

WHAT'S INSIDE

A round-up of highlights from across our group of schools and the Trust.



NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2023

VOLUME 1

I am delighted to introduce our first trust-wide newsletter. This termly update aims to keep you informed about the progress made across the Trust and to celebrate the fantastic work of all our schools. Your creative energy and commitment to your work have made it possible. Over time, the newsletter will incorporate the views of our workforce, parents, and carers and feature articles by our pupils to celebrate their incredible achievements under your guidance.

As we end another successful term, I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of our governors, trustees, members, and central team. I hope you all enjoy a festive period filled with celebration and reflection, and return recharged and ready to go again. Spring may be just as busy, but hopefully, it will be drier. I wish you all a Merry Christmas!

Sean

Sean Kelly, Chief Executive



"It's great to be a pupil here. You get to meet lots of new people and learn new things"

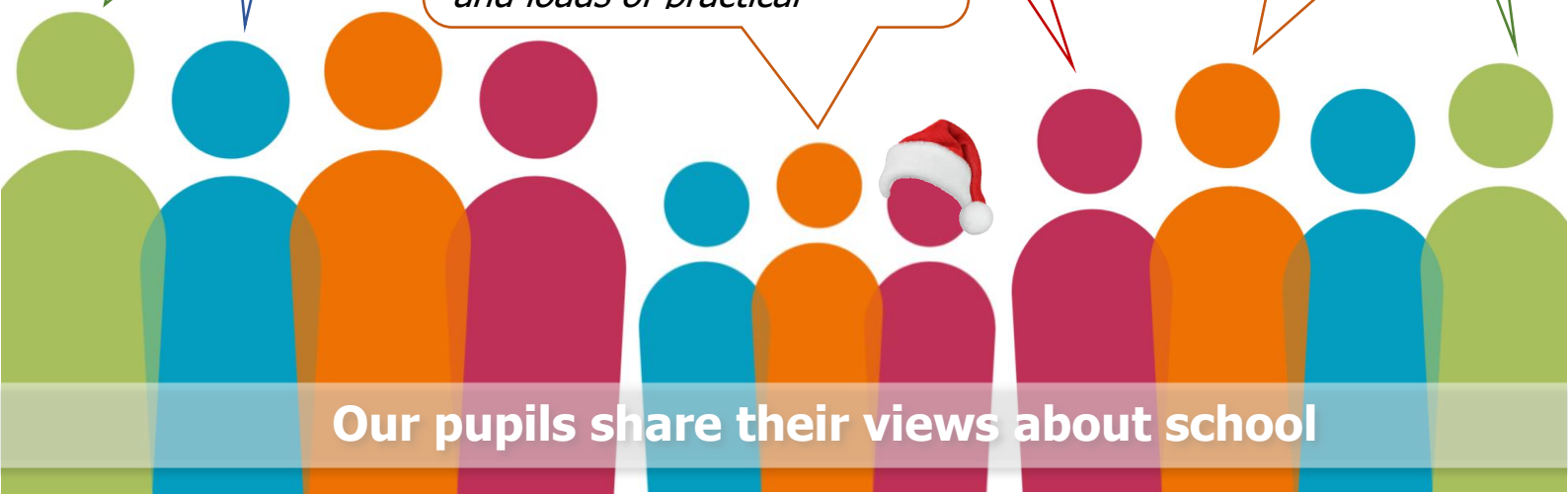
"It is amazing! When you get older and you get asked questions, I will be able to answer them"

"Staff understand that not all pupils learn in the same way and support pupils who learn differently"

"Life at school is fun because we get to take part in cool lessons, do lots of sport and get to go out of school on exciting excursions"

"Being at school is great because the staff help me to do my best. I have really developed my reading this year"

"I love my lessons. You get to try lots of different things and loads of practical"




Our pupils share their views about school



We are thrilled to congratulate all pupils who competed in the Future Chef competition at Denewood Academy. The school had many talented participants, but Kaiden stood out as the winner. His culinary skills impressed the judges, and his delectable creation, the "Bangin' Burger" with triple-cooked "Jo Jo Potatoes", showcased his creativity and passion for cooking.

Although Kaiden missed advancing to the national finals by a narrow margin, his remarkable talent did not go unnoticed. A local professional chef gave his triple-cooked "Jo Jo Potatoes" a special mention, highlighting the exceptional quality of his dish. This recognition from an industry expert is a testament to Kaiden's dedication and culinary prowess.

We are incredibly proud of Kaiden's achievements and commend all our pupils who participated in this fantastic opportunity. Their commitment, creativity, and hard work have undoubtedly set them on a path towards a bright future in the culinary world.



The Sheriff of Nottingham officially opened the new sensory learning environment at Woodlands Academy with pupils, families, governors, and the school team. Speaking at the event, Andy Morgan, the Academy Principal, expressed his pleasure at the Sheriff's presence and thanked the Trust for investing around £250,000 to create the new facilities. The high-quality resource for pupils will help to improve outdoor learning.

The Pupil Council actively developed the new outside environments alongside school and Trust colleagues, committed to ensuring that all children receive an excellent education in safe, happy, and high-quality school. The Sheriff of Nottingham was impressed by the new playground's range and equipment quality and expressed her delight at the opening. She praised the efforts of the Academy and the Trust in creating such an outstanding facility for the young people of the City.



Provider Spotlight



The Unity pupils attending CRISP Vocational Provision recently participated in an outward-bound course in Aberdovey, Wales. Despite harsh weather conditions, the students persevered through various personal, mental, and physical challenges, including powerboat jumps, abseiling, cold water swims, trapeze jumps, and a 14km expedition.

This unforgettable life experience helped the pupils work towards their Duke of Edinburgh award, which is an integral part of the curriculum.

The opportunity reinforced the trust values of Confidence, Challenge, Curiosity, Character, and Creativity. It helped develop their resilience and social skills, which are crucial for lifelong learning and preparation for the future. We are immensely proud of our pupils for accepting and completing this challenging experience.

 Ambleside
ACADEMY

As part of their personal development curriculum, Ambleside Academy have started a **Friendship Club**. The Friendship Club aim to have a positive impact on the well-being of others. They want Ambleside Academy pupils to meet with, and learn about adults from different walks of life – building tolerance, respect and understanding.

This will be achieved by children in the Friendship Group making half termly visits to Melbourne House, which is a residential care home for the elderly within the Aspley Community. The programme of visits will include a range of activities such as singing, baking, and crafting which the children and adults will carry out together.

On their first visit last week, the children danced, sang, and sat chatting and introducing themselves to the people who live there - showing what a difference a friendship can make.

The Melbourne House staff noted that some of the elderly residents were smiling and communicating in a way they rarely see – really enjoying the children's confident companionship. We'd like to say a big thank you to the children in the Friendship Club, for their positive contribution to our community.





Pupils and staff from Crisp taking part in the daily reading challenge

At Unity Academy, a priority is to develop pupils' love of reading and support those who struggle to read. The Academy has raised the reading profile across the Provider network, focusing on reading for pleasure opportunities and ensuring all pupils can access a reading programme in their provisions. It has been evident during the visits to the Providers and discussions with our pupils that the reading culture has developed in all the settings. Our pupils benefit more from reading opportunities, accessing a wide range of texts embedded across the curriculum.



Pupils in Take 1 Studios taking part in group reading at a local library

The Providers offer many initiatives to develop a love of reading, such as reading leagues, challenges, and regular group reading sessions. The pupils are more confident and frequently read out loud in class or during intervention sessions. We were delighted that Ofsted recognised this work across the network during our recent inspection *"Pupils are encouraged to read regularly. They read out loud in class, in groups, and to staff members individually. Over the last few years, each setting has concentrated on helping pupils improve their reading"*.



Christmas Fayre – the team and pupils have been busily creating festive goods and growing produce in the lead up to the event. Over forty of our parents/carers attended. It was so special that we also had a visit from Santa Claus himself with a sack full of presents.



During this term, the Academy has held three coffee mornings. Each event has seen an increase in parent/carer attendance. Services including the Mental Health Support Service and Change Grow Live attended and offered wellbeing support and guidance to parents/carers in support of their children.





The Early Years Academy kick-starts the Ambleside Authors in Training programme, which the school runs from Reception to Year 6 to develop the children as writers.

Their very youngest children are taught the foundations of letter-formation, spelling and sentence composition, so they learn to accurately say, and write a sentence which makes sense to them and to others.

Here are some examples of the work of their four and five year olds from the first weeks of the school year. Their parents are extremely proud of their progress!



Investing in our schools

The Trust will install a new calming room in the SEN area in December 2023 (£13,285). The decorating and carpeting programme which has seen investment in nine classrooms with three more planned for 2023/24 (£23,300). The LED lighting has been replaced across the school through the Decarbonisation strategy (£24,000).



The dining hall floor has been replaced (£2,712) and fixed seating removed (£650).

Work has begun on creating a Barber Shop. The Trust has established a budget of £60,000 from reserves for this curriculum project. Additionally, a new door was installed leading from the hall to the outside, which included a MAG lock costing £7,512 to enhance site security.



During the easter holidays of 2023, the creation of the allotment and the erection of the polytunnel took place. This allows all children access to allotment education. There are further plans to rejuvenate the internal courtyard to create a calm area for reading, planting and a quiet space for the whole academy community to use.



A further £187,500 has been invested in the outdoor learning environment. Installation was completed at the end of Autumn.



Relay is the learning and development bulletin of the Raleigh Education Trust. It is designed to provide busy staff working in our schools with a quick and easy way to access information about education. The bulletin includes reviews, practical strategies, summaries, and tried and tested ideas. The latest issue, which includes examples such as AI Guidance and Tried and Tested. Relay can be found on the Trust's website under the news section, with the file name Relay-Issue-52.pdf (raleightrust.org): [Relay-Issue-52.pdf \(raleightrust.org\)](https://raleightrust.org/Relay-Issue-52.pdf)



AI Guidance in Schools: a three-pronged approach

This new free guide for school leaders, "Understanding AI for School: tips for school leaders" is a collaboration between Teacher Development Trust (TDT) and the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), supported by the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL), the Confederation of School Trusts (CST) and the National Association of Headteachers (NAHT), aiming to support schools to prepare for the increased presence of AI in all aspects of education.

There are practical strategies for schools to approach AI with a 'three-pronged' approach, including how to offer staff an opportunity to consider its use and learn about AI together. The guide concludes with an FAQ section addressing common concerns.

<https://tdtrust.org/2023/09/08/download-understanding-ai-for-school-tips-for-school-leaders/>

Tried and Tested

Teachers, especially those in primary settings, are expected to know a lot of information about a lot of different subjects, and it doesn't matter how interesting you find a topic, it's hard to keep up and this can take its toll on confidence. Step up Meno Academy provides a growing library of five-minute subject knowledge videos that you can 'watch over your cornflakes'.

Meno Academy is designed to remove the need for teachers to scour books, podcasts and websites to improve their foundational subject knowledge.

Engage with topics such as Prehistoric Britain, Ancient Sumer and Early Islamic Civilisation; with a promise of focus videos coming soon.

www.meno.academy



Investing in our development

The Trust has recently been awarded £450,000 by the DfE to support attendance and persistent absence across all Nottingham City schools. The programme is aligned with the overall attendance strategy and wider inclusion work in the city. Recruitment is underway to launch a team of nine dedicated professionals in January for one year.



The Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforce has received funding to continue supporting pupils attending Denewood and Unity academies until March 2025, thanks to the support of the DfE and local partners. During the autumn term, the APST welcomed two new members to its team of specialists: Ella Foster, who will be working as a Resilience Worker, and Karolina Borecka-Taylor, who will be working as a Counsellor. These two new members will replace Chris and Shomari, who played a significant role in establishing the APST and supporting many pupils and their families during their tenure. We want to thank Chris and Shomari for their valuable contributions to the team.

On 14th November 2023, the APST was invited to participate in a Regional Knife Crime event.

1. The event focused on three key themes:
2. The impact of knife crime experienced by those most affected.
3. The positive efforts being made to reduce serious youth violence.
4. The necessary improvements to keep reducing serious youth violence.

The event was an excellent opportunity for the APST to showcase their services and to raise awareness among various stakeholders and young people in Nottingham and the surrounding areas.



The Trust has completed the three application stages for a multi-million-pound purpose-built 7-14 Alternative Provision Free School, increasing the number of our schools and reach across the city. The Local Authority has approved a site for the school, and we are progressing well with discussions. Fingers crossed!



Investing in our city

Supporting employee health and wellbeing

The Health Assured service is available to all employees at Raleigh Education Trust. It offers access to emotional support and practical guidance to support your health and well-being. You can speak to a counsellor via structured counselling or the helpline. You can also access legal advice and guidance on topics such as will writing and divorce procedures.

Have you heard about the Wisdom App?

As part of the Health Assured service, you can use the Wisdom App to get instant access to support your mental and physical health. The app has many features, such as an interactive mood tracker, mini health checks to assess your mental well-being, and personalisation options, allowing you to create four-week plans to reach your health aims. You can also access various resources such as recipes, workout videos, and mental health podcasts.

Spotlight on governance

Billie Cortez, Ambleside Academy Parent Governor

Billie has three children who have been attending the school since 2013. She has always been interested in the school's operations and who holds the school leaders accountable. Therefore, the opportunity to become a parent advocate of the school was exciting for her. As a Parent Governor, Billie has been involved in various monitoring visits to the school to understand different areas of the curriculum and how teachers ensure all children receive a high-quality education. She has advocated for the new EYFS provision and supported the marketing to promote the school. Billie feels that one of the most important aspects of her role is the ability to empower the voice of the local families within the school and reflect this in the Governor's meetings. If you are interested in current opportunities, please speak to the Principal of the school or contact Claire Beardsall, Governance Professional, at 0115 8550100.

"I was nervous and anxious about putting myself forward for the role, but the training and support I receive from the school and the Trust has enhanced my knowledge to be the best Governor I can be. If you are interested in getting involved in your school, this is an amazing way to make a difference for not just your children but all pupils in school".



Investing in our people