



## Welcome from the CEO

Spring officially began this week, and I am sure I'm not the only one looking forward to lighter evenings and, with luck, a bit of sunshine!

This is a season of transformation and optimism and brighter days, all of which can be felt within classrooms too as schools look to make the most of conditions that allow new learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom.

A sense of making the most of each moment is already evident across our

schools, judging by the amount of activity that has been packed into the last term. From celebrations of reading and STEM activity, to competing at a national level in the arts and sciences, through to local fundraising and international school trips, our schools are bursting with life and energy, living out 'The TLET Way' and inspiring pupils through the learning and co-curricular opportunities created for them.

Special mention this term must go to our inaugural 'TLET's Got Talent' event, which brought together all of our schools in a dazzling display of talent, glitz and

glam that belied the weeks of hard work and preparation necessary to make it the success it was. Huge congratulations and thanks to all our pupils and staff who took part, who worked backstage and front-of-house, and all our TLET families who supported this event. I can't wait for next year!

As ever, there is so much to celebrate and hard work to recognise across all our schools, so this newsletter features just a glimpse of some of the highlights. Wishing everyone a wonderful Easter break.

**James Higham**

CEO, Transforming Lives Educational Trust

## Strategic Ambitions



### Nurture Potential

We flourish in the places we create together.



### Inspire Community

We champion each other to make a difference.



### Deliver Excellence

We strive to achieve our best.



## World Book Day 2024

The annual celebration of the pleasures and benefits of reading was marked across our schools this year, in a variety of fun and creative ways as always.

Houlton School pupils and staff dressed up as some of their favourite book characters and entered a costume competition. The turnout and effort put in by all involved were fantastic and there were some incredibly unique outfits indeed!

Year 7 pupils got to spend the day crafting and creating their own children's fiction, with the end results being taken to St Gabriel's Primary School for the reception class to enjoy.

Year 7 also had the fantastic opportunity of attending an author talk with Ele Fountain, author of *Boy 87*. They learned about the writing process, how sometimes all you need is a story to tell, and how a book actually gets published. 60 pupils who had performed fantastically on *Bedrock* this term got the opportunity to attend a writing workshop with Ele, ask her questions, and learn how to start creating stories of their own.

Other celebrations included a Scholastic book fair, a 'Great Bookish Bake Off' where pupils were tasked in their colleges to come up with an idea that incorporated their favourite books and their favourite bakes, and a Big Book Swap that allowed pupils to share favourite books with others and discover new authors for themselves.

Ashlawn School also got into the swing of things, with some incredible costumes and everyone making a fantastic effort to support the spirit of the day and keeping the celebrations going across the whole week. The week



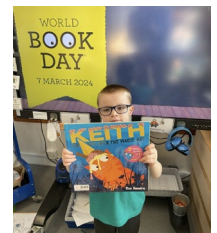
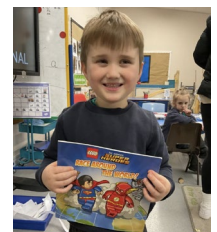
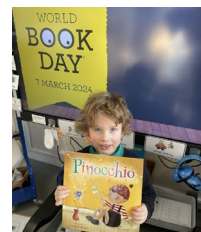
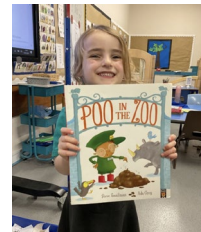
was packed full of fun, competitions, fancy dress and of course reading. Students took part in a range of quizzes and got families involved by asking them to share the first book they read themselves or can remember having read to them, with some lovely reading memories being shared.

Joint Head of Faculty - English at Ashlawn School, Miss Rogers, said: "World Book Day changes lives through promoting and encouraging our young people to love books. Our mission is to promote reading for pleasure, offering every child and young person the opportunity to have a book of their own, giving them the chance to discover the many different worlds that are out there, hiding beneath the pages of the millions of books available to us all."

At Henry Hinde School, reading and literacy is an integral part of everyday teaching and World Book Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the power and fun of reading in new ways.

The children had a fantastic day packed with book-based activities, ending with a thrilling 'Mystery Reader' session and various competitions themed around books and reading were held all week to add to the excitement!

Year 1 pupils were also thrilled to receive a book each, donated by local company Winvic Construction. The book, "When I grow up", follows twins Harry and Amy who are considering their future professions as part of their school careers day competition. The purpose of the



books is to inspire school children to engage with STEM subjects from a young age by capturing imaginations through colourful illustrations and rhyming verses.

TLET CEO, James Higham, said: "World Book Day is an annual highlight in the TLET schools' calendar and we love to see the inventive and thoughtful ways our schools mark the occasion. It is a pleasure to see such enthusiasm and energy surrounding all the book events this month, and to see so much passion for reading and literacy within our TLET family."

## Houlton Artists Enter National Art Competition!

### Artists at Houlton School have entered the national Art Bytes competition this term.

Art Bytes is a national art and EdTech programme for primary, secondary and SEN schools, combining an inter-school art competition with a bespoke virtual gallery. It is based on 10 years of experience in the North West and is proven to nurture talent, raise ambition and develop confidence, as well as support mental health and help develop vital skills for future employment.

#### How does it work?

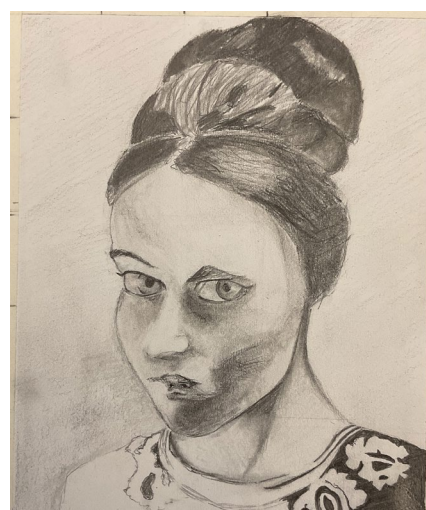
Following each school's submission of artwork, a judging panel of arts professionals shortlists the top three entries from each school. A public online vote is held in April, and the pupil with the most votes for their school wins a place in the virtual exhibition.



Houlton School has submitted 25 artworks created by Year 9 pupils, and we can't wait to see how they get on over the coming months!

#### How do you vote?

You can visit <https://artbytes.co.uk/browse-schools> and select Houlton School. Here, you will be able to vote for your winner. We would love for you to support the ambitions of our artists.



## Ashlawn Students visit Epernay and Paris

### Year 10 students from Ashlawn School took a trip to France this term, visiting the charming and picturesque town of Epernay and the bright lights of Paris.

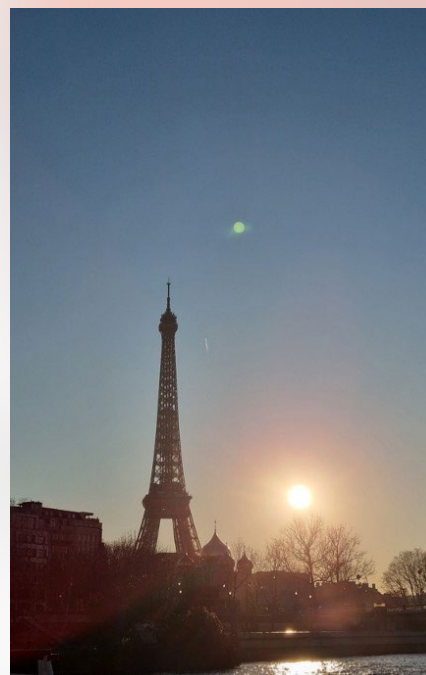
Epernay, renowned for its vineyards and champagne production, offered a distinctive backdrop for students to delve into French culture. Visits to local landmarks, such as walking down the Avenue de Champagne, were both educational and enjoyable.

One of the best parts of the trip was the opportunity for students to spend a day with their penpals at Ashlawn's partner school, Lycée Stéphane Hessel, in the centre of the town. This not only fostered international friendships but also provided a firsthand cultural exchange experience, broadening their

perspectives and understanding of different lifestyles.

Following this, students then got to explore the city of lights and love, Paris. From the iconic Eiffel Tower to exploring Montmartre, students had the chance to witness the cultural richness and historical significance of this vibrant metropolis.

Paul Brockwell, Principal at Ashlawn School, said: "The students all behaved impeccably and made the trip a wonderful and enriching experience for all."





## TLET's Got Talent

Students from all our academies joined together for the inaugural TLET's Got Talent competition – where young people from across TLET were able to showcase their impressive skills and talents.

With a judging panel consisting of Cllr Maggie O'Rourke, the Mayor of Rugby, Ethan J Smith from the Five

Star Theatre Company and TLET CEO James Higham, students wowed the crowd with everything from dance performances to drum playing to balloon art.

James Higham said: "This was such an impressive night for so many reasons. The students shone, not only for the talents but also how they approached the evening with a real sense of professionalism and support for one another. It was also fantastic that so many families came to watch the event.

"It is also important to acknowledge the staff team who helped put this event on. One of the things I have loved the most

about our talent evening is it came from a conversation between staff and students. It was an idea that came from our community, and was put on for our community. That is exactly what I think makes this Trust so special."

The show included an exciting extract from Six, the musical about Henry VIII's wives, that recently received rave views after a run at Rugby's Benn Hall.

At the end of the night, one parent simply said: "It was a fantastic night. Even the younger children were so confident up on the stage and really made a huge impact on the audience. We had a great time."



## Saving lives at Henry Hinde Infant School

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Led by the local fire brigade, staff at Henry Hinde joined with members of the public this term in learning how to use recently installed defibrillation equipment.

The equipment, situated outside both school sites, was funded by the Our Jay Foundation, a charity founded in memory of Jamie Rees to raise awareness of the importance of having 24/7 publicly accessible automated external defibrillators and raise funds to purchase and install accessible defibrillators across Rugby, Warwickshire and further afield.

Pupils have been working very hard in PE to earn sponsorship money to help install even more units in other places across the town.

James Higham, TLET CEO, said: "Jamie Rees was a pupil at Henry Hinde School, so this charity has a special place in our hearts. We are proud to support the Our Jay Foundation, and to say that all TLET schools now have defibrillators on site."





## British Science Week 2024

March is the time when schools across the country celebrate British Science Week. Each year, a different theme is discussed, and across TLET schools we use this theme to shape our lessons in a way that is different from our usual day-to-day.

### Ashlawn School

Ashlawn students took part in a variety of activities across the week to mark the occasion.

Students were invited to take part in two competitions: a poster competition which is then entered nationally and a home practical challenge for students over the Easter break (which is still available to take part in!).

Year 7 and 8 also took part in a practical challenge in which they had to engineer a device to allow an egg to safely survive a fall of three metres. Some fantastic devices were made in lesson with many groups winning prizes for a safe landing! During tutor time all key stages completed themed activities based around science and science-based careers, making it an informative and fun celebration of STEM subjects and opportunities.

### Houlton School

Year 7 pupils spent their week looking into the extensive past of the Earth by looking at the lives of dinosaurs. Initially guided by a documentary by David Attenborough, pupils were given free rein to complete a research project on these prehistoric creatures.

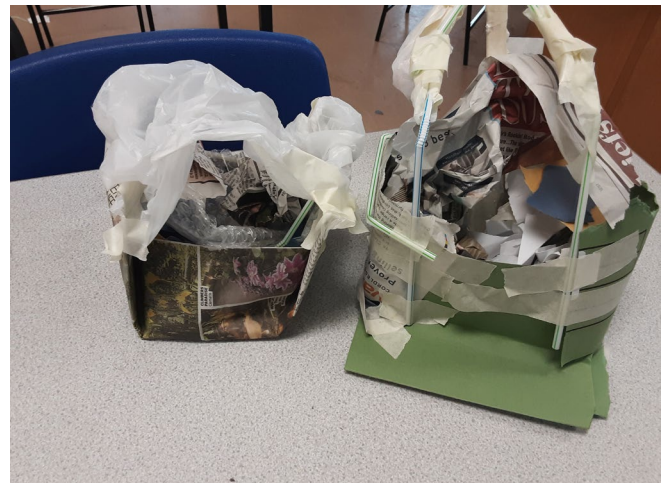
Year 8 pupils went in the opposite direction, considering the future - specifically the impact that humans have had on the Earth and how we can help correct some of the mistakes that



have been made. They researched an area of their choice around this topic and looked at how we can use technology and innovation in the future to help combat global issues.

Pupils in Year 9 looked at time in relation to space travel, discussing speed as a challenge to space exploration, not only in the difficulty of reaching such speeds but also the difficulty faced in slowing spacecraft down again. Pupils studied the history of space exploration before designing and building a vessel capable of protecting an egg from a large drop. Pupils were given limited resources to create their devices and then tested them by dropping them from the mezzanine in the refectory. The majority of pupils opted to create a parachute for their egg, with many having amazing success!

Michael McCulley, Principal, Houlton School, said: "It has been wonderful to see the engagement and excitement that can come from studying STEM subjects. The intention of this week is to raise the awareness and ambitions of our pupils around STEM subjects and to open their eyes to a world of science outside of the classroom."



## Year 9 Pupils triumph in UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

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In a remarkable display of mathematical prowess, Year 9 pupils at Houlton triumphed during their first attempt at the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge.

With determination and sharp analytical skills, these young mathematicians have proven themselves on a platform renowned for its rigorous standards and challenging questions.

The UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge offers an opportunity for budding mathematicians to test their problem-solving abilities and mathematical ingenuity.

Through perseverance and a willingness to embrace challenges, these young mathematicians have demonstrated the boundless potential that resides within each of them, exploring content that may be new to them in KS3.

Congratulations to all of our pupils who took part and may their passion for mathematics continue to grow in the years to come!



## British Biology Olympiad 2024

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Some of the Ashlawn School Sixth Form students triumphed at the British Biology Olympiad this term.

The Olympiad is an advanced problem-solving competition for A Level students and an entry point for the International Biology Olympiad. This competition challenges and encourages students with an interest in biology to expand and extend their talents.

Ashlawn biology students had to sit a 45-minute multiple-choice paper online under supervised staff exam conditions.

Congratulations to Ashlawn's Year 13 biologists, Ben, Monty and Hassan, for competing in and winning silver medals and well done to Jacob in Year 12 for achieving Highly Commended, as well as to Luke and Abinusha for getting commended.

**Fantastic efforts all round!**



## Henry Hinde Art Competition Winner

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Henry Hinde School held a self-portrait competition this term, and Ava in Year 1 won with an amazing watercolour art titled “Walking a Dog on the Beach Looking at the Stars”, which truly impressed the staff judges.

Fleur Edwards, Henry Hinde School principal, said: “All the entries for this competition were impressive, we were blown away by the enthusiasm and talent shown by our pupils. Art is such a wonderful way for our children to learn self-

expression, along with boosting creativity and developing fine motor skills. We’re all looking forward to Art Week at school in the summer term and seeing much more of our young artists’ work!”



## TLET CFO Shortlisted for National Award

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TLET’s Chief Financial Officer, Marc Goodey, has been shortlisted for a prestigious award to recognise the significant impact he has on supporting the educational aspirations of the Trust.

Marc joined the Trust in 2019, and in recent years he has ensured that £1.1 million has been used effectively to create safe and inspiring learning spaces for children.

James Higham, CEO, SAID: “Marc is an exceptional CFO whose impact can be felt across the Trust.

“Marc sets direction based on the needs of our learners, provides structure

to ensure that those needs are met, and, crucially, has shaped a culture where people feel that our budgets and processes are empowering rather than limiting.”

Following his impact, Marc is now up for CFO of the Year at the MAT Excellence Awards, which aim to celebrate individual and team successes in a Trust.

