



Ashlawn School pupils met author, Stephen Kelman, on World Book Day

## Welcome from the CEO

Springtime is quite possibly my favourite season. A time when the sun begins to shine more brightly again, when we enjoy more time outdoors and witness the wonders of nature waking up around us.

It is also a time when our schools really come to life, with so many inspiring activities and experiences taking place and exceptional achievements to celebrate.

This spring, we also published our first annual TLET Impact Report. TLET's

Trustees and Leaders are accountable for ensuring that the Trust is delivering value for money and are keen to report to our communities on the progress made and the impact that TLET has.

As we hope the report shows, we have made significant progress in terms of achieving our ambitions for our children, our young people and our employees.

Outcomes have strengthened at almost every level and we are achieving more as a community than has ever been achieved before. It is important that is acknowledged and celebrated, particularly as the last 12 months have been significant for the education sector. We have seen a new government, changes in organisations

like Ofsted, shifts in funding and we are constantly responding to the evolving communities that we serve.

Throughout all of this, however, we continue to focus on one core purpose – and that is how we transform the lives of the young people that we have the responsibility to support, care for and educate.

I hope that you enjoy this edition of our newsletter and share our joy in seeing how well our pupils, students and staff are living out our Trust ambitions, every day.

Wishing you all 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.



## Nurture Potential

We flourish in the places we create together.

### TLET Impact Report

Earlier this term, we were pleased to publish our inaugural annual Impact Report.

During our review of 2024, we looked in detail at the ways we have delivered on TLET's strategic priorities and our ongoing commitment to creating the structures and environments for individuals to thrive.

We are proud to report that the Trust has seen outcomes strengthen; a wide ranging and engaging co-curricular and enrichment curriculum is on offer for pupils and students; and we have a growing commitment to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our employees.

Focus on the progress made at Ashlawn School, is also detailed in the impact report, which highlights Ofsted's praise

for the "decisive action" and "clear and coherent vision for the school". Feedback was more positive against almost every measure for the parent, staff and student surveys conducted at Ashlawn School when comparing the 2024 results with the previous year. For example, the percentage of children who find their learning interesting has jumped by a third and is now significantly above the national average\*.

In addition, across the wider Trust, there has been a 15% increase in the number of people who would recommend TLET as a good place to work in the last 12 months. In comparison to national benchmarks for other similar educational organisations, the Trust also sits above the national average for key indicators about workload and support for mental and emotional wellbeing\*.



To view a copy of the report please visit: <https://www.tlet.org.uk/about-us/our-impact>

\*Source – Eduvivo Surveys

### TLET's Got Talent

Our second annual TLET's Got Talent Show recently took place at Ashlawn School, bringing together talented pupils and students from across our Trust family for an evening of outstanding performances.

The competition featured a wide variety of acts, ranging from dog tricks and singing and dancing, to sports skills, gymnastics and musical instrument showcases. There was an incredible line-up of 15 acts representing their schools with impressive skill and creativity.

A huge congratulations to Izzy from Houlton School who was named this year's overall winner, with her adaptation of a musical song, and to the four runners up who really impressed the judges on the night.

James Higham, CEO said: "TLET's Got Talent is quickly becoming a highlight of the year. It was wonderful to see our pupils and students shining on stage.

"I'd like to thank Amelia and Millie from Ashlawn School Sixth Form who did a fantastic job hosting the show, and my fellow judges – The Mayor of Rugby, Ethan J Smith and Sarah Turnbull, for helping to select this year's winners.

"Well done to everyone who auditioned and took part in the event, we are so proud of you."



## Celebrating science

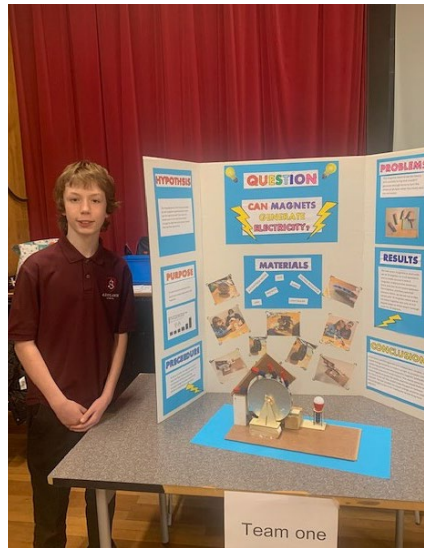
To mark British Science Week, our brand new TLET Science Fair brought together pupils, students and their families to showcase their incredible science projects.

The event provided the opportunity for families to work together to present either a scientific study, experiment or creative innovation to a panel of staff and senior students.

Sian Hartle, Director of Education at TLET, said: "It was wonderful to see so many exceptional entries submitted for our first TLET Science Fair.

"With topics including new inventions, electronic circuits, engineering and space investigations to name a few, there was so much creativity on show.

"The judges were thoroughly impressed by the enthusiasm and effort on display. A huge well done to all who took part!"



## The wonderful world of books

Each year, our pupils, students and staff love taking part in World Book Day, offering the chance to celebrate all the joy that reading brings with lots of fun events and activities.

At Henry Hinde School, excited pupils and staff arrived dressed as their favourite book characters, transforming the school into a vibrant world of literary magic.

From classic heroes to modern favourites, the colourful costumes sparked conversations about beloved stories and inspired a shared love of reading.

Pupils and students at Ashlawn School welcomed critically acclaimed author, Stephen Kelman, to talk about his novel 'Pigeon English'.

Stephen delivered workshops, held Q&A sessions and shared his expertise as part of workshops discussing the value of reading and creative expression, the life of a creative professional, and the different careers within English.

While, at Houlton School's reading extravaganza, Year 7 pupils attended a talk by world-renowned children's author, Ele Fountain. After studying one of her novels, Boy 87, the

pupils were lucky enough to hear Ele speak about her books, her inspiration and her own journey to becoming a writer. Some lucky pupils were then able to attend a creative writing workshop with Ele and learn from the master herself!

Fleur Edwards, Principal at Henry Hinde School, said: "Opening up the joy of reading, language and storytelling is a fundamental part of supporting children to learn and grow – at school and at home.

"We celebrate the wonders of books all year round, but it is always fantastic to see the enthusiasm and excitement that World Book Day activities bring."





## Across the generations

A group of Year 10 Social Sciences pupils from Houlton School had the privilege of spending time with residents at Butler's Mews Care Home in Rugby.

Over tea and cupcakes, pupils enjoyed fascinating conversations with residents, who shared stories about their lives and gave an insight into the history of our local area.

With more visits planned soon, the school also hopes to welcome residents to Houlton in the future.

Emma Clark, Head of Social Sciences at Houlton School, said: "It was a huge honour to spend time with residents at Butler's Mews.

"The experience was both insightful and rewarding, offering valuable lessons from those with a lifetime of wisdom.

"We will certainly be back to continue to build connections between the generations - something that brings so much happiness to everyone involved!"



## Work experience inspires

Year 12 students from Ashlawn School have been exploring potential career paths as part of their week-long work experience - providing an opportunity to explore careers across industries that are suited to their studies, interests and skillsets.

For example, three French students spent a week at our partner school in Epernay, France. They stayed with their pen pals and their families, fully immersing themselves in the French language and culture as part of their work placements.

Closer to home, another student, Holly, spent a week at Crescent School, where she supported lessons across a range of subjects and year groups. The school said: "It was clear Holly enjoyed assisting and interacting

with the children and we hope her experience here at Crescent inspires her to go on and train as a teacher. Holly was a delight and a pleasure to have in school."

Paul Brockwell, Principal at Ashlawn School, said: "Work experience provides the opportunity for our Year 12 students to gain insights into the world of work

as they prepare for future careers and higher education.

"Not only does it help students to develop their confidence, but it is valuable experience to put towards UCAS applications and CVs.

"We received lots of positive feedback from employers about our hardworking students."



## RockSteady

Henry Hinde School pupils have been treated to an electrifying assembly from RockSteady Music School, an organisation that specialises in delivering inclusive band lessons designed to support children's self-belief, wellbeing and potential.

During the session, the children had the chance to sing-along to well-known songs performed by band leader, Tommy, before hearing more about the key roles to play as part of a band and the importance of good communication and teamwork.

Mandeep Mann, Vice Principal at Henry Hinde School, said: "The children loved taking part in the RockSteady assembly, there was so much joy and energy in the room as they sang together, and they really enjoyed hearing more about Tommy's work as a musician.

"Back in the classroom, there was lots of discussion about the musical instruments pupils were inspired to try and even what their band names would be!"





### Ashlawn School pupil shines in Disney blockbuster

A talented student from Ashlawn School has appeared in the latest Disney blockbuster, Snow White, which has just premiered worldwide and soared to number one at the box office.

Year 11 student, Viv, has made an incredible leap into the world of Hollywood, acting and singing in the live-action adaptation of the classic fairytale. Not only does Viv appear in the film, but she also performs the song 'Good Things Grow' on the official soundtrack.

Over the course of filming at the iconic Pinewood Studios, Viv had the chance to work alongside renowned director Marc Webb (The Amazing Spider-Man), celebrated choreographer Mandy Moore (La La Land), and global superstar Gal Gadot (Wonder Woman) as well as Snow White herself - Rachel Zegler.

Paul Brockwell, Principal at Ashlawn School, said: "We are so proud of Viv and everything she has accomplished. Her success is the result of extraordinary talent, perseverance and passion. It is truly inspiring to see a member of our school community shine on the global stage."





Deliver Excellence

We strive to achieve our best.

## Crufts Dog Show

Congratulations to Henry Hinde School pupil, Noah and his Autism Assistance Dog, Peggy, who represented Support Dogs UK at this year's Crufts Dog Show at the NEC in Birmingham.

Fleur Edwards, Principal at Henry Hinde School, said: "Huge congratulations to Noah and Peggy for taking part in this year's Crufts. This is an incredible achievement and something that we are really proud to celebrate at Henry Hinde School.

"As an Assistance Dog, Peggy helps Noah have the confidence to take part in things, such as ice skating, swimming and going on holiday. They are best friends and it is just fantastic that they have been able to do this together."

# Crufts®



## Top of the Bench Competition

A team of aspiring chemists from Houlton School have competed in the prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) Top of the Bench Competition Regional Final.

The competition, which is designed to inspire pupils to develop a curiosity and passion for chemistry, brought together pupils from across the West Midlands for a day of chemistry challenges at the University of Birmingham's Collaborative Teaching Laboratory (CTL).

The four-strong group of Year 9 and 10 Houlton School pupils, Ellen, Gloria, Saketh and Loïc, had to tackle a challenging quiz as well as demonstrating their practical skills carrying out experiments in the CTL laboratory. There was also the chance

for the budding scientists to attend a seminar by Professor Tomislav Friščić on "Marvels of Mechanochemistry."

Michael McCulley, Principal at Houlton School, said: "Well done to Ellen, Gloria, Saketh and Loïc, who represented Houlton with pride during the Top of the Bench Competition.

"They put so much hard work and dedication into preparing for the local heats and regional finals. It was wonderful to see the great teamwork and communication on display throughout."

