

October 2020

NEWSLETTER

Lighting the Way Forward in Education



Lighting the way forward in education

Welcome to our first Trust Partnership Newsletter for the academic year 2020 to 2021.

Our theme for this first edition is TOGETHER. Together, as a group of schools serving the communities of Keighley, Skipton and Harrogate we have navigated our way through an uncertain and perilous year to start the new year of education, feeling proud of what we stand for and the difference we make to the lives of children through high quality education.

Our monthly Trust Newsletter offers parents/ carers and families a clear promise 'to celebrate and shine a light on the vibrant learning and achievements of all our schools' – shining a spotlight on the wondrous world of learning and discovery inside our classrooms; showcasing the magical moments of play, collaboration, problem solving and creativity. We also aim to give you an insight into the roles of our brilliant staff teams and what we do to support wellbeing and nurture and develop our teachers and associate staff.

In this edition we have an introductory feature on each of our Trust 8 NSAT schools. We celebrate the work of Harrogate High school in achieving the National Wellbeing Award during the pandemic and explore what it means for Skipton Girls' to be a national EdTech Demonstrator School. And for those parents/carers who wish to get more involved in the life of our Trust and schools we have a feature on becoming a Trustee or Governor.

Whilst our schools continue to operate against a backdrop of Covid-19 restrictions, we believe now more than ever it is vital to stay focused on our Trust vision: **to nurture learning in a sustainable environment so that our whole community can thrive, aspire and succeed.**

In very challenging circumstances, the support of a close-knit team and the collaboration within and between schools and the wider community has come to the fore. We feel very grateful for your support and look forward to strengthening even further our home-school and community partnerships.

Thankyou!

Jenn Plews
Trust Leader (CEO)

Northern Star Academies Trust: What do we do?

Northern Star Academies Trust cares passionately about achieving the best for your child. We commit to this by creating a fully inclusive learning environment that actively promotes equality and social justice, empowering everyone within our communities. We create challenging contexts for learning that develop your child's thirst for knowledge. We are committed to helping every young person develop as a whole person and to shaping a shared future build on the health and wellbeing of individuals, communities and the planet.

As a partnership of schools our particular focus over the next five years will be on finding new solutions to delivering green, relevant and sustainable education. We will do this by making the most of our school

environments and resources to reduce our carbon impact and by ensuring each of our school's curriculums is fit for a rapidly changing world. We have learnt a great deal from the experience of the Covid-19 pandemic about the resilience of children and why our aim must be to create confident and creative critical thinkers, ready to tackle societies critical issues. We educate children aged 2 to 19 years old within a climate that values individuality, and that promotes the unique ethos of each school, sitting firmly at the heart of its community.

Through collaboration, we seek to build on each school's strengths so that we may benefit our broader Northern Star community.



Our mission is the NSAT Promise

Our mission is the NSAT Promise. The “NSAT Promise” that we make to each young person, their family, and our staff across our Trust ensures that we can reach our vision.



Nurture:

We promise that children will learn in a nurturing environment in which each child's individuality is respected.



Sustain:

We promise to provide strong and steady leadership, and to encourage all children to live and learn in a sustainable way.



Aspire:

We promise that we will provide stimulating, 21st century learning environments and pedagogies, using the most effective digital technologies and EdTech available, so that all children can reach their aspirations.



Thrive:

We promise to all our learning communities - children, parents, staff and the wider community - that we will do all we can to ensure that they thrive in a supportive Trust which is committed to looking after the wellness of everyone.

Governance

Are you looking for a new opportunity to give back to the community? Would you like to make a difference for our schools? Then you could join a network of 70 volunteers giving exceptionally valuable support to NSAT's schools!

We are on the lookout for new governors across Keighley, Skipton and Harrogate. Our governors represent and champion the diversity of our school communities and we want that to continue.

To be a governor, there is no requirement to have a formal qualification, and you do not need to be a parent or carer connected to a school. We just ask that you have:

- ▶ a passion for learning and self-development
- ▶ the time and capacity to commit to six meetings per year
- ▶ a willingness to take on responsibility, support our schools and hold them to account for delivering excellent education

If you, or somebody you know, is interested in finding out more, email: governance@nsat.org.uk or get in touch with your local NSAT school.

Eastwood Community School



Telegraph & Argus Education Awards Nominees



This year the Telegraph and Argus' Education Awards held their first virtual ceremony which allowed all those in education throughout the Bradford district to be celebrated, after what has been a tough year thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the event we are delighted to say two members of the Team Eastwood staff, Mrs Z Khan and Mrs H Cowen, were nominated for the **Community Involvement Award** for the dedicated contribution they make every day to the Eastwood community and school.



Archers Ready!

We aren't ones to let a bit of rain stop us doing some outdoor learning with Year 5 trying their hands at archery practice just outside school. **#FunInTheRain**



Conker Crazy

Autumn is here and our children have been out and about admiring the beautiful season, making leaf boats and rafts in the Cliffe Castle fountains and going conker crazy with a lovely afternoon at Victoria Park, Keighley.



EdTech Demonstrator Programme

skipton girls' high school
an engineering academy

Skipton Girls' High School was recently selected as one of the initial schools in the new Department for Education EdTech Demonstrator Programme.

Acceptance as a lead school recognises the expertise the school has in the use of ICT both within the classroom and in the wider life of the school. Originally the EdTech Demonstrator Programme was conceived as a programme to help schools in the widest possible sense to make more effective use of ICT. However when its launch coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic the objectives expanded to include assisting schools with their remote learning strategies during full lockdown and from September to ensure education is able to continue for students should they not be able to come into school due to COVID-19.

Assistant Headteacher James Hoyle is heading up the programme at Skipton Girls'. *"It has been a very busy few months and my responsibilities have radically altered from just a few months ago", he said. "I've worked with a variety of different schools to help them develop remote education strategies and acted as a coach and mentor to leaders to support them in developing their remote education systems. It's been really interesting as, like always in education, I've worked with a wide variety of schools with their own individual challenges needing their own individual solutions."*

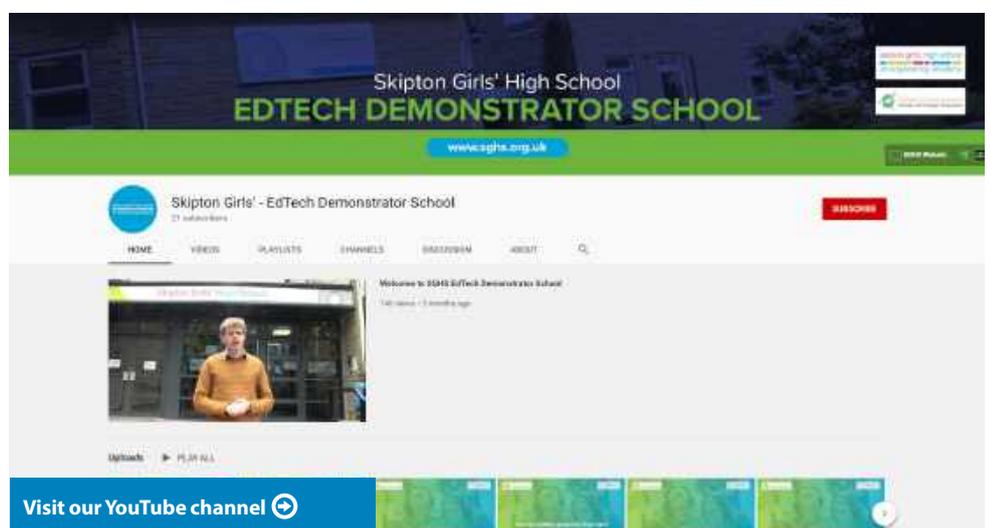
The programme has seen Skipton helping leaders shape their remote learning policies, advising on how to safeguard pupils and teachers effectively and provided online training on remote learning pedagogy. Probably the most asked for training has been how to harness the functions of Microsoft Teams for use in the classroom and feedback has shown these sessions to have been well received by teachers.

Webinars have also been organised looking at different models that can be used to purchase ICT equipment, pedagogical approaches to remote learning and how to encourage collaborative learning online.

Specialist staff have worked with colleagues in other schools to help with specific issues. For example the MFL department and Science department have advised colleagues on issues specific in these subjects and again feedback has shown that this sharing of expertise has been very much valued.

We have established our own YouTube channel with a growing collection of curated materials providing hints and tips to teachers on creative ways to get the most out of technology for use in the classroom as well as a host of written resources to help school leaders, teachers, parents and students get the best remote education they possibly can should the need arise.

It has been a very busy few months but it has been hugely satisfying to know that we are making a difference not just for students within our own trust but across the whole of the north of England and beyond.



Mental Health and Wellbeing Focus Week

Our first week back was a Mental Health and Wellbeing Focus Week. This gave the children and staff the opportunity to explore experiences from the lockdown period as well as specific teaching relating to the key learning behaviours (managing feelings, self-esteem, empathy). Children created bright and colourful artwork describing moods and feelings and during the week, there was lots of opportunity for pastoral support and nurture groups for children who felt anxious on their return to school.



Virtual Star Awards

We had a fantastic start to term with our first ever **Virtual Star Awards** whole school assembly delivered via Microsoft Teams. The experience was great fun - a big well done to all of our Week 1 Stars!



'Loose Parts' Selfies



Reception have been showing off their creative skills in our 'Loose Parts Learning Area', creating self-portraits and we think you'll agree that they are wonderful!

Ronnie's Garden Bumper Crop



Staff and children have been working tirelessly to develop 'Ronnie's Garden.' Ronnie was a dear friend of Greatwood and in his memory we have a superb garden at the top of school. This year we are proud that we finally have fruit and vegetables growing.

Our bumper crop has consisted of rhubarb, apples, plums, courgettes, lettuce, peas, carrots, beetroot and even a pumpkin!

It has to be said, that without Miss Johnson (our Green fingered Y4 teacher) that none of this would have been possible!



Greatwood Community Primary & Nursery School



Outdoor Education

Our Outdoor Education Group have been extremely busy this half term with activities like a drystone walling project, shelter building and a hike up Pendle Hill!

Drystone Walling

Our students managed to complete a drystone walling project from start to finish. What an achievement everyone! **#alternativecurriculum**



Grimwith Reservoir

A wonderful day was had at Grimwith Reservoir, where the students used their orienteering and map reading skills to navigate the area.



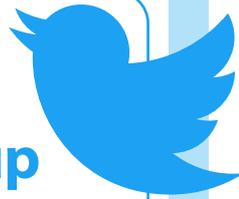
Pendle Hill Hiking

The Outdoor Ed Group carefully planned out their route and navigated to the summit of Pendle Hill under the guidance of Mr Magee and Mr French. What a way to spend a **Wellbeing Wednesday!**





Our Social Media Round-up



So happy to get the children back into school. Hectic start but everyone soon settled and the sound of happy children fills our lovely classes again. Well done parents and thank you for your patience as we settled in today.

8 Sep

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Big thanks to @StarbeckPrimary for the loan of the lovely and very talented 'Aunty Val' today. Fantastic support from one of our @N_StarAT partner schools. 🙏

10 Sep

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Fab week and it was such a pleasure to see so many happy children leave school with star of the week certificates this afternoon. Also, big thumbs up to our parents and carers for their support on the yards this week. Thank you for helping us keep our children safe. #socialdistancing

18 Sep

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Our well-being programme has started with a bang this week and Mrs Wilcox is working her usual magic on our children across key stage 2. Happy, healthy youngsters enjoying the start to their year. And it helps when it's all taking place in the sunshine. #wellbeing #nurture

18 Sep

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This week's biggest thank you goes to Mrs McCann who has created a safe 'bistro' area for our staff to sit and enjoy their lunch breaks in. A creative genius and a problem solver for all to look up to. Well done Mrs M. Especially like the flowers on the tables 🌻🌺

18 Sep



Tweet



Welcome Back Everyone

It's been brilliant to have the children back and to feel like a proper family school again! We're so proud of the children who have taken all the changes in their stride.



Art @NewPark

Art and creativity is very important to us here at New Park Primary Academy and this half term we have had a fantastic time exploring different techniques and activities.

Year 3/4 have had a brilliant time painting outside for their art project - they even managed to keep most of the paint off their clothes! They've also been working on their self-portraits, using observational skills to recreate the other half of their face!



Miss Watson's class have created and sewed a design to represent their experiences of Coronavirus during lockdown and beyond.



Year 5 and 6 have been creating some very inventive portraits during art week. The children were inspired by Hannah Hoch to create images that reflect the realities of life today.



Holycroft Primary School and Nursery



An Eagerly Awaited Return

What a strange few months it's been, but we couldn't wait to get the Holycroft family back together at the start of term!



Harrogate High School



Virtual Open Day

We have welcomed parents and students in Years 5 & 6 to join us for our very first Virtual Open Evening & Day this half term. We showcased what we have to offer in a live virtual evening followed a brilliantly produced video which you can view at: https://youtu.be/k5JicN60_xY



Promoting Wellbeing

Every Wednesday at Harrogate High we celebrate Wellbeing Wednesdays, which we use to encourage discussions about wellbeing and mental health both in and out of school. This week's topic for instance is *'do one thing for better mental health'* in line with the Mind charity's message for this year's World Mental Health Day on 10th October.

In school we are also creating an action calendar for the month, with one simple action we can do each day to boost our wellbeing and mental health. Why not have a look at the link from the mind website at home and continue the discussion as a family?

www.mind.org.uk/media-a/6283/calendar_a4.pdf



Excellent Attendance

A huge well done to Fiji and Paraguay form groups for achieving the highest percentage of attendance in school last week! These forms were provided with a small reward as a celebration of their success.

