

NEW VISION TRUST NEWSLETTER

Issue 3 Summer 2021



SHAHED AHMED CEO AND EXECUTIVE HEAD AT ELMHURST

I am delighted to share our biannual New Vision Trust (NVT) newsletter for children, staff, parents, Governors and Trustees which showcases the richness of the educational provision across our four schools.

I continue to be proud of the progress that we have made as a Trust and as four individual schools, in spite of the challenges resulting from the Covid -19 pandemic.

Our Headteachers have led their teams with sensitivity and clarity, ensuring that there is a clear recovery plan in place to support pupils who have fallen behind due to the national lockdowns. This plan sits side by side with an ambitious curriculum informed by the latest research and best practice. Our schools are overhauling their English curriculum, inspired by the work that Nelson has done to create a bespoke curriculum for its learners. Leaders from the New Vision English Hub are leading on this work across Elmhurst and Vicarage. Our vision to encourage a generation of pupils who are instilled with a lifelong passion to read and write is now underway, with external support from The Writing For Pleasure Centre and Just Imagine.

Our Trust has continued to be outward facing, working with external strategic school improvement partners. Across the Trust, we are adopting rubrics to improve teaching and learning, including learning/leadership conversations and feedback and marking. Our staff benefit directly from the cascading of best practice through our Trust's unique designation as a national Maths Hub and English Hub. Our Strategic maths Hub Lead & Director of learning has been pivotal in ensuring that standards of Mathematics are high across our schools.

Since my last communication in which I shared the exciting news that our Trust schools had secured £1.1 million of government funding from the Conditions Improvement Fund (CIF), the total amount received for this year has risen to £1.4 million. Nelson received an additional £300,000 to upgrade its toilets. So far we have heard that in the new round of applications for next year, Nelson has received an additional £108,000 to replace its roof. This funding has allowed for significant improvements to the fabric of our buildings, as outlined by our Chair below. Nelson's new reception office and remodelled entrance area and Elmhurst's Creative Arts wing and Performance Theatre are truly spectacular projects and amenities which we should all be proud of. I will be working with Vicarage and Gallions to help them develop their buildings and outdoor spaces.

Sadly we are saying goodbye to two important school leaders: Shazia Hussain (Headteacher at Gallions) and Leanne Lowe, Director of Learning. They have both worked tirelessly for our schools, Trust and Maths Hub and made immense contributions to our staff and pupils. We wish them both well in their future ventures - one academic and the other abroad in Qatar. We welcome Ms Omerod as the new Headteacher for Gallions.

Thank you to everyone for your commitment to making New Vision Trust one of the leading Academy Trusts in London, including our lovely children, parents, staff, Governors and Trustees.



QUINTIN PEPPIAT CHAIR, NEW VISION TRUST

Last year I wrote: 'I am looking forward to the time when we can sit side by side, squashed together to watch a performance by the children on their new stage. Let's hope that is in the Summer term at the latest!' So it is with sadness and some frustration that most of us still have not been able to experience a performance from the new theatre at Elmhurst.

Yet even within the continuing frustrations of the year we have managed to continue to keep up and develop the academic standards across the four trust schools. Many thanks to all the staff and head teachers who have continued to work tirelessly. The building works have been finished at Elmhurst and are continuing at Nelson School. I look forward to seeing the results of the extra investment in the toilets and other works in that school. I know the children will particularly appreciate the new facilities as toilets are a recurring area of discussion when I meet school student councils.

As usual during the year, we have said goodbye to some teachers and welcomed others. I particularly want to thank Ms Hussain, the head teacher at Gallions Primary School, as she leaves us to pursue further studies. Ms Hussain has been with us since we set up the Trust of four primary schools and has been one of our guiding lights. I am happy to welcome Ms Ormerod as the new head teacher and I am confident that she will build on with the excellent work that Ms Hussain has initiated at Gallions. Many thanks to all who have worked so hard within the Trust over the last year from the New Vision Trust Board of Trustees.

NEW VISION TRUST SCHOOLS ARE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL DEBATING WINNERS!

The children of New Vision Trust have swept the board at this year's Debate Mate competitions. Schools from our MAT have fought off hundreds of other primaries across the country to be crowned national cup champions, national league champions, East London cup champions and East London league champions. Elmhurst clinched both national trophies, as well as the East London cup, while Vicarage was crowned victors of the East London league. Vicarage also came second in the East London cup, losing out to Elmhurst in the grand final. Both sets of students did their schools and the whole MAT proud, speaking with confidence, knowledge and eloquence, all of which was commented on positively by the judges.



NELSON PRIMARY SCHOOL

At Nelson, like all the schools in the Trust, we have been ensuring that the children get the best possible education during the pandemic. The staff have gone the extra mile to ensure live lessons taught remotely were as effective as those taught in the classroom. We have made excellent use of the Covid catch up fund and have provided tuition for all those children who have developed gaps in their learning.

Our English leader has spent time driving a bespoke new English curriculum for the school; proving to be exciting for everyone. All the teachers have worked collaboratively to create units of learning based on the highest quality of current and classic literature. Our maths leader has worked closely with Leanne Lowe to ensure that each year group is able to fill the gaps in children's learning whilst also driving new learning forward.

We have to ensure that all the children continue to make progress and enjoy a broad and balanced curriculum. Although we have been unable to provide the full enrichment programme, we have extended as many opportunities as possible. To that end our debate team have been able to continue as part of the virtual East London League and our choir has been part of the Newham in Harmony project.

We are very proud to report that our maths team came third in the Mayor of London's Count on us challenge. This is a very prestigious event where schools from across London take part in a maths competition. The children in the team worked hard to prepare for this, even challenging our CEO in one of their practice sessions!

We are delighted to be able to use the new Elmhurst Theatre for our production of the Lion king on 15th July.

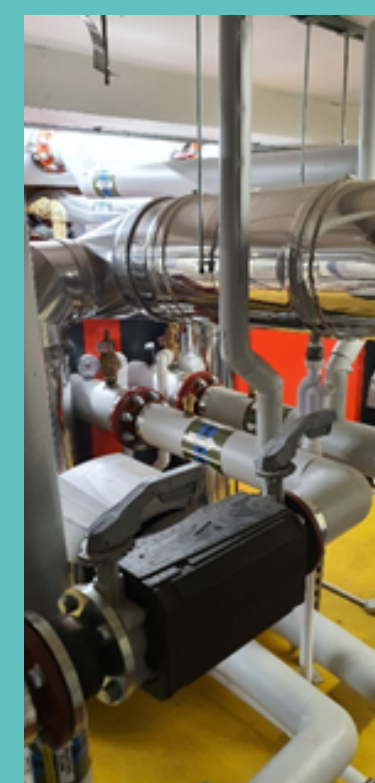
We continue to drive forward our work with the British Council. Daniel Okiya, our Global Learning leader, has been asked to speak at the British Council's Global webinar this year. This is a great testament to his work on the Connecting Classrooms project and will feature the work our teachers have been doing on global learning within our curriculum.

At Nelson we were fortunate to receive a large amount of money from the DfE CiF fund for replacing the toilets and boilers; both of which were very much in need of a makeover.



TOILETS

We have been able to use the highest quality materials to ensure longevity as we completely restore the children's toilets. Going back to the brickwork ensured that we were able to ensure issues with damp and ancient drainage were rectified. We have removed the urinals in the boys' toilets so our boys can use the toilets in private. The lights, flushes and taps are operated by sensors and the cubicles are made from high pressure laminate. At the moment we have one set complete with another set due to complete in 2 weeks.



BOILERS

We have been able to replace both the main boilers with the funding we received. Additionally, we were able to purchase a third boiler to kick-in if one of the new boilers were to malfunction. As part of the project we also removed several additional small boilers that were dotted around the school. This has meant that we have been able to create two extra group rooms where staff can carry out interventions.



SCHOOL OFFICE

Since the last report our school office has been completed and is now fully functional. The output from office staff has greatly increased now all admin staff are all together.

GALLIONS PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Summer term marks the end of another eventful year at Gallions, and one with many memorable moments and achievements.

Following a strong start to the academic year, the school site was again closed for much of the Spring term. During this time we were once again able to provide high quality distance learning and pastoral support to children across the school. We worked in close partnership with children and families to achieve this, and were very pleased that our survey of parental views showed 93% of children had engaged and enjoyed learning over the Spring Term. The Gallions Gazette during school closure was certainly a very special edition - marking this period and showcasing the motivation and drive of our young learners!



Throughout the year, children have enjoyed a full and broad curriculum, with many rich learning experiences. Alongside our partner schools in the MAT, we have been very proactive in adapting learning and our provision to meet pupil needs. Whether through assessing gaps, revising content in core subjects such as Mathematics, Catch-Up interventions or via our growing school holiday provision, we have made clear progress in helping all children move forward.

This term it has been especially wonderful to see a return to Educational Visits and special guests to the school - including visits to Fair Play House, Opera Holland Park to see The Marriage of Figaro and overnight camping stays for a number of year groups.

In recognising the importance of bringing the school community together, we have found creative ways to learn and celebrate together in a covid safe way. This has included our impressive school wide rendition of the Cup Song, the end of year UKS2 Oscars, Gallions got Talent (GGT) and our very own staff version of the Masked Singer!



School development has continued in several areas - including early steps towards a whole school Thrive approach to pupil well-being and a focus around impactful feedback and understanding its central place within learning. Curriculum design has also been a key area of development as we continue to review and improve content and progression in all subjects. In the Spring and Summer we have focussed on diversity and representation in the curriculum, looking closely at coverage in subjects including Art and History and updating reading texts across English. These are exciting changes that we hope to implement in the next academic year.

This term, our whole day INSET was led by subject leaders - sharing the design of their curriculum areas and focussing on progression in learning. We are proud of what we have achieved with our curriculum, and while we are committed to a dynamic approach, this will remain rooted in the education we intend to provide to all children as they move through the school.

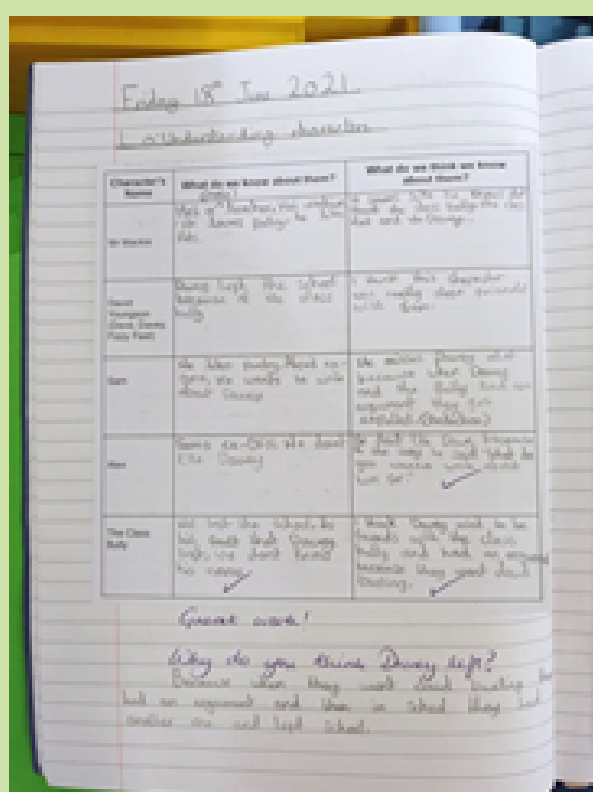
ELMHURST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Although not without its challenges, Elmhurst continued to drive rapid improvements this year, including in pastoral, premises and curricular areas. In response to the pandemic, we increased our support for pupils/families with Social Emotional and Mental Health needs through increased training and direct work from the school counsellor and families through the school's Educational Mental Health Practitioner. Year 6 pupils benefitted from a Head Start project to develop resilience.

Elmhurst made great strides in its remote teaching and learning offer, not only improving hardware but access to them through providing approximately 130 families with wifi and data access. As a result, we were able to maximise attendance to live lessons up to 8th March when in person education became compulsory again.

The work on curriculum design has been fruitful during this year and it is a testament to the hard work and ambition of our staff that we still managed to improve our curriculum whilst also adapting lessons for on site and online lessons. Some notable highs include the following:

- Through closer working with the national Computing Hub, we have developed an exciting LEGO Robotics unit to be taught from September 2021 for upper KS2 pupils
- Through the Music enrichment fund we provided additional instrument lessons and musical workshops in African drumming
- Elmhurst succeeded as national Debating champions for Debate Mate League 2021.
- Elmhurst was selected as a case study school to showcase its excellent oracy work in the All Party Parliamentary Review on Oracy: Speak for Change
- There has been a MAT wide focus on improving geography and new units include the year 4 Climate change unit which has been strengthened by our global education links through the Connecting Classrooms partnership with Kenya and Ghana.
- Music is now a focus with the music team working with Nelson Primary on looking at new units. Recently planned units include an electronic music unit in Year 4 and 6 and African drumming in Year Many thanks,
- Elmhurst was awarded Gold Quality Mark for Religious Education
- Through our work on equality and diversity, we developed a new year 6 unit on the British Empire and the Partition, which has resulted in pupils developing better understanding of colonialism and Indian history.
- Our Literacy team, including Inka Vann, ensured that our pupils continued to love reading through establishing the Battle of the Books in KS2
- We have been revitalising our Literacy Curriculum and will be adopting a literature based reading approach next year through adopting Take One book. We know that this book-based approach to teaching reading will ensure that our pupils read more and understand more. This will happen alongside our continual focus on ensuring that all of our pupils leave Elmhurst with a love of reading!



Zaina in 5A on the Take One Book Lessons she has been taught so far: 'It's a great challenge for children. They will get to build their knowledge with actual books rather than the anthologies we've been using so far. Children will be reading much more.'

We hosted renowned teacher writers, Ross Young & Phil Ferguson for a week long Writing for Pleasure residency in May and have started to train our teachers to become Writing for Pleasure teachers.



We have supported over 100 pupils to have an additional 10-15 hours of after school or Saturday tuition funded through the Covid Catch Up premium. This supplements the catch up that is happening in the afternoons and after school, supporting pupils who have fallen behind. The school was successful in securing £32,000 additional funding from the DfE Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) Programme to run two week (full day) Easter and Summer holiday Schools for over 80 disadvantaged pupils and for the whole of year 5 to access additional booster lessons before they start year 6.

Elmhurst develops cultural capital

Children in Year 5 took part in the Iliad Project, with Jonny Walker from OtherWise Education. Across six sessions, the children launched themselves into Greek Mythology, learning about Homer's epic poem and the events of the Trojan War.

The project built from the students' interest in mythology - with many of them being obsessive fans of the Percy Jackson books - and introduced them to a deeper study of classics. The project fused together storytelling, oracy, drama and classics in order to bring the story to life.

Children's confidence and self-expression developed alongside their knowledge of mythology and the complex narrative. Themes included pride, prophecy, mortality, heroism and family. One particular strength was the children's ability to reflect on the lessons of the Iliad, and to apply these lessons to their own lives. The project complements the Elmhurst Year 5 curriculum for History and English, whilst also providing a space for wider social and cultural learning.

For the final session, they were excited to make creative use of Elmhurst's new theatre, which became the site of the final siege. This versatile performance space offers lots of exciting opportunities for further immersive creative projects for Newham students and MAT wide projects. The Iliad project will be extended to all four schools next year.



VICARAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are very proud of the many cross-curricular events that have taken place this academic year, even during lockdown!

Every half term, as well as teaching each subject discreetly, we organise whole school focus weeks. They have a number of purposes. They raise awareness, eg, Autism Awareness and Dyslexia Awareness Week which provide a greater understanding of these conditions that affect many adults and children. They may also have a curriculum focus, eg, for Science Week this year, the theme was 'Innovation for the future'. This provided children with the opportunity to learn about scientific discoveries and inventions that help us in our every day lives as well as consider what future innovations might look like.

The annual World Book Day included a 'Bake-Off' competition which generated a lot of excitement as children made cakes in the design of their favourite book.

Our termly Anti-Bullying action days included a celebration of diversity amongst our community, as well as teaching pupils that bullying in any form is not acceptable.

Our Mental Health Awareness week encouraged both staff and pupils to connect with nature in a positive and meaningful manner to promote good health and wellbeing.

Black History Month this year focussed on the achievements of significant black individuals, including Walter Tull, who was an officer in the British army.

In a large school such as Vicarage, these themed weeks create lots of opportunities to bring the whole school community together through informative and fun activities. There is also a non-uniform day as part of the week to raise money for a charity including The National Autistic Society and NSPCC.





LEANNE LOWE - DIRECTOR OF LEARNING

At the beginning of the year, I used “The Tiered Model for School Planning” (EEF) to identify the focus areas for the Director of Learning collaborative working. Throughout the year, I have worked with NQTs and NQT+1s, Maths Leads, Senior Leadership Teams, Teachers and Support Staff. The main body of our work has been ongoing curriculum prioritisation and development as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the new non-statutory guidance for the teaching of mathematics. Maths Leads across the trust have met with me collectively each half term and we have used this time together to create a set of collective goals whilst maintaining our own unique school identities. These meetings have given maths leads the opportunity to collaborate on their shared challenges, share resources, problem solve together and have professional dialogue around teaching and learning and impact of their role in their school. This work has been very powerful, and I am hopeful that maths leads will continue to work in this way moving forwards either formally or informally. Schools have had half termly development days this year where I have worked with them on their individual priorities; the commonality being curriculum sequencing and prioritisation. In general, a significant focus has been on Key Stage 2, particularly Year 4 and 5 and sequencing content to ensure that priority missed content has also been addressed.

Towards the end of the summer term, we looked at whole trust priorities and came together for a whole trust development day. Here we looked at Quality first Teaching for Mathematics, as well as the new guidance and the teaching of number facts. We had a collaborative planning session in the afternoon where we began, or continued, curriculum plans for next year. Additionally, we brought together Support Staff from all four schools for a development day around intervention. This was also attended by some teachers and all maths leads.

When reviewing the impact of the collaborative work this year, it is recognisable that Maths Leads across the trust have a strong sense of intention for their curriculum area. They are well informed about national priorities and make good decisions around curriculum sequencing. They have responded incredibly well to the ever-shifting picture throughout the year and have adopted a research-led, evidence-informed approach to making decisions about teaching and learning. All schools have had the opportunity to make decisions together about how to proceed with mathematics next year and to establish general principles for curriculum prioritisation and development.



SALMA AHMED - TRUST BUSINESS MANAGER

New Vision Trust has successfully come to the end of another positive and rewarding year. As the Trust Business Manager, I have had the pleasure of working alongside a team of supportive and committed School Business Managers (Julie Halliday, Sahara Shafik and Michelle Pointer) and finance teams for the last 4 years. Led by our CEO and in collaboration with our Chief Finance Officers from Tridan, we have worked hard to ensure we are in a healthy financial position across the Trust so that we can continue to deliver a first class education to all our children and keep improving the condition of our buildings. I look forward to new challenges and projects and believe that we will continue to go from strength to strength. As we come to the end of the year, we will be saying farewell to Sahara at Vicarage. Sahara will be moving onto ventures new; we wish her all the best in her new role. We welcome Yasmin Begum from Elmhurst, who will be promoted from Office Manager to School Business Manager.



SPOTLIGHT ON SHAZIA HUSSAIN

Having started her working life in medical policy and regulation, Shazia embarked on a career in teaching in 2004. Her teaching began at Sandringham Primary School in Newham, where she stayed for six years. Seeking career progression into leadership, Shazia moved to Gallions in 2010. Initially, Shazia took the role of Key Stage 2 Leader. However, after just a year in this role, she stepped up into the Senior Leadership Team.

From 2011, and as Deputy Head, Shazia led on standards, driving pupil progress and attainment. In 2014, Shazia then took on the interim position of Headteacher, expecting this to be for one academic year. By September 2015 though, she had been appointed as the substantive Head and has been in this role until now.

As Headteacher, Shazia has wanted to maintain the long standing commitment and excellence in standards within the creative arts and creative approaches to teaching and learning, whilst also striving for high academic achievement. During the Headship, Shazia has also led the school through the process of becoming an academy, developing strong links with the MAT schools in order to become more successful in all areas, especially in reading and maths. Shazia is known for having a particular passion for English and this has been evident in her driving improvements to the teaching of early reading at Gallions in recent years. More recently, Shazia has been involved in curriculum design for Religious Education and shares her interest in quality teaching in this area of the curriculum through regular assemblies.

Following 11 years at Gallions and 17 years in teaching, Shazia has decided to return to full time study, allowing more time for her family and then a return to working in government policy writing, specifically safeguarding and social policy.

Shazia's integrity, sense of teamwork and bubbly personality will be greatly missed, not only by the school community at Gallions but across the whole Trust.



PEN PORTRAITS OF TWO OF OUR TRUSTEES

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES: REVD QUINTIN PEPPIATT



Revd Quintin Peppiatt has been the parish priest for St.Mary Magdalene, East Ham since 1995. He is currently chair of the New Vision Trust and Vicarage Primary School. He has been a local councillor since 1997 and was Cabinet member for children and young people.

DIANE GREEN - TRUSTEE



More than 10 years' experience as a Chair of Governors (at Nelson Primary School), including as Chair of Finance Committee and as Safeguarding Link Governor.

Since 2018 have been a Trustee of New Vision Trust and have specific responsibility for reporting to the Trust Board on safeguarding.

Civil Servant for more than 35 years and now working on sustainability.

Awarded an MBE in 2012 for work on sustainability at HMRC and for work as Chair of Governors at Nelson Primary School.