

Spring 2024 Newsletter



'Thrive and Achieve Together'

Welcome to the Spring Term Newsletter. I hope the term has been a fruitful one. As usual there has been a lot going on.

TRUST NEWS

We are delighted that Eldon Primary school will be joining us as our sixth school on April 1st. We know that Eldon is a school that shares the vision and values of Children First and we look forward to adding their expertise to ours and sharing our good practice with another school. Dominic Smart will join us with Eldon as our Executive HT, working to support all of our schools and their improvement journeys.

We also have another school consulting with parents and staff in regard to joining the Trust. We are excited about the growth of the Trust as each school brings additional strengths and, working as a group enables us to use our resources efficiently to support more of the things that are important.



In order to support growth and due to the imminent retirement of Anu, our CFOO, we have expanded the Central Team to include Louise Davies, who many of you have met, as our Director of Operations and People and we have Shashwati Wilkinson joining us in May as our Director of Finance. Sejal Rabone has been with us since February working on Governance.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Anu for all her hard work and commitment to the Trust since its inception. We will all miss her .

People Strategy



On 19th February 300 of us came today at Wilbury for the first joint Trust Inset Day. There were 17 sessions with most of them being led by our very own Trust experts.

We asked for your feedback and over two thirds of you took the time to respond to the survey, thank you!



People Strategy Cont'd

We asked if the day had met your expectations, and it was so wonderful to hear that for the vast majority the answer was a resounding YES.

The average expectations met score was 8.8 out of 10.



We asked what you'd do differently following the Inset.

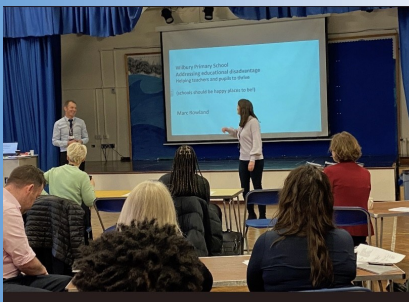
Your responses to this were varied, thoughtful and inspiring. Soon we will giving you the opportunity to share what you've changed with us – look out for a new staff area on our website!

On the question about what you had enjoyed most about the day the most popular responses were around:

- Being able to choose your own programme for the day
- Meeting colleagues from across the Trust
- The practical ideas shared
- The high quality of the sessions.

Reminder that the slides from the day can be found here [joint INSET day presentations -](#)

It was great to see Wilbury hosting leaders from across the LA at the addressing disadvantage network with @marcrowland73!



'The practitioner is the intervention, we are the variable, structure is liberating, presume at your peril'

The new office extension at Raynham is almost complete and is going to be such a great addition to the school. It has been a long time in coming to fruition but I really think it will have been worth the wait.

Linda Sarr from HEP is facilitating an AHT development group for some of our AHTs and the feedback has been really positive as leaders get to share their strengths and challenges with an experienced school leader



What else has been going on?



A huge congratulations are in order to Fleecefield's amazing Boccia team who finished 3rd in the London Youth Games (LYG) . The team was able to persevere to quickly move on and win fairly comfortably. This meant they were able to take home a bronze medal.

I hope you all have a wonderful break with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you in the summer term.

