We are delighted to present the End of Year Newsletter

SEAX TRUST

2023 - 2024

KHS

LANGHAM OAKS

Grove House

The Hawthorns
celebrating diverse abilities

disability confident EMPLOYER

A Year Where You All Made a Difference



Ruth Sturdy
CEO, SEAX Trust

Another year comes to an end and, as usual, I am torn between finding it hard to believe that it's July and in thinking that you could all do with a break and so the end need to come as quickly as possible! It is the nature of schools that we feel like this, elated and exhausted at the same time and needing a rest, but realising how much work there is still to do. As someone who has worked in schools for more years than I care to admit, I cannot remember a time when this hasn't been the case. However, the pressures and challenges we face are different now and so the work you do, not only in teaching our young people, if that is your role (and which you do so well), but also in supporting and caring for them in a range of ways is increasingly complex and vital to their wellbeing.

This year has brought a range of successes and reasons to celebrate in our schools – including positive feedback from both Ofsted and Challenge Partners; developments across the curriculum and a focus on preparing our young people for life after education including the world of work, musical performances including spectacular shows and Open Mic Nights and great success in achieving Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Our work on ensuring our pupils are literate and enjoy reading has continually developed and it was lovely to meet the Literacy Leads at a local Brentwood Bookshop recently and see their enthusiasm in picking books that would appeal to their pupils.

During the year, we have welcomed new staff into our Trust. We are delighted to have been able to appoint Alan Wells as Headteacher of Langham Oaks School. He has now completed his first year as a Headteacher and has done a great job of leading Langham to constant improvement and development. We have also been able to employ Mike Bevan to the Trust Executive Team as the Estates Lead. His wide experience has been a hugely positive addition to the Team, and I am delighted he decided to join us. Mikaela Weller has been working with us in the past year as my P.A (not a job for the faint hearted!) and has brought her organisational skills and charm to the team. I know there have been other appointments in all our schools and so I would like to extend a belated 'Welcome to the SEAX Trust', to all of you.

The Trust says goodbye to some key people too. Tony Cox, a long-standing Trustee is leaving us to pursue other interests, including cycling and motorbikes! He has been a supporter (and challenger) of the work of the Trust both as the Whistleblowing Trustee and as Chair of the Resources, Audit and Risk Committee. Thank you for your service, Tony, we will miss you. I am also very sad to announce that Tamsin Owens who is half of our Chief Financial Officer is leaving us to join another Trust as the Chief Finance and Operations Officer. Tamsin has not only worked tirelessly for the Trust, but before that worked with Sally Lockyer in the setting up of Grove House as a Free School. We will miss Tamsin's calm manner and huge level of expertise; she will be very difficult to replace!

Finally, it is an absolute honour to work with you all to try to improve the lives and opportunities for the young people we serve. In my visits to our schools, I am always filled with pride at the work you do and am genuinely in total admiration for the way you work. SEAX Trust is going places and that is down to every one of you. We are a Trust which makes a difference to the lives of young people and their families, and you all play a part in this. Have a great break, recharge your batteries and I look forward to seeing you, working with, and for, you in the next academic year.

Ruth

Farewell Tony Cox

Over the years Tony has been instrumental in steering the Trust towards growth and success, always prioritizing the best interests of our staff and pupils.

We thank him for his time, commitment and dedication to SEAX and wish him all the very best in his future endeavors!





Farewell Tamsin Owens

Tamsin is moving on to a new and exciting chapter in her career. She has made significant contributions to the Trust with her strategic leadership, financial expertise and unwavering commitment.

While we are sad to see her go, we are also thrilled for her as she embarks on this new journey.

Good luck Tamsin, you will be greatly missed!

SEAX Trust HR

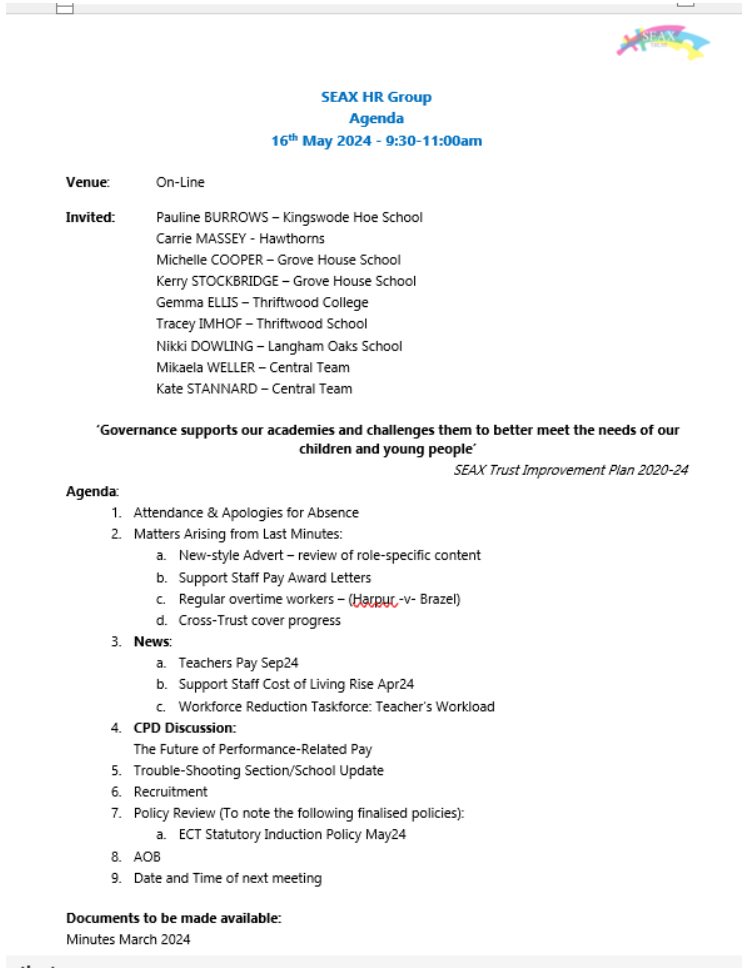
Highlights of 2023-24

We are:

Kerry Stockbridge GHS, Carrie Massey HAW, Pauline Burrows KHS, Nikki Dowling LO, Gemma Ellis TWC, Tracey Imhof TWS and Mikaela Weller & Kate Stannard Central Team

HR Group 2023-24

- In the autumn we reviewed changes to KCSIE, including 'Allegations Against Adults', 'Filtering & Monitoring Responsibilities' and the use of school premises. We also discussed learning points from the Residential Ofsted at Langham, as well as recruitment and the SCRs.
- Changes to the Government's Family Friendly legislation was on the agenda in the spring, along with a new Trust People Strategy.
- In the Summer Term we had a presentation from Protocol & Teaching Personnel and reviewed the new style advert.



SEAX HR Group
Agenda
16th May 2024 - 9:30-11:00am

Venue: On-Line

Invited: Pauline BURROWS – Kingswode Hoe School
Carrie MASSEY - Hawthorns
Michelle COOPER – Grove House School
Kerry STOCKBRIDGE – Grove House School
Gemma ELLIS – Thriftwood College
Tracey IMHOF – Thriftwood School
Nikki DOWLING – Langham Oaks School
Mikaela WELLER – Central Team
Kate STANNARD – Central Team

'Governance supports our academies and challenges them to better meet the needs of our children and young people'
SEAX Trust Improvement Plan 2020-24

Agenda:
1. Attendance & Apologies for Absence
2. Matters Arising from Last Minutes:
   a. New-style Advert – review of role-specific content
   b. Support Staff Pay Award Letters
   c. Regular overtime workers – (Harpur -v- Brazel)
   d. Cross-Trust cover progress
3. **News**:
   a. Teachers Pay Sep24
   b. Support Staff Cost of Living Rise Apr24
   c. Workforce Reduction Taskforce: Teacher's Workload
4. **CPD Discussion**:
   The Future of Performance-Related Pay
5. Trouble-Shooting Section/School Update
6. Recruitment
7. Policy Review (To note the following finalised policies):
   a. ECT Statutory Induction Policy May24
8. AOB
9. Date and Time of next meeting

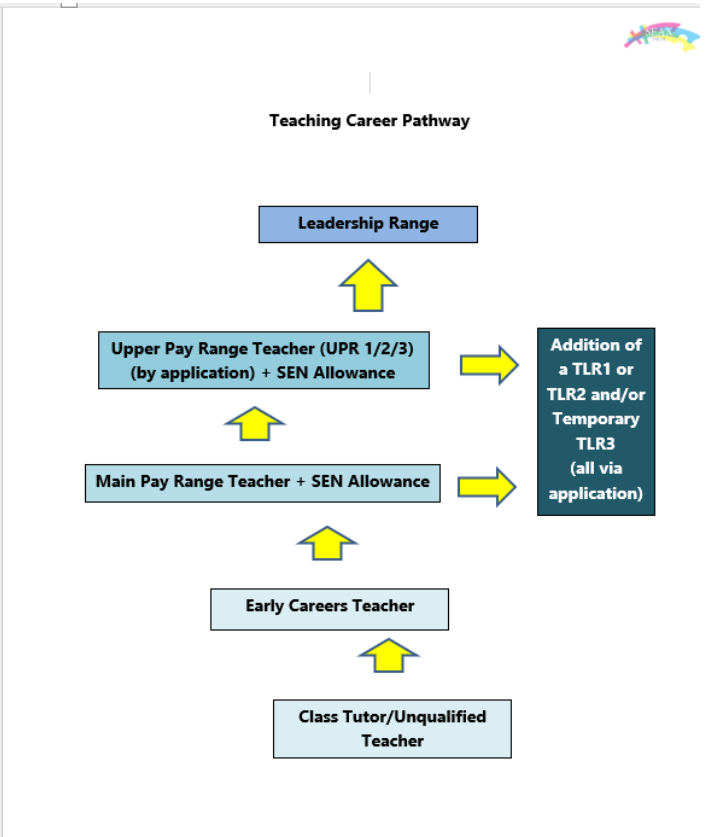
Documents to be made available:
Minutes March 2024

How SEAX Trust HR has developed

- We now have a new advert which is proving very successful.
- We also had a meeting dedicated to recording personnel data on Arbor, to share tips and make sure we're recording like for like
- Our new PMR documents linking to professional standards, our Career Pathways and our on-line Induction System are all now well established.



What's coming up for HR?



- We'd like to help all staff to start making better use of coaching as a supportive measure.
- We plan to employ some cross-Trust temporary staff to help cover absence.
- Working closely with the Wellbeing Group means that we can help to put changes in place to make the Trust an even better place to work.
- Thoughts about succession planning means that we'll be working more closely with you to find out how you see your own career developing.



As we approach the end of another remarkable year, the business team wanted to share our achievements, milestones, and ongoing projects that have shaped a productive and successful year.

Their continued dedication, teamwork, and commitment have driven us forward, making this year one to remember.

BUSINESS FUNCTION



Audit Success: A Testament to Our Excellence

We are proud to announce that our end-of-year external audit was completed with flying colours, with no qualifications! This result is a direct result of our strong financial management and adherence to the high standards set by the Academies handbook. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this great result.

Empowering Business Staff Through Collaboration

Our termly business meetings have been more than just gatherings; they have been lively forums for sharing insights, strategies, and best practices across the Trust. These sessions have bolstered our collective knowledge, enabling stronger functions at each school and strengthened our bond as a team. We look forward to continuing this tradition of collaboration and learning in the coming year.

Preparing the 24/25 Budget: Rising to the Challenge

This year, preparing the 24/25 budget has been a monumental task, especially given the financial constraints we currently face. Despite these challenges, our Business Managers have worked tirelessly, demonstrating resilience and always having a positive attitude. Their hard work has paid off, producing balanced budgets for the next three years, even amidst numerous uncertainties with funding and increasing costs. The budget has been submitted to the Trustees for review before the end of term and will then be uploaded to the ESFA as part of the Budget Forecast Return.

Exciting Projects in the Pipeline

1. **Thriftwood Kitchen Assessment**: We've embarked on an in-depth assessment of the Thriftwood kitchen possibilities, exploring innovative ways to enhance our facilities. Stay tuned for updates as we move forward with this exciting project.
2. **Grove House Farm project**: Grove House is in the planning stages of building an outdoor classroom and small petting farm as an educational opportunity, set to be a unique and enriching experience for our students.
3. **Kingswode Hoe School Improvements**: Major upgrades are underway at Kingswode Hoe, with a comprehensive window replacement and re-pointing project. These improvements will enhance the school's environment, ensuring it remains a safe and inspiring place for learning.
4. **The Hawthorns School Building Opening**: The countdown to the official opening of new The Hawthorns School building is on! Our planning meetings are now fortnightly to be able addressing every detail of the project plan. The grand opening is just around the corner, and we can't wait to celebrate this milestone with you all.
5. **Langham Oaks School Playground**: Exciting developments are also happening at Langham Oaks School, where a new Year 7 playground is set to be built over the summer. A lot of hard work and meticulous planning went into the tendering process to ensure the best outcomes for our students. We can't wait to see the positive impact this new space will have on their school experience.



A focus on Professional Development: Coaching

We are really pleased to say over the last 2 years we have trained 20 members of staff across the Trust to become coaches. In addition, the Headteachers have also spent time learning about coaching and thinking about how this can be one of the tools we use to support professional development. This is a real achievement and feedback from every member of staff involved has been very positive. Over the next year you will see coaching being utilised as one of the tools to support professional development in our schools.



"I like the idea of using a coaching approach in conversations as well as having formal coaching sessions. I think this helps people find their own solutions"

"A deeper self-awareness, better active listening skills and a feeling of empowerment"

"Developed an understanding of my areas for self development"

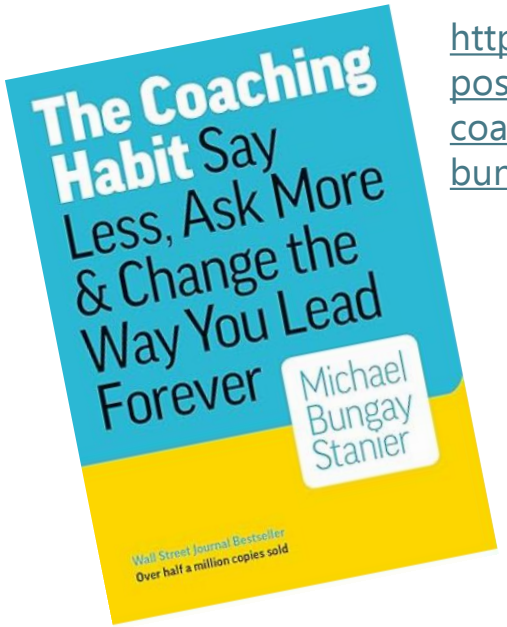
"It has supported me to support staff more effectively"

"To think of ways to support staff through conversation, that means they are empowered to find their own solutions to problems or issues"

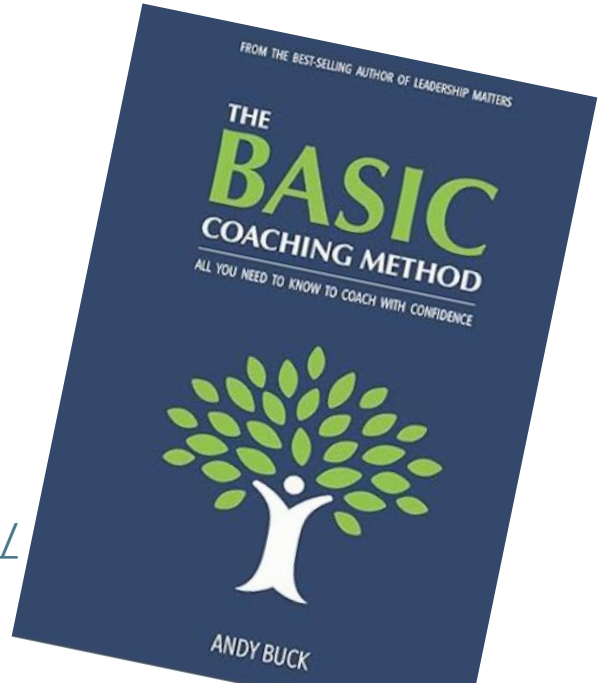
"Coaching has helped me to reflect and evaluate a lot and I came away feeling calm and excited to begin coaching."

"Coaching has helped me to focus on a path towards a goal, encouraging me to explore a problem and find my own solution

Coaching resources

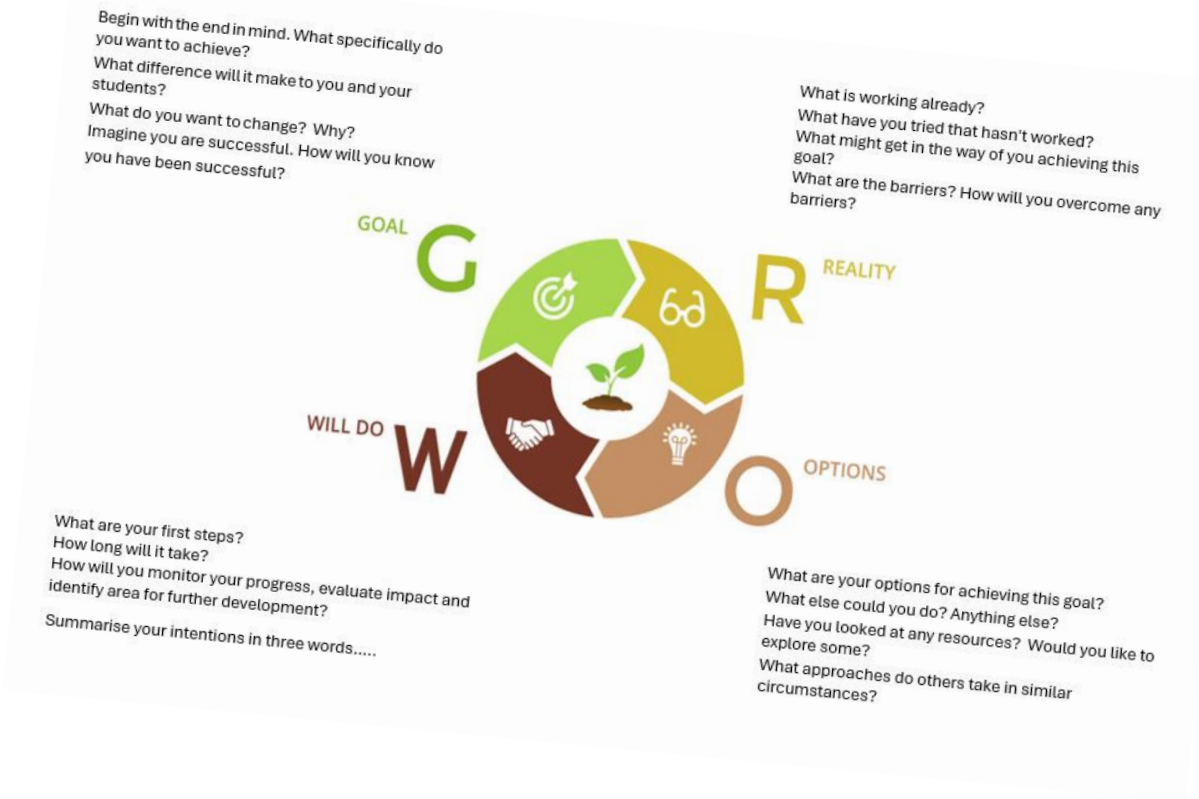


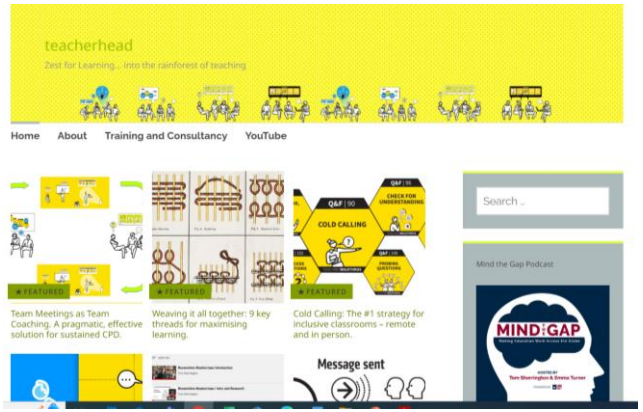
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https://www.basic-coaching.com/







https://teacherhead.com/2023/05/14/10-lessons-learned-about-instructional-coaching-within-a-cpd-programme/

Grove House School

Achievements and Success Summer 2024

The Show that's not a Show (That became a Show)





On Tuesday 2nd July we held our show to an audience of many parents/carers and visitors. What started off as a small "Show that was not a Show" turned into a very large and successful show in just two weeks! In such a short time, our pupils worked really hard practising their performances. They all did a great job, and we hope you are all as proud of them as we are.

Below are some photos for you all to enjoy:







The Show that's not a Show
(That became a Show)











School Assembly

On Monday 17th June, our school assembly topic focused on 'It's not all about the winning, it's about the taking part'.

We had the pleasure of having Kevin Maher, Southend United FC Manager, come in to discuss resilience and determination to our pupils during assembly.

Kevin has over 30 years' experience as a player, coach and manager in professional football. He discussed his career path, journey from grass roots football, professional contracts, career highlights, coaching and managerial role. Kevin linked the qualities and characteristics to our school code. He discussed how important it is for everyone to try their best and never give up.

Our pupils were engaged and inspired throughout the assembly; we had a fantastic Q & A session at the end. As a school we would like to thank Kevin for giving up his time to deliver this important and motivating message to our pupils.

Below are some quotes from some of our pupils;

Best assembly ever! Meeting a real-life professional footballer and we got to find out what his journey to management was

I liked how the manager showed the video of the goals he scored."

I enjoyed the assembly because he said "Never Give Up!"



He was telling us about his journey and basically saying if he can do it then everyone can achieve what they set their minds

KS3/4 Essex Panathalon

Congratulations to the six students who became Essex Panathalon Xtend Champions on Tuesday 23rd April.

The event featured 6 teams from across Essex participating in 7 indoor activities including; Boccia Blast, New Age Kurling, Precision BeanBag, Ten Pin Topple, Harlem Hoops, Flight Path, Volleybat.

Our Grove House team demonstrated excellent teamwork, effort, accuracy, determination and resilience leading them to an overall victory for Grove House School. The students returned to school with their gold medals draped proudly. Well done to our Panathalon team!





The School Games Mark is an accreditation given to schools who can demonstrate they have reached a particular standard in their PE and activity provision.

The criteria looks at a number of areas including: promoting the 60 active minutes initiative; monitoring least active pupils and identifying target intervention groups; pupil voice in PE; parental communication and engagement; extra-curricular offer; equal opportunities curriculum for PE; CPD plan for pupil inclusion in PE; adopting a physical literacy approach and competition opportunities.

This year Grove House achieved the Gold Award.














"Every interaction can be an intervention."

Dr Karen Treisman

To all our staff –

YOU make a difference



HIGHLIGHTS 2023-2024

Kingswode Hoe School

What we plant today, we grow tomorrow

OUTDOOR LEARNING @ KHS

Outdoor learning is a valuable and integral part of the curriculum at Kingswode Hoe. From Forest School in primary and Year 7 through Wider World in Year 8 and 9 up to Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award in Year 10 and 11, we provide a wide range of practical experiences outdoors to develop resilience, independence and social skills. Pupils embraced challenges at Rendlesham Forest as part of their final expedition in June this year.

We have also invited a NESP Peer to Peer Review Team back to consider how this area of the curriculum has moved on since their last visit in 2023. An extract from their report recognised:
"The school offers a wide range of outdoor learning opportunities and activities for all pupils which positively impact their learning. All pupils spoken to during the review enjoy and talk positively about the outdoor learning activities they take part in, and they could articulate why they do the activities they do, explaining how this develops their skills and knowledge for later life."

Out and about





THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

YEAR 11 DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD









Staff said that pupils were very well behaved and showed excellent resilience, independence and teamwork. They were even praised for their conduct by other visitors to the campsite.

Forest School is a firm favourite!





We have also established a link with Sandy's Farm in St Osyth this year, with Year 10 pupils thoroughly enjoying their supported work placement with the animals. This has been so popular we have invited some of them into school for Friday Farmyard Fun!

SANDY'S FARM

High-Tech @ KHS

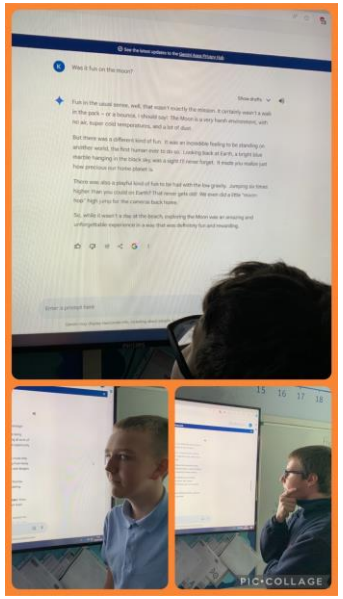
It has been another packed and productive year at Kingswode Hoe School (KHS) with so many highlights to choose from to share with our SEAX colleagues and community. We are very proud of our pupils and staff for all that has been achieved in 2023-4. We look forward to building on this and even more collaboration next year! We hope you enjoy a few articles from our weekly newsletter...

KHS welcomed Education Experience for a special workshop to explore **Virtual Reality** Technology. Year 7 and 9 pupils took part in this exciting experience.
Pupils were able to use the VR headsets to see the planets and moons of the solar system.









Pupils in Year 9 have been using **Artificial Intelligence** to question people from the past. They learned about famous explorers and were thinking about why people explore. Some of the explorers included Ibn Battuta, Sylvia Earle, Charles Darwin and Neil Armstrong.



Our **Culture and Community (CC)** curriculum encourages pupils to think about wider issues as well as learn about history and other cultures. Pupils in Copse class visited the travelling Knife Angel sculpture made of 100,000 knives that have been handed in or seized by the police. The statue was much bigger than we thought it would be and we were shocked by how many knives had been used to make it. Pupils also said that they felt very 'sad' about the knife crime that had resulted in people losing their lives.



KHS Pupil Reporter Alec has written this special report about this experience.

"Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's Year 9 going to space!

Today, year nine pupils got taken down to the hall to immerse themselves in a Virtual Reality (VR) Space Experience. The pupils said they saw loads of planets and learnt new facts that they didn't know before. Most of the pupils said they enjoyed seeing everything. Some pupils really loved looking at all of the different moons. This reporter thinks that it was a great experience for everyone involved. I believe that more schools should have this experience as it sounds like it was educational for them, and I believe they will remember it for years to come. I hope they tell their parents about it.

This is KHS News reporter, Alec signing off. Stay tuned for more news from KHS. Thank you and goodbye."

Culture & Community CC @ KHS

CREATIVITY @ KHS









"We take pride in our work"



DT held a competition for pupils to create a design for our popular item, The 'Kingaling'.
Lots of pupils took part and it was very difficult to choose a winner. The winner was 'Bob The Cool Kingaling' special edition designed by one of our Year 7 pupils.

From creating our own Christmas cards to making leavers hoodies, design projects at Kingswode Hoe aim to involve pupils as much as possible in designing, making and sometimes selling high quality outcomes and products.





TESCO
Every little helps



Year 11 pupils have worked hard throughout the year during their supported work placements at Tesco helping with stock rotation, de-carding and stocking up the shelves along with other valuable real world work experiences.

A project that we are very proud of at our school is the KHS Credit Shop. Pupils collect credit stickers during the day for positive behaviour and for achieving our six outcomes. These credits can be saved and spent at the shop. Items include; books, comics, magnets, soft toys and so much more with new items being added each week!



EMPLOYABILITY @ KHS

Pupil Leadership @ KHS

It has been great to see pupils taking a lead in a wide range of ways this year. Our School Council lead our Friday celebration assembly with enthusiasm and enjoy taking on roles to welcome the rest of the school, present certificates, announce winners and read scores out confidently.

Our Eco-School committee also take their role seriously and have met to plan a variety of ways to save energy and encourage sustainability as a 'green' environmentally friendly school.

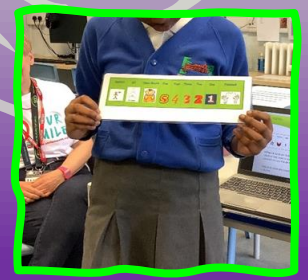
New this year, we have had Year 10 and 11 pupils taking on the role of ambassadors supporting the staff team during our Year 8 residential trip. Pupil volunteers from primary to Year 10 also took on the challenge of becoming Oral Health Champions. They have been trained to support and demonstrate to other pupils how to clean their teeth correctly as part of NHS dental checks in school.













Oral Health Champions

Pupils have enjoyed representing Kingswode Hoe in various sports tournaments and activities this year as well as our own summer Sports events.

The Alex Ball football tournament was played between four teams at Shorefields School. All the pupils were superbly behaved and did themselves, and the school, proud.



Health, Lifestyle & Wellbeing Award



Achievement & Accreditation Award



Community & Wider World Award



Employability Award



Identity & Self Expression Award



Resilience & Independence Award



Pupil of the Year Award



Headteacher Award



Year 11 Leavers Day is always a special occasion at Kingswode Hoe and this year was no exception. We had a special assembly and presented awards linked to our six outcomes as well as inviting pupils, parents and carers back for a party to wish everyone well on their way with a disco, photo booth and movie themed treats!





Achievement & Awards @ KHS

Langham Oaks

Highlights 2023/2024

President's Sporting Club Christmas Lunch

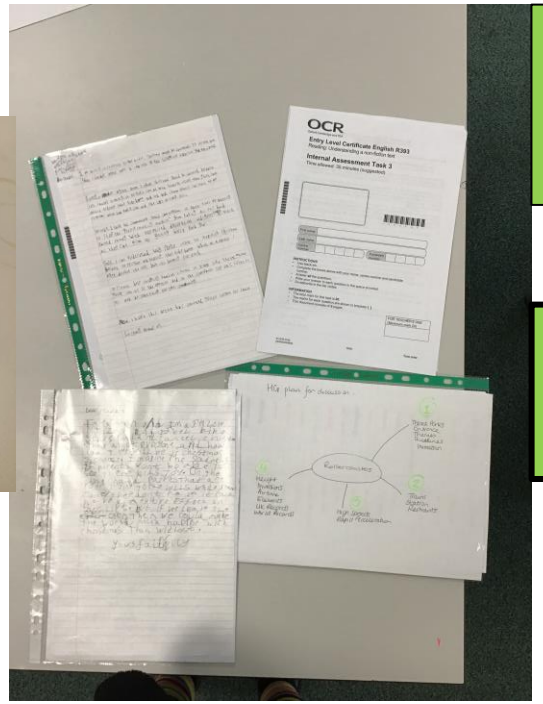






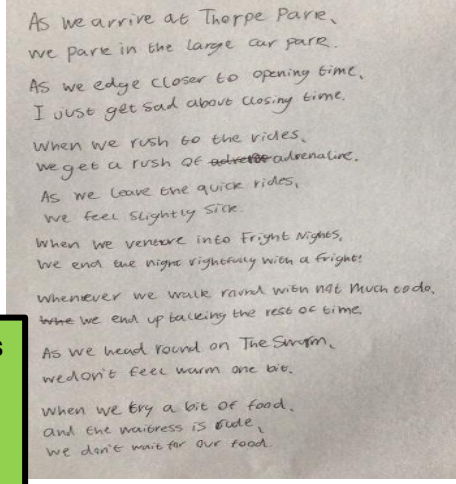






Year 10 working hard to complete OCR Entry Level coursework

Our resident poet, H, created this poem for the National Poetry Day on Thursday. The theme is refuge.



As we arrive at Thorpe Parre,
we park in the large car parre.
As we edge closer to opening time,
I just get sad about closing time.

When we rush to the rides,
we get a rush of ~~adrenelin~~ adrenaline.
As we leave the quick rides,
we feel slightly sick.
When we venture into Fright Nights,
we end the night rightfully with a fright!

Whenever we walk round with not much to do,
~~whe~~ we end up talking the rest of time.
As we head round on The Swan,
we don't feel warm one bit.

When we try a bit of food,
and the waitress is rude,
we don't wait for our food.

The 3-D printer is up and running and brought from Jack Petchey award- " A ghost amongst us"

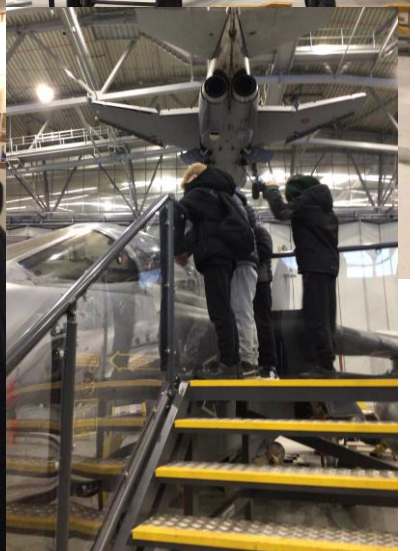


Trip to Duxford







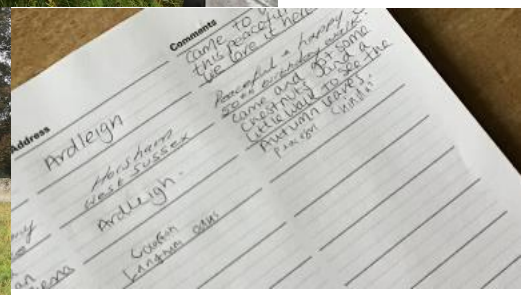


Our Year 6 visited Langham Church and Boxted Park.







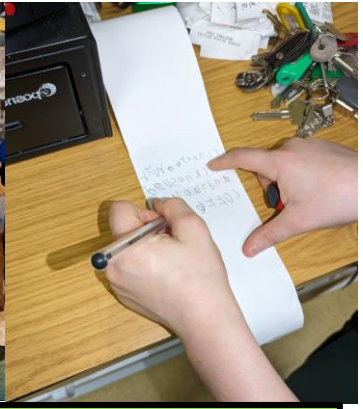


We continue to support the Café in the Park project and this week 3 boys enjoyed their time at the Café learning key life skills









Another amazing performance from our KS3 pupils in the SESSA Football Tournament. We won the 3 matches in the group stage for 6-0, 4-0, 1-0 and played the final against Ramsden Hall beating them 2-1 with a dramatic comeback in the second half. Great demonstration of teamwork and resilience in a very balanced final. Well done boys we are all very proud.

Another very generous donation from Mr and Mrs Parfitt for our school library – thank you.





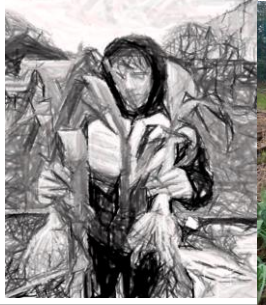




In the words of a member of staff:
"I just captured a beautiful moment. These two pupils just completed their English work and are now playing scrabble with Mrs Humble. "



Pupils in Forest School visited Bluebell Woods. They carried their own equipment and applied their map reading skills







Lots of activity in the horticulture area









Pupils in science carried out experiments on changing states using crayons and heat. Pupils worked well as a team and enjoyed predicting results. A great effort form all

Matt Mackman, a local artists is working with pupils: “Literacy through Art”













A genuine massive thank you to all those staff who attended a physically demanding, but fantastic Coastal School with 18 pupils from year groups 6 to Y 11 on Thursday. A cold and unforgiving North Sea, eroding cliffs. Woodland, a lagoon. Open fire cooking. Saws and hand tools. A mile walk to our base area over rough terrain. A 45-minute journey there and back. The list goes on !
Everyone was cheerful, flexible, slick, and professional.

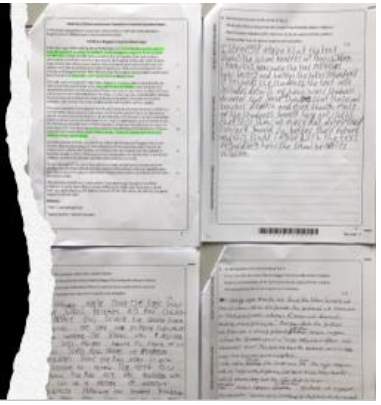
Probably an experience most of our pupils will remember for a long while.







Year 11’s hard work in literacy …



Our Year 6 and 7's enjoyed a fantastic time at the Sir Thomas Lipton Foundation in Brightlingsea for a three-day sailing experience







Quite honestly, Langham Oaks is the most enjoyable school to work with. It's a highlight every year. The boys are a credit to the school and staff who work so carefully with them. It's been an absolute pleasure to work with the staff and boys again this year and I very much hope to see you all again next year. Thank you to the staff team.

Enjoying kayaking at Dedham



Well done to the staff and pupils who dressed up as their favourite character. During the day pupils had the opportunity to take part in a range of fun literacy activities including time in the library.



Parent comment:
"*J thoroughly enjoyed the last 3 days sailing in Brightlingsea. He told us all about the boat what type how big. He loved that he got to steer the boat. Thank you to the school for this wonderful opportunity.* "



Planting in the garden in the sunshine





One of our pupils in Year 11 went to The Hawthorns School (a school within the SEAX Trust) to gain some work experience.

We received some amazing feedback from the Headteacher, Diane Rigg, who said that he was "mature and extremely helpful and productive."

He followed instructions and showed initiative and helped to set up a room for a parents' meeting.

It is wonderful to hear such positive feedback. Well done!

The Hawthorns

celebrating diverse abilities

The Hawthorns School

2023-2024

A Few Highlights



A Year of Development and Moving On…

Having successfully opened the school doors on a temporary site in January 23, this academic year we have been building on the foundations of the school with regards to curriculum, pupils' personal development and the new building; please excuse the pun!

As we continue to forge our curriculum, we are ensuring it meets the varied needs of all our young people, to offer an aspirational curriculum which has exciting and interesting opportunities for the pupils running through it . As part of this we have been paying close attention to how we prepare pupils for adulthood. This has included the introduction of visits and trips this year.

It is imperative for our pupils to gain as much awareness, skill and preparation as possible for future employment, but also to gain confidence in using their voice, expressing their opinions and self-advocating.

The following pictures and narrative give a flavour of how we are doing this. There is great excitement among our school community that at this time next year I will be writing this from the new school building !





Pupil Voice, Experience & Aspirations

We are actively involved in the Multi Schools Council forum and just recently one of our newest pupils walked up to the local school with a teacher to be part of the anti-racism forum. We were so proud of him as he spoke up and contributed. He only joined us in April. What an achievement! This exemplifies the confidence our pupils gain as they join in, participate and start to gain resilience so quickly.

Recently, one class attended a World of Work event lead by the Multi Schools Council. The exhibition had a range of stalls for the pupils to explore; Sports, Emergency Services, Craft, Duke of Edinburgh, Essex Wildlife Trust, Musical Instruments, Construction, Plumbing, Tesco, Therapy Gym Equipment and Langham Oaks School catering team. The aim of the event was to provide new experiences to spark pupil interests when thinking about preparation for adulthood, including careers and hobbies.

All pupils thoroughly enjoyed taking part in all the activities, learning to interact with members of the community and listening to the inspirational keynote speakers about their experiences of their own additional needs or those of their family. A fantastic event for us to attend annually.













Creative Learning

On a completely different note, we have had a florist in recently to give the pupils a different experience of working with flowers and greenery to create crowns along our ‘Kings and Queens’ project this term. Some of our pupils really do show an interest in floristry, so an early opportunity to get a flavour of this career was put in place. Work experience links have been put in place as a result.

Recently, pupils also created print blocks and later printed their designs onto t-shirts and one of our classes combined their creativity, fine motor skills and culinary learning to create rainbow mashed potato!







Mini Olympics

A whole class walked up to a sporting event at Melbourne Park and held their own amongst mainstream school schools.

We learnt that some of our pupils have very special skills we had no idea about, Pom Pom dancing and cheer leading! Watch this space for ‘Pom Pom Club’! The class managed to participate, show consideration and have a thoroughly good time. This was such a highlight of the year.

THRIFTWOOD SCHOOL & COLLEGE

HIGHLIGHTS 2023/2024

Thriftwood School

Educate Challenge Prepare

Curriculum

This year we have continued to deliver our ambitious topic-based curriculum, ensuring that it continues to meet the needs of our learners. Each terms topic intends to; make it real, enthuse and inspire, provide opportunities for hands-on experiences, put learning into context, and support recall and retention.



Year 8 have been studying Law and Order as their summer term topic. They have done lots of research to prepare for the mock trial of Alexander Wolf (better known as the big bad wolf!). A local trainee solicitor came in to take the role of 'Judge', whilst students took on the duties of usher, prosecution, defence, witnesses and the jury. Both cases ended in a resounding 'Guilty' verdict, and the big bad wolf is no longer causing trouble in the local community.

Training and development

We know that learning from each other and sharing expertise and practice is key to continual professional development and leads to us being able to support our learners to reach their full potential.

Drawing and Talking

Support staff participated in Drawing and Talking intervention training delivered by one of our teachers Libby Walters this term. Their feedback was incredibly positive, and we're all excited about them being able to deliver this to our learners in the Autumn term.

Links with the wider community

Some of our learners were recently invited to the Masonic Trout and Salmon Fishing Club for the day. They had a wonderful time and all came back with a Trout to cook for dinner!



Thriftwood School

Educate Challenge Prepare



Residential highlights!



Eagle and Kestrel class went to Bonsall in Derbyshire for a week to take part in climbing, scrambling, weaselling and canoeing. It was great to see everyone supporting and encouraging each other and seeing friendships develop over the week.





Our Year 7s enjoyed 2 nights at Fairplay House this term. They took part in archery, canoeing, high ropes, low ropes, zip wire and the 3G swing. An amazing time away for pupils, who showed bravery, resilience and greater independence.



Merlin class spent the week on a lightship in Tollesbury. It was an opportunity for everyone to put into practice the independence skills that they have practised in class. They enjoyed some sailing, climbing on the high ropes, archery and playing table football. They all had a great time!



Thriftwood College

Work Experience

Our Year 12 students recently completed a two-week block of work experience for the first time, and it was a resounding success. We received an abundance of positive feedback from employers, and several students were even offered long-term work experience opportunities. Students were placed with a diverse range of employers based on their locations and interests, including Tesco, Marks & Spencer, Acanteen, Hawthorns, and The Entertainer.





Careers

This year, we have focused on enhancing our career offerings for students by collaborating with several external partners, including the Great Essex Careers Hub, Talantino, and the DWP. Our curriculum is evolving to better prepare students for the workforce, and we are already seeing a positive impact on their interest and motivation towards careers. All our Year 13 students participated in practice interviews with a representative from the DWP, who was highly impressed with their performance and provided excellent feedback.

Educate Challenge Prepare

Staff development

Over the past year, our staff have engaged in a wide variety of professional development activities, ensuring we remain knowledgeable and equipped to support our students effectively. Highlights include engaging sessions on online safety by the 2 Johns, a safeguarding ‘pub’ quiz, and a staff wellbeing session. Additionally, we have focused on training our new team members on TPP, enhancing our overall capability.

Enriching our curriculum











Throughout the year, we have enjoyed numerous trips, visits, and events that have punctuated the calendar, motivating and engaging our students while providing lots of fun! Highlights include Open Mic Night, the Summer Ball, and Leavers Day. We also celebrated Thriftwood College's 10th anniversary on May 2nd, marking a decade of excellence and growth.













THANK YOU

Your commitment, dedication and compassion shape the hearts and minds of our pupils every day

SEAX 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.