified to compete in the RDA Nationals and came 2nd in 2023. In November 2024 he won the walk/trot/canter dressage open test and was overall class champion. Harry's horse "Trust April" was voted "horse of the weekend". Harry's ambition is to be compete for Team GB at the Paralympics.



Heath found playing football a challenge and struggled to learn the rules. He started playing for Autistic Football Club 3 years ago. Since then, he has learnt all the rules and plays twice weekly. Soon he will start playing in league games which he is very excited about!



Jace loves playing football but found it difficult to understand the rules. He joined Autistic Football Club in Brentwood during 2022 which provided an opportunity for him to be himself and learn the rules at his pace. Jace is thriving there and won a trophy for "player of the day". Well done, Jace!



Former pupil, Bradley, won a silver award in the Unique Art Awards digital art category with this stunning manipulated photograph.

The Hawthorns

Friendship, resilience, acquiring new skills, learning together, having a good time and making progress are striking features of Autumn 2025 at The Hawthorns.



Getting out and about ...

Now that we have a minibus, pupils are going out into the community every week to develop a whole range of skills. These range from gaining confidence in visiting unfamiliar places, extending and generalising learning plus developing functional skills and social communication in a range of settings with different people.



Pupils are building their resilience as they walk to the local sports stadium in Chelmsford, go in the bus shopping as well as museums and walking to local parks. Public transport next!



The Hawthorns 2025

The new building for our school certainly has had its challenges in getting to this point, but there is no doubt that it is making rapid headway.

We are now due to move in 24th February. Pupils will be making transition visits in earnest and we can't wait!

A vast range of learning experiences continues to promote engagement and facilitate progress.



Sharing joy and fascination



Joint attention



Curiosity and enquiry



Focus and concentration



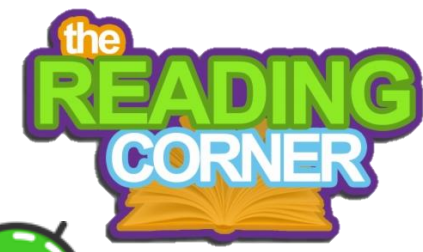
Learning new skills together

Taking risks in learning

Sharing spaces and accepting support to achieve



Celebrating Achievement at KHS



Accreditation Highlights



We are extremely proud of pupil outcomes and want to take this opportunity to commend pupils who progressed to post-16 provision in the summer, as well as our dedicated staff who worked hard with them to achieve these last year.

All pupils left achieving accreditation. Four pupils achieved Level 1 Maths with one gaining a Maths GCSE pass which is unusual for our cohort. We had a 100% English Level 1 pass rate and trialled new English Unit awards.

The first use of the new Business and Enterprise course was successful. Creative outcomes shone again including a 100% Art GCSE pass rate.

All who participated in the Duke of Edinburgh (D of E) 2024 expedition passed their Bronze Award.

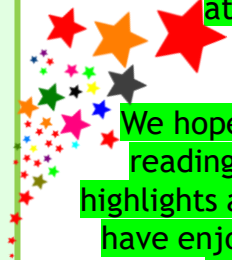
We have made the exciting decision to extend to Silver DofE next year for the whole year group.

Two previous pupils have started Silver DofE since moving on to post-16 provision. One pupil achieved a place on a Level 1 mechanic course at Colchester Institute. Three other pupils also achieved places on Level 1 courses at the Institute.

Well done to all our pupils for their achievements in the summer 2024 series and staff who worked hard to enable them to achieve their best.

Achievement takes many different forms and is widely celebrated at Kingswode Hoe School. We cherish 'green token' moments in all shapes and sizes! From accredited outcomes to trying new food, finding friendships, overcoming barriers, speaking in assembly and being here every day, there is much to share from another packed and productive autumn term at KHS.

We hope you enjoy reading about the highlights as much as we have enjoyed them in school!



The Travelling Librarian

Pupils have welcomed back Katie the Travelling Librarian this term and loved her immersive stories. One of her stories featured 'BeeBop' the Alien. Groups were fully immersed in the multi-sensory story, experiencing different sounds, sights and textures.



Pupils have loved spending time reading in The Nest which now has several fictional characters adorning the walls.



Reading for Pleasure

Phonics and reading training has been run by staff this term. One commented that it helped them reflect about "the various barriers to reading and how long it takes some people to process information."



TERM 2024
ACHIEVEMENTS

Kingswode Hoe School
What we plant today, we grow tomorrow



Community & Wider World



Pupils responded respectfully and thoughtfully during opportunities to mark remembrance again this year.

Copse class visited the Colchester War Memorial and Gardens at Colchester Castle. Pupil learnt about the sacrifice that people in the past made for us in the present.

They read aloud confidently, helping us to think about the sacrifice of soldiers in our local garrison town community by naming them in assembly. We all came together as a school for a two-minute silence on 11.11.24.



Some pupils took part in a Virtual Reality session to explore what it would be like to be in a WW1 trench.

Remembrance



Children in Need

Pupils enjoyed a range of fund-raising activities on Children in Need day, donating a total of £245 to this worthwhile cause. They were able to choose different credit time activities. Some rose to the challenge of making Pudsey out of Lego! Those who were gardening had a great time planting and growing cress. Nellie was very proud to receive her Pudsey bandana in assembly and wore it all day while working with pupils.



enrich Education Orienteering



We invited Enrich Education in to 'map' our school groups with signs and symbols that can be used across the curriculum for active learning. Staff engaged in a practical training sessions and pupils have been introduced to orienteering in their PE and Wider World lessons this term. Through this, as well as keeping active, they are developing team working, map reading and communication skills.



Creative and innovative services, resources, and solutions for schools. Supporting all young people to be physically active.

<https://enricheducationuk.com/>

AUTUMN TERM 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

Kingswode Hoe School
What we plant today, we grow tomorrow



Sporting Achievements

Pupil teams have enjoyed competing against other schools as part of the new SEND schools Latimer Football League this term. We hosted our first match against opponents from Langham Oaks to kick off the tournament. Both sides represented their schools superbly, showing excellent behaviour and resilience. We also enjoyed our away match against the very strong, well organised, Grove House team.

We have also taken part in a six-a-side football tournament held at Shorefields school. It has been super to see pupils competing against others, developing resilience, skills and taking pride in representing the school.



Health, Lifestyle & Wellbeing



blind football

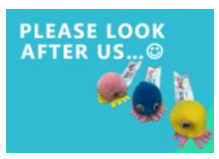


Employability

Pupils have been working their socks off developing resilience, stamina and work-related skills this term.

Year 9 have taken their role in the KHS shop very seriously, checking, testing and preparing products as part of their work-related learning curriculum. They also loved taking on the challenge of creating over 300 kingalings for the SEAX conference and have a new Christmas commission that they are busily working on.

Year 10 pupils have shown super strength of character and thrown themselves into work at the farm during their supported placement at Sandy's Farm.



Kingswode Hoe School
What we plant today, we grow tomorrow

TERM 2024
ACHIEVEMENTS



Positive Feedback Parents & Carers

Parents and carers have been invited in throughout the term to our weekly café. They have also had the opportunity to meet with tutors and staff to discuss pupil progress. Here are some of their positive feedback comments:

“The fantastic support and guidance the school has provided our son in his learning and development. We are forever grateful to all the teachers and support staff. Thank you.”

“Hearing he’s amazing at the farm”

“Everyone was polite and very happy and positive”

“Good to know he is progressing”

“He is having the best support”

“Knowing my child is doing well”



“Thank you for your continued support and all your hard work you and the whole team have put into pupil. I have seen such a positive change in her from mainstream school. I wish she started KHS from the age of 5yrs.”

“Staff are extremely welcoming and friendly I couldn’t be happier with the support I have received from school so far”

Seeing pupil so happy and comfortable in her new setting



Even Nellie made a positive impression at her first parent and carer evening!



Year 10 pupils have worked hard behind the scenes to prepare food for Café Hero. Year 10 have developed their customer service skills and confidence front of house.



With Christmas around the corner, pupils have been creating card designs using vegetable printing effects.

Creativity



AUTUMN **TERM** 2024
ACHIEVEMENTS

Kingswode Hoe School
What we plant today, we grow tomorrow

Staff Training Opportunities



Ofsted Inspection October 2024

Message to parents and carers:-

“We are extremely happy that the hard work of our staff has been recognised, and I’m sure you’ll join me in congratulating everyone who works at our school.

We are also extremely proud of the way the boys conducted themselves during the inspection.”

Langham Oaks school rated 'good' in new Ofsted report

A SPECIAL school has been praised by an educational watchdog for helping provide "high quality" support that gives pupils the "tools to deal with their emotions".

Langham Oaks, in School Road, Langham, has received a positive Ofsted report following an inspection that took place at the start of October across two days.

In a report published on Monday, the school has now achieved a good rating for its quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development and leadership and management categories.



We are pleased to confirm that the latest Ofsted report is now online at:

<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50261125>

The report can also be accessed from the school website at:

www.langhamoaks.co.uk

Ofsted made the following key judgements following school inspection on 1 October 2024:	
Quality of education:	Good
Behaviour and attitudes:	Good
Personal development:	Good
Leadership and management:	Good

[Langham Oaks school rated 'good' in new Ofsted report | Gazette](#)

Football success

Another week, another medal....Staff and boys attended another SESSA football tournament in Southend on Wednesday. This week we came second but it is still a fantastic result as half of the team have never played football competitively before. We only conceded 1 goal in the 7 games that we have played. Mr Avery said that the boys were superb. Well done boys.

In September, the Langham football team played their first game in the Latimer football league. The league has been created to promote inclusion, resilience and teamwork. The league will see teams play home and away games in a chance to gain points like a traditional football league system.

The first game saw the team travel to Kingswode Hoe School which resulted in a 5 - 2 victory for Langham. The students showed excellent resilience in tough weather conditions and showed excellent maturity and respect for their opponents.



Latimer League

League Table

[FULL TABLE DETAIL >](#)

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Langham Oaks	2	2	0	0	11	6
2	Ramsden Hall	2	2	0	0	5	6
3	Grove House	2	1	0	1	1	4
4	St Nicholas	2	1	0	1	3	4
5	Kingswode Hoe	2	0	0	2	-5	2
6	Castledon	1	0	0	1	-11	1
7	Market Field	1	0	0	1	-4	1



Our new Year 6 first experience of using flint and steel in outdoor education, planting herbs in the garden and a supermarket treasure hunt for ethical food choices

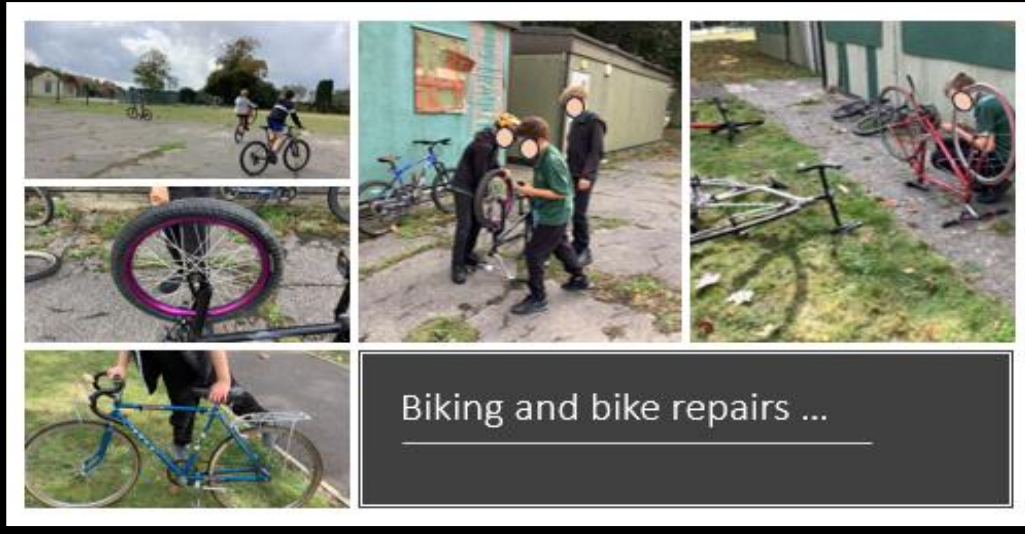
Find the items in each table. You must find the item that is fair trade and then find one that is not fair trade too. Write the price for each item.

Fair trade price	price	Not fair trade price	price
Bananas	1.35	Bananas	75p
Ice cream	5.75	Ice cream	2.60
Sugar		Sugar	2.90
Tea	2.85	Tea	94p
Chocolate	1.49	Chocolate	1.15

Look for Organic items in the fruit and veg section and do the same.

Organic item	Price	Non organic item	price
Carrots	£1.15	Carrots	52p
Apple	2.30	Apple	1.70

Year 8 visited Jimmy's Farm as part of their English curriculum. Here are examples of work completed before and after the trip, discussing the pros and cons of zoos.



16/10/24

Zoos are entertaining for people and educational. It's a new experience for those that visit them. The keepers really try to provide enrichment for the animals. There are also really good benefits to zoos. They are at the risk of extinction, zoos can protect them and breed them.

There are negative things though, like the space, the animals wellbeing and enrichment. They are always good enough, treat animals badly, actually have little privacy.



Our new playground area



Food Tech visit to Suffolk Food Hall and Mann's Butchers ...



Fishing Trip on Friday



Stinging nettle soup over an open fire ...

Eating stinging nettles is not as crazy as it first sounds. The European Nettle (Urtica Dioica) is loaded with vitamins, minerals and trace elements. It is also a good source of iron. When cooked the sting disappears, and the taste and texture resemble spinach. Only use the young leaves on the top of plants. Nettle seeds have been found in Stone Age burials, and they were a staple (and very healthy) green vegetable from Roman, right up to Victorian times in Britain. Amazing! My Cove

Boys are enjoying our new weekly oracy challenge, **Talking Point**. Each week their tutors introduce a current topic to explore and on Friday, in assembly, we hold a whole school discussion. Oracy is an important literacy skill and will help our students in their learning, and in life after Langham.

This week's topic is

How big is the International Space Station?
At 109 metres, it is about the same size as Buckingham Palace

How astronauts sleep inside the ISS

Answers for the computer

Labels for houses and areas

What do you think?

What do you know?

What can you find out?

2 astronauts stranded on the International Space Station (ISS)

TALKING POINT

The 5th LANGHAM OAKS ANNUAL BURGER COMPETITION

Starting 21st October 2024
You need to complete your burger planning sheet score card in your lesson this week.

Good Luck to all competitors.



FIRST STROKES Awards

Certificate

Awarded to:

Date: 14 October 2024

Examiner: Ivan Chatter

Distance: 10 metres

DISTANCE 10 METRES

Distance Swimming

YOU CAN DO IT!



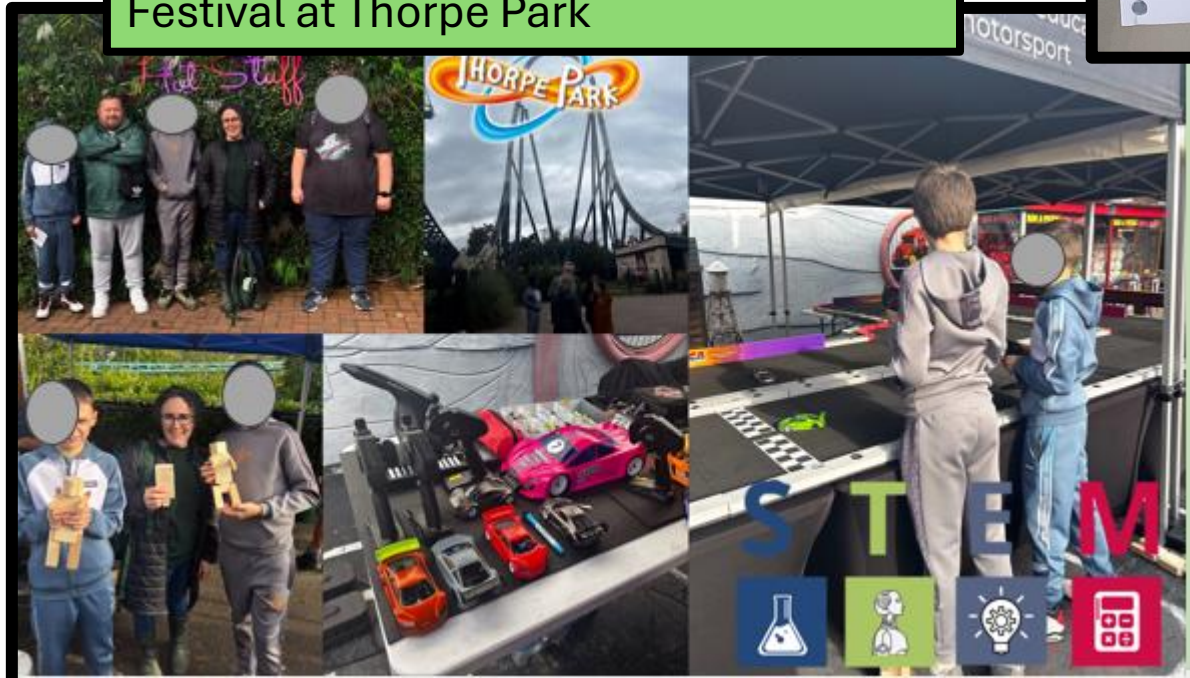
Year 6 Swimmers
3 boys in year 6 have already completed their 10-metre swim

They were presented with their certificates on Tuesday.

This is a great achievement so early on in the academic year.

Well done boys!

On 15th October, we attended the STEM Festival at Thorpe Park



Food Tech ... year 7 and 8 making pasta.

Thriftwood School



Curriculum Development - CLL

We have been busy this term developing our Communication, Language and Literacy Curriculum.



Staff have had the opportunity to work with colleagues across the Trust, as well as receiving training from external providers. We have already seen a positive impact for our learners as a result of this developmental work and are looking forward to continuing with this into the New Year!



Fundamentals for the future...

Merlin class have made lots of progress making independent decisions when crossing the road. Also identifying safe strangers who can help when there is a problem when out in the community.



We have seen a notable improvement in primary learners' peer interactions during formal snack time.

Thriftwood School



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Our Year 9 learners have been working hard to create the script for our Winter production which this year is entitled 'Twisted Troll Tales.'

A special thank you to Catherine Sayer, our Staff Development and Support Lead who has worked incredibly hard to co-ordinate the production whilst wearing many other hats, including being a class teacher and ECT mentor. We are very lucky to have such a talented team of staff and learners!



Owls: Lilo and Stitch
Robins: Toy Story
Puffins: Happy Feet
Kingfisher: Encanto
Swift: Moana
Rook: Hercules
Jay: Shark Tale
Crow: The Lego Movie
Magpie: Lion King
Merlin: Despicable Me

We want to say a big thank you to...

Mrs Sayer
Miss Walters
Mrs Scott
Ms Butler
Dave

For all their help and support with the Winter Production this term.



It's certainly been a team effort to make the school building look festive and ready for lots of visitors! From decorating the tree to making the hall 'production' ready. The Thriftwood school team has triumphed!



Aims: In Year 9 and all classes rehearsals are based around developing the following skills.

1. Teamwork Skills,

- Working with and listening to others
- Following instructions
- Giving and receiving constructive criticism
- Encouraging others, being supportive

2. Personal Development

- Take part – try something new and challenging
- Let others see you as a singer, dancer, actor, share your skills with others
- Develop self-confidence - Be brave, Feel the fear and do it anyway
- Cope with performing anxiety and develop strategies to deal with nerves
- Have a positive experience of performing and 'joining in'.



Students Shine at the "Make Your Mark" Conference

This term, a group of our students proudly represented Thriftwood College at the prestigious Make Your Mark conference for young people, held at Boreham House and organised by Essex County Council. The event brought together young minds to discuss critical issues affecting their generation, such as health and wellbeing, employment and benefits, crime and safety, and culture, media, and sport.

Our students enthusiastically participated in brainstorming sessions, sharing their perspectives and proposing innovative solutions to these pressing challenges. Their dedication and creativity truly stood out when four of them volunteered to deliver a presentation on their ideas—an incredible feat, as they addressed a live audience of over 200 people! We are immensely proud of their courage, teamwork, and ability to represent our college with such poise and confidence. Well done to everyone involved!



Thriftwood College



Tutor Cup Challenge

November saw the return of the ever-popular Tutor Cup Challenge, where tutor groups competed in a variety of fun activities, including the After Eight Wobble, Chopstick Pick-Up, and a Memory Game. This term's champions were Tesla Tutor Group, who excelled in both competitions and a new addition this year—the Reading Challenge. Tutor groups earned extra points by engaging enthusiastically with weekly reading, showcasing the importance of literacy while fostering a sense of camaraderie.



Parents Assembly - Work Experience Programme

In early December, we hosted a well-received parents' assembly to introduce our Year 12 work experience programme. This valuable session aimed to demystify the process and alleviate the anxieties often felt by both students and parents as they prepare for this exciting milestone. All Year 12 students will embark on a two-week work placement in February, and the assembly provided clarity and reassurance about what to expect.



Next Steps Event

In October, our assembly hall came alive with the bustling energy of our Next Steps event. A range of organisations, including SNAP, BOSP, Travel Training, Essex Carers Network, and Colchester Institute, set up stalls to provide students and their families with invaluable information about post-Thriftwood opportunities. This well-attended event played a key role in supporting the often-daunting transition process, equipping families with the resources and confidence to plan for the future.



Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award

This year marks a milestone for Thriftwood as all KS4 students are now working towards their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award. Our students have shown incredible dedication, logging hours across physical, skill, and volunteering activities. Looking ahead, all Year 11s, along with a select group of KS5 students, will participate in the highly anticipated hiking and camping expedition during the summer term.



**Thriftwood
College**

**Thriftwood Winter
production**

**Thriftwood
Presents**

**Twisted
Trolls Tales**



THRIFTWOOD hosted their Winter Production on the 10th & 11th December....

Loosely based on the films Trolls and Shrek.

The trolls live in a swamp area and are good. The headless twisted sisters are the bad characters and they banish each class (film creatures) from their own homes. The film creatures walk out of the kingdom, over the bridge to where the trolls live. Initially the trolls hate them for coming into their space.

Duck convinces the trolls to be kind by being overly nice. The Trolls eventually decide to help them by building a treehouse, realising that everyone needs to work together!

We are thrilled to share the unforgettable success of our students' Winter School Production!

This year, our talented pupils took centre stage, bringing holiday cheer and creative brilliance to life that captivated the audience.

A heartfelt thank you to all students & teachers

Our Vision



WE ARE A TRUST WHICH:

- puts no limits on what we believe young people can achieve; creating opportunities and meeting individual needs so that our young people can live rich and fulfilled lives
- Values our staff and is committed to providing an environment which creates opportunities for professional growth and development
- has the courage and drive to challenge and champion change to enable equal opportunity and equity for all
- influences, respects, listens and acts and which in turn is known as a voice to listen to, act upon and respect.

OUR SEVEN KEY DRIVERS:

1. Ensuring an excellent education with a focus on meeting individual needs and where no limits are placed on achievement
2. Young people are prepared for the future; for meaningful and suitable employment, self- advocacy and independent living
3. Leadership at all levels including governance supports our academies and challenges them to better meet the needs of our children and young people
4. Investing in our staff means that they are well equipped and passionate about providing the very best for all our young people
5. Providing a safe, sustainable and stimulating environment in which we push the boundaries of what is possible through harnessing the power of edtech
6. Collaboration and sharing are central to our belief that we all learn from each other
7. Financial decisions are always made with our children and young people at the centre of our thinking which results in value for money





Merry Christmas