

# SEAX Trust



## CHRISTMAS IS NEARLY UPON US.....

Dear Colleagues

Another term has been and gone! What a busy one, again. We have welcomed new staff into the Trust schools, including a new Headteacher, Alan Wells, to Langham Oaks and new staff to all of our schools. Thank you all for joining us, you are great additions to the excellent teams who work to make sure our young people enjoy school and who learn and develop into wonderful members of our community.

This term has seen us welcome visits from Ofsted to two of our schools - more information when the reports are published. While these visits are always challenging because we all care so much, I am so grateful for the way everyone conducts themselves, showing our schools at their best. But enough of that!

I would like to thank you all for the fantastic work you do with our young people. I have the privilege of visiting all the schools in the Trust and I am always in awe of the work you do. Your patience and dedication is obvious wherever I go. Your never-ending efforts to getting it right, whatever it takes, is amazing. I don't tell you often enough how much I admire your dedication, you really do make a difference, whatever your role. Our students are very lucky to have you working with and for them.

Have a well-deserved break over the holiday and make sure you take some time for yourself if you can. Come back refreshed for another term of challenges and joy!

Very Best Wishes

Ruth Sturdy

CEO, SEAX Trust





**The 10th annual Essex Teaching Awards** took place on Wednesday 29th November and provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the outstanding educators and support staff working in primary, secondary, special and early years settings across Essex. 350 nominations were received this year and 35 awards were presented to education and early years staff.

Catherine Butler from Thriftwood School received the highly commended award for **Teacher of the Year in Special School**. Catherine's testimonies all said *'she is a teacher who goes above and beyond for the children and always takes on board any ideas, parents may have. She really knows the children and what works for them and the whole team environment and the school are so accommodating for every child. Her time, care and understanding are out of this world!'*



**MANY CONGRATULATIONS CATHY FOR A WELL DESERVED AWARD!!!**



**CHELMSFORD & MALDON SCHOOLS & CLUBS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD EVENT!  
TUESDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2023 AT THE CIVIC THEATRE, CHELMSFORD**

We are proud to announce that both Freddie Jackson and Sienna Orsbourn at Thriftwood School received a **Jack Petchey Award!**

**'Celebrating young people is at the heart of the Jack Petchey Foundation's mission'**

**HUGE CONGRATULATIONS FROM EVERYONE AT SEAX TRUST**



# Reading Corner

We are very excited to share the dates for the first reading groups which we will begin in the Spring Term. This will give us an opportunity to read a short article/extract which we can then discuss and explore the relevance of in our settings. There will be two options - Group A will focus on **effective professional development** and Group B will focus on **teaching and learning**.

The book club will run from 15.45—16.45pm on Teams. Each session will stand alone, so if you cannot come to all, do not worry. If you are interested and would like to receive a link please contact

[mikaela.weller@seaxtrust.com](mailto:mikaela.weller@seaxtrust.com)

## Group A dates

11 January 2024  
7 March 2024  
18 April 2024  
20 June 2024

## Group B dates

18 January 2024  
28 March 2024  
25 April 2024  
4 July 2024

The first pieces of reading are:

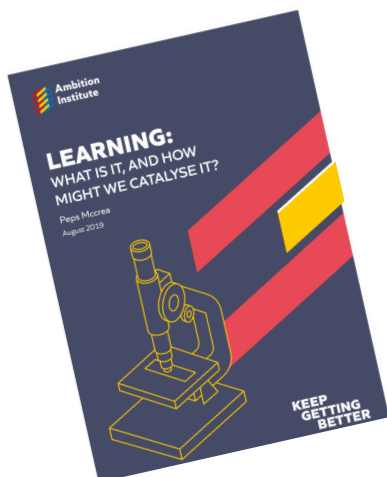
### Effective Professional Development for Staff (Group A)

[EEF-Effective-Professional-Development-Guidance-Report.pdf \(d2tic4wvo1iusb.cloudfront.net\)](https://d2tic4wvo1iusb.cloudfront.net/EEF-Effective-Professional-Development-Guidance-Report.pdf)

Although this might appear to be a lengthy document, there are lots of graphics and an extensive bibliography at the end!

### Teaching and Learning (Group B)

[Learning what is it and how might we catalyse it v1.4.pdf](#)



This is a high-level summary of learning by Peps Mccrea. There are some interesting 'Insights' into the nature of student learning. It is interesting to consider how this might be important in our practice and if it might influence the choices we make when teaching.



## **'YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE'**

### **SEAX Trust Conference**

**2023**

**Nearly 250 staff attended our Annual SEAX Trust Conference at the Colchester Community Stadium on Friday 20th October.**



**Our 2023 theme was 'You Make a Difference'.**

**Our aim was to give our staff the message that whatever their role in schools, they play an important part in improving the lives of our young people.**



**This year we welcomed two Guest Speakers:**

**'Musharaf Asghar' better known to many as Mushy. He has devoted years to spreading awareness about stammering and motivating those who feel life has set them back to be resilient in the wake of their vulnerability.**

**'Nerys Hughes' a highly skilled Children's Occupational Therapist who is passionate about the super powers of children and young people.**

**Many thanks to all our workshop hosts for your valuable contribution to the day!**

**Nicky Everett, Adam Blake, Tamsin Owens, Kathryn Hundal, Edward Hughes, Kate Stannard, Kim McWilliam, Ruth Saban, Kate Hart, Terry Logan, Nikki Dowling, Amy Gair, Tom Coxall, Ben Lee**

Staff Comments :

*"Thank you for organising the trust day, I really appreciate a chance to get together and celebrate success in the workplace."*

*"That was my first Trust Conference and it was nice to see the other colleagues from different schools. It was lovely to know that I'm belonging to a bigger community as well, so it was a good experience."*

*"I found the whole day inspiring and motivational. I left feeling an immense sense of pride in the work we do."*

## Put the mouse down ..... and step away from the computer!

Whole-school ideas to reduce the time you spend on admin and increase the time you spend with pupils.



Things were very different when I started work in 1979. We worked from 9-5, with a whole hour for lunch; shops closed early mid-week and all day on Sunday; there was no H&S, we smoked in the office; I took down letters in shorthand and bashed them out on a manual typewriter (one mistake and you had to start again). There was no *real* pressure to get an enormous amount of work done in a day and we didn't ever take work home with us—we couldn't, because there was no way to process it without computers or mobile phones.

'Admin', as we now know it, was done by a secretary who'd been to secretarial college and had qualifications to prove it—'typing' was skilled labor!

Then someone came up with 'Time & Motion

Studies' and the world of work started to change. We began to have to prove how quickly we could do things and how much value our output brought to the organization. By the 1990s, if we couldn't keep up, we found ourselves facing capability procedures.

Nowadays, admin has infiltrated every role in every organization. We have to record everything to keep up with safeguarding, GDPR, the EU, Brexit, the National Curriculum, annual reviews, Ofsted, pre-employment checks... and the list goes on.

If we've seen so many changes in the last 40 years, what does the future hold for administration in education and shouldn't we be thinking about getting it under control right now, before it's too late?

***If we've seen so many changes in the last 40 years, what does the future hold for administration in education and shouldn't we be thinking about getting it under control right now?***

### Exploring Teachers' Admin Time

In March 2023, a company called CooperGibson\* undertook a research report for the DfE. They asked a country-wide, cross-section of Teachers and School Leaders what admin tasks they did on top of their normal teaching duties.

'Normal teaching duties' included lesson planning/preparation, assessing and monitoring progress, producing reports, marking, Ofsted, overseeing LSAs and, of course, teaching itself.

What they found was that, on average, an further 2 hours a day were spent on additional admin per person.

**Quick Maths:** 2hrs x say, ten teachers in a school = 100 man hours per week x 39 term time weeks = approx. 5,000 hours pa x an average STPCD wage = £135,000 per school per year.

And that's just our Teachers.

\*[www.gov.uk/exploringteachersadmintime](http://www.gov.uk/exploringteachersadmintime)

The CooperGibson Report found that Teachers' additional admin tasks included:



**IT'S BEWILDERING ISN'T IT?**

**SO, WHAT CAN WE DO? Firstly, I think we should simply....STOP! We need to step back, so we can assess what's actually happening strategically— we need a chance to stop being reactive and start being proactive!**

## Finding what works for you as a whole school

Finding a way of working for you as an individual is a good first step, but stepping back to work out what's going wrong with your current whole-school systems is a much bigger and, therefore, potentially much more productive thing to do. Sounds too difficult? Then, try working together, step by step:

**1. Pick a Problem:** Pick one system that's not working well for you as a school—it could be something that's taking up too much time, like emails or behaviour management, or something that's become too complex like exams, data management or annual reviews.

**2. Ask why you're doing this work:** Consider how you're doing things currently. Is what you're doing a statutory requirement, or are you just doing it through habit—because you've always done it this way? You'll need to be honest and you'll need to be prepared to let go! Who are you doing it for—who's your 'customer': parents? Ofsted? The insurance man? What would happen if it wasn't done at all?

**3. Assess the Problems:** Have a meeting and ask everyone involved what they think the problems are from their own individual points of view. Is everyone working in the same way? Does anyone need training? Most importantly, ask yourselves this: Is what you're doing proportionate in relation to the reason for doing it? By that, I mean, is it *really* worth the amount of effort you're putting in?

**4. Re-assess the Problems:** Ask yourself what's the bare minimum you need to do? What's the quickest way to do that? Is the right person doing it currently? Would a new system or some new technology help? Can you leave anything out? How useful is doing it at all? Can you align it with another system—eg could your LGG reports also double up as reports to give to Ofsted?

**5. Make the Change:** Work out together what to keep and what to discard or change. Agree together how to move forward. Put it into action. Stick to it. Review the changes in a term's time.

As a school, you could choose to use your twilight CPD sessions for one half term to get to grips with a tricky admin issue. For further ideas, there's a whole DfE webpage with ready-made resources for schools to use here: [Reducing school workload - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://Reducing school workload - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk))

## Is what you're currently doing proportionate in relation to the reason for doing it?



### The Root Cause

There's a place called Korogocho in Kenya where 200,000 people live in shanti-town poverty. One man called Chris set out to break the cycle of crime and pollution by founding an organisation called *Komb Green*\* with the aim of clearing up the township's Nairobi River. The River had come to be called 'the river of death' due to the toxic

waste and solid rubbish being dumped in it.

This meant farmers downstream were bearing the consequences of the pollution and eventually the filth was travelling with the River and pouring out into the Indian Ocean.

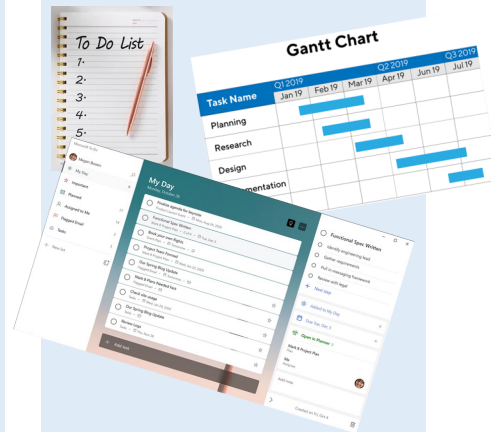
It took a year for *Komb Green* to clear the pollution and debris from the Nairobi River. An important part of this work was simply arranging local waste collections – ie stopping people from dumping the rubbish in the River in the first place.

Getting to the root cause of the problem has meant a hugely positive change for everyone.

What's this got to do with admin? Well, I think we should now be looking upstream at what we can do to alter the root cause of our administrative problems, so that we don't have to keep reacting to impossible demands by working amidst the mess and muddle of it all.

\*[Komb Green Solutions - Creating Nairobi's First 'People's Park' \(trvst.world\)](http://Komb Green Solutions - Creating Nairobi's First 'People's Park' (trvst.world))

## Finding what works for you as an individual



Whether it's a simple list, a Gantt Chart, 365 Tasks, a whiteboard, sticky notes or the Eisenhower Matrix, it doesn't matter—you need to find a way of working that suits you and makes you as productive as you can be.

When a new task lands on your desk, ask yourself 'What's the deadline?' - armed with this information, you can then slide it into your task list, reshuffling your priorities and then... resume your most important job.

If it's something big, can you delegate anything? Does it need splitting into smaller tasks? Do you need to be somewhere quiet to do the work? Perhaps you need a morning working from home? Have you got the skills, or would it be quicker for someone else to take this particular task on?

If it gets difficult, ask yourself: 'Why?' Is it because of interruptions, lack of info or something else? What can you do about that?

And, when you finish, diarise the next step now, make templates for future use as you go and when you can't see the wood for the trees—step back and take a break! You'll come back refreshed and with a clearer focus.

# PLASTIC FREE SCHOOLS

SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE

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TONNE OF PLASTIC

At our recent SEAX Trust conference, one of the workshops held by Adam Blake, Tamsin Owens and Kathryn Hundall (GHS) talked about sustainability. During the workshop we learnt a bit more about what individual schools are doing to move towards being Net Zero and what we can do as individuals and as a Trust to take urgent action to help mitigate the current environmental crisis. As part of this movement, Grove House School and Langham Oaks are making huge progress towards becoming plastic free schools.

*Single-use plastic like bottles, straws and carrier bags are used for minutes but last a lifetime with devastating impact. Parts of the ocean now hold more plastic than plankton – a species vital to the health of marine environments and the survival of life on Earth.*

## Individual Action Plan

- Remember your refillable water bottle
- Take a reusable coffee cup and refuse single-use take away cups
- Refuse single-use packaging
- Resist a straw (straws suck)
- Refuse a single-use plastic bag and take your own
- Take your own cutlery or use sustainable alternatives
- Avoid single-use plastic in the bathroom
- Refuse single-use condiment sachets
- Do your own mini beach clean

1 IN 3

FISH CAUGHT FOR HUMAN  
CONSUMPTION NOW CONTAINS  
PLASTIC.

# ICT News



## Email - Fraudsters targeting Schools

There have been reports recently of a significant increase in fraudsters targeting Schools by impersonating staff email addresses, and we have already seen incidents of this within the Trust. Our email domains and systems are protected against the majority of crude email impersonation attempts, but fraudsters can often mask their email address so they look genuine. They also use phishing emails that look very convincing in an attempt to trick staff into changing their email password.

Scammers often also use "brute force" attacks in an attempt to crack staff passwords and gain access to their email accounts.

The advice as always is to remain vigilant and be very careful with your password, guard it like it's your bank pin code!.



- **Be careful where and how you use your School email address.**
- **Don't share your password with anyone else.**
- **Don't use shared or public devices to access your School email.**

**If you receive an email that's unexpected or seems to be out of the ordinary or suspicious, or you are concerned that your School email account may have been compromised, please report it to a member of the ICT Support Team.**

## GDPR, Email and the Law.



Email communication is admissible evidence in a UK court of law.



**If you're not prepared to print it, sign it and give it to a judge ... don't put it in an email!**

# Phishing and Cyber Attacks



Phishing attacks continue to be a major headache for schools. For ICT support, it's like a never-ending circus act, where the challenge is to juggle data security measures while maintaining the functionality of our ICT systems. It's like trying to perform a high-wire act while simultaneously entertaining the audience with acrobatics. Email phishing scams are becoming increasingly sophisticated and remain the highest threat to the security of our data.

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*“Remember, when it comes to phishing, the best trick is to stay vigilant and not fall for the trap!”*

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## 5 tips to prevent you falling for a Phishing Scam

### 1. Be wary of links or buttons in emails...

Hover over them (or lightly press on mobile): is the link pointing to where you expect, or somewhere else? If it's not a URL of the company, don't go to it.

### 2. Check with the sender...

If it's a genuine email, no company, or individual, will mind if you give them a call, or drop an email back (to an email address you have/know or found yourself online – hitting reply may not help).

### 3. Keep your personal details private...

“We will never ask you for your password”. Think and check twice before entering personal details/passwords or other content on any website.

### 4. Email addresses can be faked...

That trusted email address in the 'from' field...might not be real. Just because it says it's from the organisation, doesn't necessarily mean it actually is.

### 5. Spelling...

Yes, even in today's world of spell-checkers there may still be errors, sometimes these are intentional – to avoid filters, other times lack of care, or something else. Either way it's a good sign the email is fake.

Don't forget that you're not alone, people have fallen for scams for a very long time. But in today's world, that momentary poor decision can result in a whole heap of hassle.

Ask any information security professional or IT technician and they'll have a case to share.

Further information

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/think-check-check-again-how-to-protect-your-school-from-email-scams>





# Grove House School

## News from Grove House School - Autumn 2023

### RHS School Gardening Awards

Congratulations to everyone at Grove House School for achieving a Level 5 in the RHS School Gardening Awards in their campaign to support school gardening!

Everyone has really enjoyed taking part in the Awards with the support of the whole school community and the outside community too. Participants worked with a volunteer to get advice on utilising space, crop rotation and soil management. Another kind member of the community has helped to rebuild a retaining wall with pupils and Tesco has been a driving force in helping to create a sensory garden with the whole school taking part. The sensory garden has continued to be a very popular place for pupils to relax and chat with friends at break or lunch time.

Pupils grow food in the raised beds all year round, which is used in our Food Technology lessons. This helps pupils understand seasonality of produce and the importance of including fruit or vegetables in every meal.

The school has been presented with a certificate, plaque and rewards: seeds to support ongoing gardening and a £150 National Garden Gift Voucher.



“We are also delighted we can use the Level 5 digital logo to celebrate our achievement.”



## World Science Day

To celebrate World Science Day, Class LT took part in a day long STEM project. As part of their Discovery CREST Award, pupils had to work as part of a team to research, design and make a handwashing system to 'stop the spread' of bacteria and viruses.

The pupils needed to use a variety of their scientific skills to complete this challenge including investigating, evaluating and building. The project was a success and Class LT was incredibly proud of their final models.

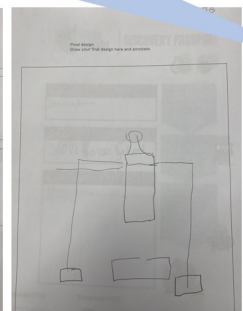
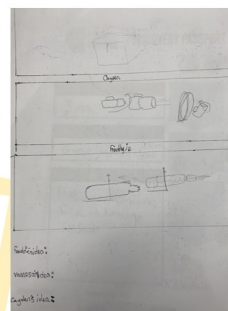
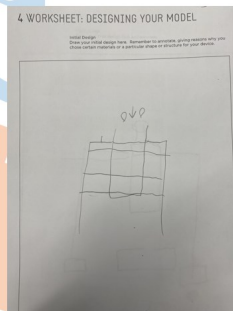
### The Challenge:

We had to design a handwashing system to help children in Kenya to wash their hands.



### The Designs:

These were some of our initial designs. It was quite tricky to think about how our handwashing system would work. We had to think about the resources and time that we had and what was achievable.



### The Skills:

understanding  
 positivity  
 evaluating resources  
 communication  
 planning  
 turn-taking  
 building  
 tools  
 respect  
 accomplishing  
 constructing  
 research  
 choosing  
 supporting  
 designing  
 studying  
 teamwork  
 listening  
 engineering



# The Evaluation:

When we had finished our project, we reflected on how successful our model was. We also had to think about our involvement in the group.  
We thought about the skills that we had improved.



# The Evaluation:



<b>4. Research</b> How did you find out information to help you with the challenge? <b>Power Point</b> <b>video</b> Could you have done more research to help your team? (circle one) No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<b>5. Knowledge</b> Do you know more about the topic of the challenge that when you started the day? (circle one) <b>Yes</b> A bit No How did what you learned help you with the challenge? <b>hand washing is important</b> What is the most interesting or surprising fact that you learned today? <b>hand washing investigation</b>
<b>6. Skills</b> What would you say are the three main skills that you have learned or improved today? <b>communication - Listening - making</b>	



“Every interaction can be an intervention.”

Dr Karen Treisman



**To all our staff –  
YOU make a difference**



The Hawthorns is still in temporary accommodation and awaiting final news about the new building and the signing of the contract, but we are as confident as we can be that this will mean opening in January 2025. Very exciting, finally!

However, building aside, we are carrying on regardless and have welcomed our new cohort of children this term, plus additional staff. The accommodation is bursting at the seams but, thanks to a fabulous team spirit and will to make things work, we are making good progress in learning, social communication and forming new relationships.

Pupils have been working on all sorts of projects this term and were last seen shining torches into dark, quiet rooms, looking for nocturnal animals. They were having huge fun! Only a couple of weeks ago they were cave painting in the dark den! The ingenuity and creativity of our teaching team is fabulous. It is a privilege to work with them!

To try to add some capacity to our accommodation we have added a new cabin which provides some very welcome private space for meetings, thinking and the odd bit of dance!

Two SENCO meetings have been held this year already to try to help local schools understand our offer and cohort and to extend our links into the wider community. They have been exceptionally well attended and much outreach is arising from them.





“You make a difference”

KHS

## Highlights at KHS this term

Pupils at Kingswode Hoe School have been delighted with their new playground equipment, including trampolines, a new swing, gym trails and monkey bars. Positive play is a key priority this year as social time can be one of the biggest challenges for pupils and we want to make it enjoyable for all.

### Children in Need

Our School Council representatives planned a special Children in Need charity credit time afternoon with lots of challenges and activities for pupils to choose from including football, craft, giant bubble blowing, balloon games, dance and Lego to name just a few!

### Essex Year of Numbers

We have a focus on numeracy this year during the Essex Year of Numbers and staff have been sharing Maths Mastery training as we develop pupil confidence with number and problem solving.

### Visitors and visits

As part of our ‘inspiring’ curriculum, staff organise a range of activities, visitors and visits beyond the classroom to enrich and widen pupil experience.

As part of our link with Essex Special School Education Trust (ESSET), pupils thoroughly enjoy sensory story sessions with the travelling storyteller. Those who have shown interest and ability in DT have also visited other schools for STEM workshops as well as welcomed mainstream pupils to talk about their projects in school.

*“I can’t believe my son is now presenting assemblies to the whole school. The staff have done wonders for his confidence!”*

## Focus on...Assemblies

All staff at Kingswode Hoe lead class assemblies and give their form groups an opportunity to explore the theme of the week in more depth. They present and share to the whole school, developing confidence and speech, language and communication skills.



Roald Dahl Day characters brought to life by Copse class

This year has already seen some varied and engaging presentations as part of our assembly programme with pupils bringing different Roald Dahl characters to life, sharing about important figures and world events from history as well as their own aspirations for the future, and even a visit from Postman Pat to tell us all about World Post Day!

### Learning about Gandhi with Orchard group



Visitors in school for Harvest Festival

### A special visitor for World Post Day from Thetford



Rendlesham class share their aspirations for the future and how much we need numbers in life!



Weald class remind us about the importance of Remembrance

## Spotlight on...

### Super Site Team

We are very lucky at Kingswode Hoe School to have a dedicated and hard working site team of two!



Mr James, also known as Yorkie, joined our staff as Site Assistant in He became Site Supervisor in

We recently recruited Mr Peach to join the team and he has already proved to have a strong work ethic and is putting his DIY and gardening skills to good use.

Pupils greatly enjoy opportunities to work alongside our site team and develop ‘real’ work skills as they help to take care of our school site.



“Our staff are superstars!”

## The Great Outdoors



### Fantastic Forest School

Mrs Deal joined Kingswode Hoe School in and has since worked tirelessly to strengthen our Forest School and Wider World provision. Pupils across the school love their opportunities to learn outdoors and the positive impact on wellbeing are clear. Miss Kiely is looking forward to helping the team to take our Outdoor Learning provision to the next level when she takes on leadership of this important area in January.



### Putting PE on the map

Pupils proudly represented the school against other special schools and Year 11 Sports Leaders have been running activities for younger pupils and enjoying developing golf skills at a local driving range.



## Nook Pods Excellence Award for Inspirational Support Staff within D&T



We are delighted to announce that our very own Food and Cooking lead, Mrs Wilkinson, has been awarded **The Nook Pods Excellence Award for Inspirational Support Staff within D&T**. This prestigious award was presented at the D&T Excellence Awards Evening at Aerospace Bristol

on Friday 13 October under the iconic Concorde.

Every week, as well as leading practical and evaluation DT Food sessions, Mrs Wilkinson captures these activities for our newsletter with collages showing repeatedly how pupils engage, progress and benefit in this important area of the curriculum. She is passionate about developing independence and life skills and her impact on classes is clear. She also nominates our star baker, creates the school Christmas cards and shows such dedication and perseverance in working to adapt learning to the needs of each pupil and group.

An extract from her nomination reflects the positive impact Mrs Wilkinson has had during her time at Kingswode Hoe School: *“In our Ofsted report, inspectors wrote that design and technology is popular with pupils- adding significantly to pupils’ personal development and enjoyment. This statement sums up the impact that Mrs Wilkinson has had in her time here. From lockdown, she has helped bring back design and technology as a fundamental part of our school which makes a profound difference to pupils’ lives. They look forward to coming to school because of it, they leave each lesson being able to do more because of it and understand that their adult lives will be positively impacted by it.*

*Staff respect Mrs Wilkinson, and she is recognised as being a fair and compassionate colleague as well as a champion of the children. She has never once hesitated to take on any role or job and has proved time and time again that she is dependable and trustworthy.*

*In my 25 years of teaching the subject, I have never come across such an instance of a non-specialist support member of staff having such an impact on so many pupils in design and technology.”*

### 37 years service

Before half term, we wished Mrs Robinson well after over 37 years working at Kingswode Hoe School. Her dedication and commitment supporting so many pupils over the years will not be forgotten. As a school, we will be planting a rose to mark Mrs Robinson’s significant contribution to our school community. Her passion for the great outdoors has always shone through. She has been an absolute inspiration!



**We hope Mrs Robinson thoroughly enjoys many happy, healthy, years**

What we plant today,  
we grow tomorrow  
Kingswode Hoe School



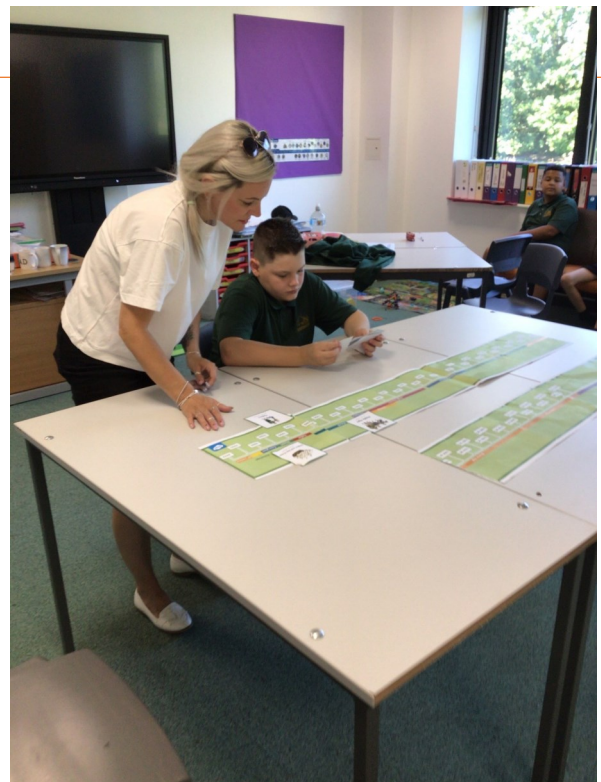
## Work Experience

Mr Tweed making Pizza at Pizza Express. A work experience trip for some of our Year 10 and 11 boys.

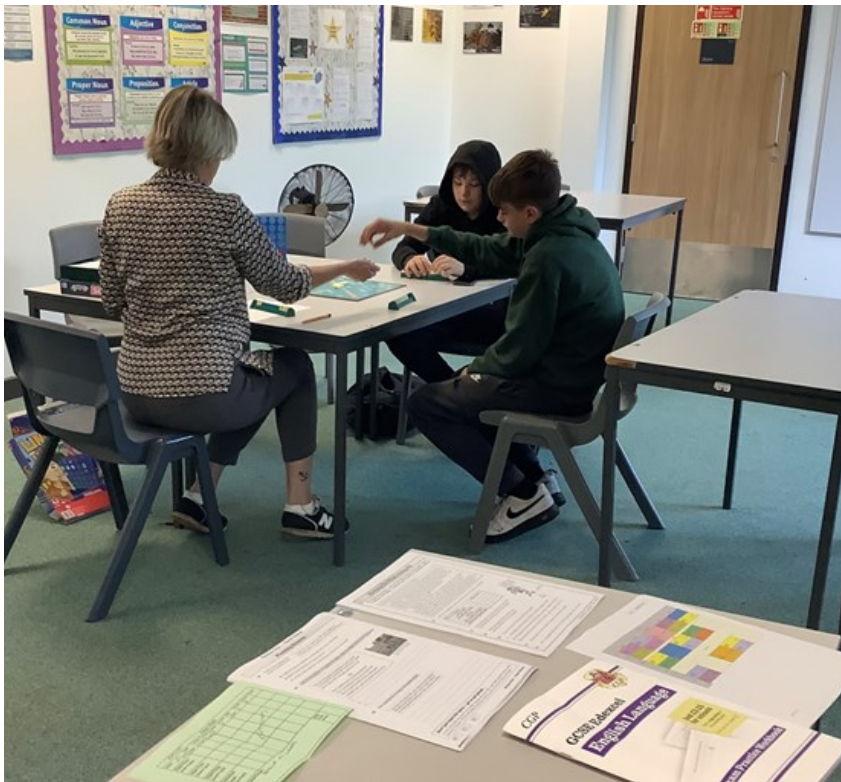


*The year 7s have been using manipulatives to identify the place value of three and four digit numbers. In the 'Wider World', they have been identifying key events on a timeline. Miss Carl was very impressed with the year 7's knowledge of the Stone Age and the World Wars.*

Theme park fun!



## Literacy at Langham



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."*

## The Launch of our Reading Miles Competition



## Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning has been busy with various activities, including kayaking and camping.

The team works hard to develop key life skills for our boys.



## Residential

Our Residential Team has been busy baking, bowling and swimming with the boys, but the highlight for one week was to see the mighty West Ham v Arsenal in a 3:1 win at the amazing London Stadium and a meal out at Pizza Express. All boys enjoyed the game, showing great resilience and social skills in a crowd of thousands of people.



They showed great resilience

## Literacy in Food Tech

Working to embed literacy across the curriculum, Sharon Aldous, our Food Tech Teacher, is supporting the boys to create and write their own menus.

Headteacher comment to a pupil who had prepared a culinary delight for Alan and other SLT members:

“You should be very proud of yourself.”

The pupil replied, “I am.”

Thanks to Sharon and Angie for the wonderful work they do in the Food Tech Room!

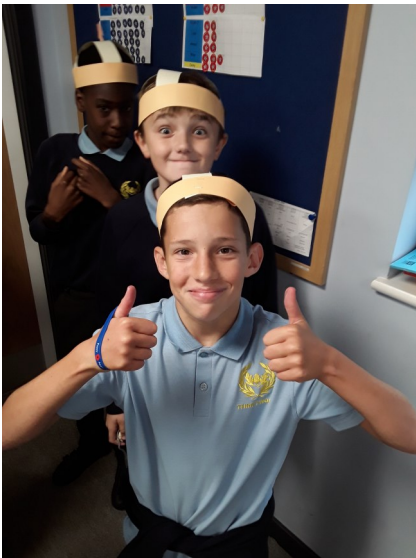


The creation of some delicious food and sampling by Hugh





## It's a Team Effort at Thriftwood!



It's been a busy Autumn Term at Thriftwood School! From Topic days, educational visits, coffee mornings, and One Plan reviews—you name it, we've covered it all!

We'd liked to say a huge thank you to the whole team for making this all possible and for providing our young people

with an environment in which they are able to thrive and achieve.



## EDUCATE CHALLENGE PREPARE

### Primary Department

This term, Thriftwood Primary Department travelled to Windsor to spend the day at Legoland. Although it was a long day, not arriving back to school until 6pm, it was an amazing opportunity for children and staff to enjoy time together away from the classroom. Many smiles and giggles were seen throughout the day and so many positive memories made. We

were hugely grateful to all the staff and parents for their time and energy given to make sure that it was a day to remember. Secretly, I think the staff enjoyed the rides as much as the children!



Year 9 has been reading a trilogy of books called 'The Boy Who Biked the World' written by explorer Alastair Humphries. In Literacy students wrote questions to Alastair (who actually did cycle around the world) and emailed them to him. He sent us a video reply, reading out and answering two questions from each pupil. We were really impressed by his expeditions, honesty and humour and he set us the challenge of going somewhere locally that we'd never been to before. We have a local map now and are planning an excursion!





## Behind the scenes...

Thank you to all of our wonderful admin team for making the annual One Plan review process seamless –this was no mean feat!

And to our catering team for keeping us all well fed and catering to the needs of all our young people. The Pudsey themed cupcakes went down a treat on Children in Need day!

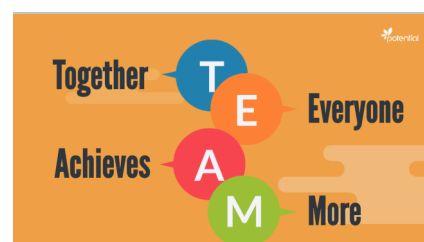
Our site team are superb and answer every radio call with an enthusiastic 'Hallo'. Thank you for all you do to make sure that our site is safe and always ready for the school day!

And finally..; but by no means least! Thank you to our HR and finance team. Without you, our bills wouldn't get paid and we wouldn't have a fantastic team of staff.

It truly is a team effort at Thriftwood and what a wonderful team it is!

## Time Travelling in Middle School

Middle School staff worked hard to create a 'Middle Ages Topic Morning' for the Year 7 and 8 pupils. This involved crown-creating, medicine-making, archery, taste-testing Middle Age food and listening and dancing to Middle Age music! The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed engaging with new activities, mixing with new peers and experiencing what it would have been like to live through the Middle Ages. Without the creativity, dedication and imagination of our brilliant Middle School team, this day would not have been such a success. Thank you Middle School Staff!





# Thriftwood College - 'Team work makes the dream work'

Thriftwood College has enjoyed welcoming new students this half-term. They have all settled in really well and it feels like they have always been here!

## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

CAKE, CAKE and more CAKE! On the morning of Friday 29th September, the college was transformed into a tea-room to rival the best in town. There were fairy cakes, layered cakes, sponges, brownies and cookies to mention just a few. Parents and staff donated so many beautiful bakes, with not a soggy bottom in sight!



## EDUCATE CHALLENGE PREPARE

### Key Stage 4

#### GIANT CARROTS!

The Horticulture group have enjoyed a good harvest . We've had giant marrows, juicy tomatoes, fresh herbs and some very crazy carrots! Looking forwards, this option group have also potted up baby strawberry plants and planted a Pomegranate tree for future students to enjoy.



#### INTO SPACE

Our topic this term is SPACE. In English we have been reading different texts about space and finding out about space facts . In art lessons, students have explored blending techniques using pastels and watercolours to create effects in their pictures of space.



## Key Stage 5

### TUTOR CUP CHALLENGE

The Tutor Cup Challenge was an exciting event that brought students together for an afternoon of friendly competition and camaraderie. The event featured including a penalty shoot-out and an archery contest. In a surprising turn of events, two classes ended up in a draw after the initial competitions. This deciding face-off took place during an assembly, adding an extra layer of excitement to the event.

Ultimately, it was 12JO who emerged as the victorious class. Congratulations to them for their victory and to all the participants for their sportsmanship and enthusiasm throughout the Tutor Cup Challenge. The event was a testament to the positive spirit of competition and unity within our school community. Well done to everyone who took part!



### COMMUNITY LEARNING

Our key stage 5 students have been enjoying their community learning activities on a Friday. They visit lots of different places so they can practice their independence and life skills in different contexts.

This has included visiting important places such as the hospital using public transport, finding certain items in IKEA and playing crazy golf.

Students have recently expressed how much they enjoy community learning and find it a highly valuable experience.



### TEAM SPIRIT

**Every member of our team is vitally important. We would like to thank them all for their hard work and dedication. They often go above and beyond which makes Thriftwood such a special place to work.**

## SEAX Trust

If you have anything you'd like to contribute to the next edition of SEAX News, we'd love to hear from you.

Perhaps you have a good news story about something or someone that you'd like to share with colleagues at other schools? Or maybe you've discovered some tips of the trade that you think could be useful to someone else?

If so, please drop Mikaela an email and, if you have one, please send a photo too, to:

Mikaela.Weller@seaxtrust.com

## SEAX Trust

The **SEAX Trust** is a multi academy trust of five academies, each with their own unique style and specialism.

Our schools span Essex: from Brentwood, to Chelmsford and on to Colchester. They serve over six hundred wonderful young people with a range of special educational needs: from moderate learning difficulties; speech language and communication needs; social, emotional and mental health needs; as well as meeting the needs of a significant group pupils in all of our schools with an autism diagnosis.

Another aspect of our work is providing support to mainstream schools around meeting the needs of young people with autism and the Mid-Essex Autism Hub.

## The 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
- 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.

### SEAX Trust

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