

# NEW VISION TRUST NEWSLETTER

Issue 7 Summer 2023



## SHAHED AHMED CEO AND EXECUTIVE HEAD AT ELMHURST

Foreword from Shahed Ahmed CEO - Going further together

I am pleased to share our biannual New Vision Trust newsletter and proud to highlight the many successes of our five individual schools and the trust as a whole.

I would like to formally welcome Downshall Primary School, who joined in January 2023. Ian Bennett, head teacher, and his team have fitted in seamlessly and it feels as if they have been part of the MAT since its inception! Ian has made a strong contribution to the Hubs- he is our Maths Hub head teacher advocate and is on the strategic board of our English Hub.

Our new Trust Facilities Manager, Nicholas Aimee, has also made an excellent start and is busy digitising systems onto Google and ensuring that all the statutory tests are completed. There is a short pen portrait of Nicholas further on in the newsletter.

The structural improvements to the Trust's buildings and playgrounds have been rapid. We have used school reserves to develop extensive playground climbing apparatus and a sports pitch at Gallions. We have a new Nursery extension being built at Vicarage and a new building for children with special needs at Elmhurst. In addition, we have also secured government funding totally £1.3 million so far with Nelson receiving the majority of it, to improve roofs, toilets, boilers and fire doors.

Thanks again to Jonny Walker, Adisa the Verbaliser and NVT staff who lead the annual year 5 Trust Poetry Retreat to the New Forest -this unique opportunity really develops pupils' confidence to see themselves as authors. See within for more details.

Congratulations to Adetomi Cole from Nelson for organising the second New Vision Trust Sports Event event (football focus) and ensuring that there was a pleasant mix of enjoyment and healthy competition in mixed school groupings.

The nationally assessed data for our schools was again very good, with all schools attaining highly for the Phonic Screening Check and statutory assessments.

It remains a privilege to be the CEO of the New Vision Trust and to work with such talented pupils and staff. This year two of our schools were recognised nationally for their outstanding curriculum; Nelson received the Outstanding School Music Department award at the National Music and Drama Education Awards and Elmhurst were awarded the UKLA Literacy School of the Year. Congratulations to both schools - there are further articles about these awards in the newsletter.

Thank you to everyone for your continued commitment to making New Vision Trust an excellent Academy Trust. I could not be prouder of all of our school communities, including: staff, pupils, governors, trustees, parents and carers. We really are going further together! I wish everyone a restful and happy summer and look forward to working with you all in the next academic year.



## QUINTIN PEPPIAT CHAIR, NEW VISION TRUST

There have been many highlights of the past year but welcoming a new school into the Trust has to be at the top of the list. We have expanded beyond Newham into Redbridge.

Downhill Primary School is a wonderful primary school with around 600 pupils including a nursery. Since joining the Trust in January 2023 they are already leading in the Trust on personal and Social education. I know that working together over the coming years we will be able to enable all the children to continue to flourish.

We continued with the building projects across the schools. Elmshurst and Vicarage are adding buildings whilst Gallions has a wonderful new playground and MultiUse Games area. In Nelson more basic concerns were upgraded with toilets and boilers being replaced.

Two of our schools received top national awards this year. Nelson for its Music department and Elmhurst for its literacy. Vicarage also had an OFSTED with a very positive outcome and we will release the final report once it is published in a couple of months.

In the SATS we hope, once again, to find that some of our schools are within the top 5% of schools in the country.

I would like to thank, on behalf of the board of trustees of the New Vision Trust, all who have worked so hard in the past year and have made all these achievements possible.

The Chief Executive Officer, the head teachers, staff, carers and most of all the pupils. Pupils whose enthusiasm and eloquence always shines within our schools whenever we have visitors.



## SPOTLIGHT ON NICHOLAS AIMEE TRUST FACILITIES MANAGER



I was born in Mauritius and as a parent of two young adults, I know too well the importance of education and I embrace my role as a contributor to help young people to thrive to become successful leaders of tomorrow. I have been working in the education sector for nearly two decades in various roles as site supervisor, site manager to facilities manager within Newham.

My background is construction, electrical engineering, health and safety and management. I am trained and qualified in :fire risk assessor, fire warden, first aid at work including paediatric, IOSH managing safely, risk assessments and risk assessments to ensure compliance of statutory and recommended duties.

Previously as Newham PRUs Facilities Manager, I was responsible and accountable for managing and leading the premises team across Newham PRUs sites. This was a very challenging environment where you have to expect the unexpected and be ready for any eventuality but it was very rewarding. I hold strong values about equality, diversity and inclusion, I want to make a difference to young people by helping them to have the best start in life - I am a long serving co-opted governor in a school that provides a lot of care and education for children with SEND.

Joining the New Vision Trust family, I bring a wealth of experience, skill and knowledge in facilities management health and safety. I aspire to build on the excellent premises work and further strengthen existing relationships to maintain a positive attitude toward safety, security, safeguarding and to promote a safety first culture that support the ambitious vision of our senior leaders across our trust.

My goals are simple: build and maintain our compliances, develop processes and implement process management to support our staff and students to succeed in delivering outstanding education in a safe and welcoming environment.

Together we are stronger and by implementing a solution focus approach, I strive to succeed in delivering meaningful changes that will benefit the Trust.

Here to help, happy to help.

## ELMHURST PRIMARY SCHOOL



### Elmhurst wins UKLA 2023 Literacy School of the year!

If you walk through the corridors and classrooms of Elmhurst Primary, there is a theme that becomes quickly apparent: this is a school that loves words.

It is because of this dedication to language and the empowering impact it has on the children that our school has been awarded the prestigious **United Kingdom Literacy Association School of the Year Award**.

The journey to this point has taken years, but reached its peak on 24th June as head teacher Sukwinder Samra, Assistant Head Katharine Young and Literacy Lead Sam Creighton were handed the trophy at a gala dinner held during the UKLA's International Conference at Exeter University.



It was a rigorous process to win the award, beginning with an application form that delved deep into every aspect of the literacy curriculum, looking for creativity, joy and rigour but also a solid research base and a reflective plan for the future. The award's sponsor, education recruiter Hays were blown away by the application, responding to the message with a simple: 'Wow!'

Elmhurst welcomed three of the UKLA's judges to look around the school. They were able to see the joy with which children read and write from reception onwards, alongside the rigour and provision with which they are taught phonics. They were impressed by the school's Shakespeare troupe, who performed a scene from their production of Macbeth. Then finally, the Elmhurst debaters - ranked second nationally this year - left the judges in awe by passionately debating a motion suggested by the visitors only minutes earlier: 'THBT the British Museum should return stolen artefacts'.

The UKLA summed up their visit in the press release for the award, which read: 'Throughout the school, the assessors could see that not a minute or an opportunity was wasted in making the pupils' learning memorable.

'This is a school where the children have plenty to read, write and speak about. The staff, under the determined leadership of the headteacher, Sukwinder Samra, have taken every opportunity to build their children's cultural capital.'

Professor Teresa Cremin, who sponsored Elmhurst's application, explained that there is no 'laurel sitting' at Elmhurst, despite the school having won the UKLA's Reading for Pleasure award in 2019, adding: 'I have no hesitation whatsoever in recommending Elmhurst for UKLA School of the Year, 2023. In my view, this award is well overdue.'

All the staff at Elmhurst are incredibly proud of the achievement, but know it is a milestone, not a finish line. Next up is the Open University and UKLA's joint Reading for Pleasure Quality Mark - we're going for platinum!

## VICARAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL



### Newham Art Matters Exhibition



Our year 6 pupils had an exciting opportunity to be involved in the promotional materials for this year's Newham Art Matters Exhibition. Their brief was to use recycled materials to create their own unique piece of jewellery, taking inspiration from jewellery designers around the world.

The pupils visited the University of East London for a photoshoot wearing their finished pieces. They were also given guided tour of the Art department and were delighted to see the range of work produced by students studying Art as a degree subject.



### Year 5 Collaboration with Plashet Secondary School for Girls

Our Year 5 pupils visited the Art department at Plashet secondary school to work alongside some of their Year 9 pupils to create plaster sculptures inspired by the work of the artist Maria Bartuzsova. The results of this amazing collaborative venture, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the pupils, will be showcased at the Newham Art Matters Exhibition later this term.



## OFSTED Art Review

Vicarage welcomed Adam Vincent (HMI/ OFSTED Lead for Art & Design) to video and take photographs of art lessons in Years 1 and 5 to demonstrate visually, the elements of good practice he has written about in the recent research review into the subject.



## Artsmark

At Vicarage we were delighted to be awarded Gold Awards.

Year 4 had partnered with Keir Hardie Primary School through Algorithmic Art project (Maths, Art + Computing). They had to learn about coding and digital Art is developed and how it is used in creative industries.

Here are our delighted pupils who has had their work assessed and received their certificate. from Arts Award and Trinity College London.



## Art Inset at Vicarage

Staff at Vicarage had enjoyed the Art Wellbeing Inset. It was an important way to make connection of being healthy both actively and mentally. Here are Vicarage staff engaged and being expressive through a range of activities. From exploring mark making with different mediums inspired by contemporary artists to producing their outcome.



## GALLIONS PRIMARY SCHOOL



### The Performing Arts at Gallions

Often when people talk about Gallions they mention its outstanding music curriculum. But teaching every child to play an instrument isn't our only area of excellence. At Gallions, we also encourage our children to excel in sports, philosophy, debating and chess, amongst many other curriculum areas. We achieve this excellence through our bespoke curriculum and use of specialist teachers with outstanding subject knowledge. A subject that has gone from strength to strength this year is our performing arts curriculum, taught weekly to all pupils by a specialist dance and drama teacher, our pupils are quickly becoming Oscar ready!

Our Performing Arts curriculum is rich, diverse and inclusive - it includes foundations in dance, drama, production techniques and professional experiences. We are very proud of the opportunities we give children to develop as performers at Gallions and the quality of performances we present strengthens every year. Every child in every year-group performs at least once a year. Our performances combine both dance and drama and are fully inclusive, involving every child. Pupils form production teams who write the scripts, design the set and make every prop and costume. This leads to bespoke performances, which engage and challenge our pupils

This year we have learned foundations in classical and freestyle dance, we have practised our script writing and drama skills and we have experienced studios and theatres in the professional industry, through visits to Stratford Youth Zone Dance studios and West End Theatre. We are especially excited about the upcoming year 6 production, which will for the first time take place in a professional theatre space - The Stratford Youth Zone. Children will get the opportunity to experience behind the scenes of theatre as well as the feel of the real stage and lighting. There are so many highlights of this year but some that stand out are year 5's production which told the story of The World War 2 evacuation through dance, drama and song. Y6 performed "Encanto", entertaining every member of the audience and inspiring our younger children to grow in confidence with their own performances. I can't wait to see what our performances will be next year.



## NELSON PRIMARY SCHOOL



**music&drama**  
**education awards 2023**  
**WINNER**

### Nelson receives Outstanding School Music Department award at the National Music and Drama Education Awards



In November we received notification that we had reached the final of the National Music and Drama Education Awards. It was a great surprise as we had not even applied for this! Unbeknownst to us Dr Alison Daubney, a Senior Teaching Fellow at the University of Sussex, had nominated us following her QA visit for Newham's Music Enrichment Grant. We were the only primary school in the final!

At the award ceremony, hosted by TV presenter, Aled Jones, we were delighted the judges were impressed by the number of musical opportunities available and by the different ways that children can get involved. They highlighted the progression routes available and said that the department is an "outstanding example of committed individuals and supportive senior leadership working together to achieve both musical and wider outcomes.

Councillor Joshua Garfield said:

"We are extremely proud of our brilliant primary schools and the collective investment made in enrichment activities that ultimately improve young people's lives. ...This award reflects the excellent work taking place in Nelson, and it is great to see such a high performance recognised on a national scale."

Since receiving the award The Music Teacher Magazine have published an article explaining the school's musical journey stretching back to a challenge set by HMI Mark Phillips to get Nelson's music on the national scene! It was lovely to welcome Sir Steven Timms to school in June. He had asked to come to school to help us to celebrate and see the range of music on offer at Nelson. He said:

"This is a superb achievement, .... Children at Nelson will benefit throughout their lives from the musical experiences they have enjoyed at their primary school, and they will remember them throughout their lives too. Those experiences will be invaluable whatever they choose to do for study and work in the future."

Being named the **country's most outstanding school music department** is a fantastic achievement that recognises the commitment and passion of all our staff, but also reflects the enthusiasm, hard work and desire to learn, that we see every day in all our pupils. We are absolutely thrilled, and look forward to building on this success, helping our children achieve their musical ambitions in the months and years ahead.



## DOWNSHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL



Downshall is a nurturing school. Like our colleagues in the New Vision Trust we do all that we can to ensure our children learn and thrive. We achieve this in two ways. Firstly, through our implementation of weekly Personal, Social and Health Education [PSHE] to all children from Nursery to Year 6. Our PSHE curriculum is based on the Jigsaw award winning scheme and we are a flag ship school for Jigsaw. The 2017 Meta study by Professor Doyle confirmed the impact of high quality PSHE.

One of the components of our curriculum is the teaching of mindfulness. This is known as calm me time to our pupils and they practise it in lessons but use and apply it to enable them to master challenging and stressful situations. Here is a pupil quote about our PSHE curriculum:

“I used calm me time to help me prepare for my SATs. It was good that I could quiet down the thoughts of worry and just remind myself I only had to think about one question at a time and not worry about everything that could go wrong.”

The second way we enable our pupils to really thrive is by offering pastoral support to those children experiencing emotional challenges. We have four trained Emotional Learning Support Assistants who are able to help our children navigate complex emotions. Here are some reflections of the children who have been supported by our pastoral team:

Eesa in Year 3 had a self-esteem intervention. Afterwards he shared: “I felt happy doing fun things. I felt good, I learnt new ways of getting along with my friends. I have got lots more friends now. When I have a problem, I can tell adults. I feel like I am learning more things now.”

Preeti who was new to the school in Year 5 : “Social skills group has made me feel happy when I’m at school and it has been boosting my self-esteem and confidence. Before I joined social skills, I was very shy and felt scared to talk or play with others. After I joined social skills group I felt like that fear melted away.”

The following is a quote from one of our parents whose child received support from the pastoral team:

“As a parent my child who is in year 5 received Pastoral support for her emotional wellbeing. I felt that the Pastoral support focused on nurturing my child’s individual needs and provided appropriate support and Intervention for my child. There was good communication between school staff, pupil and parent. My child felt confident to feed back to me about her Pastoral sessions. I am very happy with the inventions the school provided, and I feel I can approach the Pastoral Team at any time as a parent.”



## NEW VISION TRUST POETRY RETREAT 23 TUESDAY 23RD - FRIDAY 26TH MAY 2023



Children from Year 5 across the five schools of the trust joined together for our utterly unique residential Poetry Retreat, in the beauty of the New Forest. We were blessed with perfect sunshine, and spent four days gallivanting over hills, wandering across streams and writing in the dappled light of the trees.

It was great to have Downshall Primary joined us for the first time, and all five groups quickly merged together - friendships were formed, stories were shared and games were played, bringing the New Vision Trust together for this visit.

Tuesday and Wednesday were focused on outdoor writing, using the pedagogical approach that draws upon the strengths of Writing for Pleasure as well as the principles of 'social pedagogy'. The relationships we built, and the conversations we had as we explored, were not incidental - in this approach, our simple conversations formed the foundations of our writing.

Adisa and I continue to change and adapt the project each year, blending the academic development of 'writerliness' with the equally valuable social learning and pastoral support. From my perspective as the visit leader, this has been the strength of the project: over time it has developed a subtlety, through which children come to see writing itself as a form of play, self-expression and even self-care.

The Summer Poetry Retreat works well as a follow-on to the trust-wide Year 5 Iliad Projects I run in Autumn/Spring. I feel truly privileged to work with all 500 Year 5 kids in the New Vision Trust each year, and the Poetry Retreat enables each school to think deeply about which children would benefit most from taking part. The kids this year were phenomenal - funny, wise, aware and upbeat.

Teachers from all five schools each contributed so much and ran workshops. Each teacher provided so much care, patience, enthusiasm and nurture: I think this is why the children thrived so much, despite several of them having had quite profound pre-trip jitters and anxieties.

I am proud of all thirty children who took part this year, many of whom face significant challenges and hurdles in their lives in and out of school. And I felt humbled to have had the chance to work alongside Adisa, Lisa, Habsa, Rob, Rezwana and Anna, who each have so much to offer. Roll on 2024!

JONNY WALKER

## PEN PORTRAITS 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.



### **JANE LUCAS - TRUSTEE**

Jane Lucas has been a trustee of the New Vision Board since its formation in 2018, a role she immensely enjoys. Jane's career as a teacher has enabled her to take a strategic approach to her role as Trustee and she is always insightful with her thoughts and feedback.

She has a long standing relationship with Gallions Primary, where she worked from 2004 until 2016 as a Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher. Jane's love for Gallions has continued and she now supports its progress through her role as Chair of Governors. As a Governor Jane is very supportive, she has a good understanding of Newham and its community and is passionate about supporting Gallions pupils becoming lifelong learners. Jane's creative talents have supported Gallions drive for excellence in the creative arts and she is a huge supporter of our commitment to teaching all pupils a string instrument.



### **MARJORIE BROWNE - TRUSTEE**

Marjorie Browne had been a School Governor, a Local Authority Governor and is currently Chair of Governors at Elmhurst Primary school. She is proud to be a long-standing member of the governing body.

Marjorie has always been passionate about helping young people and children. Marjorie is the Gifted and Talented link governor and regularly attends the Shakespeare in school events.

Marjorie has been a trustee of New Vision Trust since it was formed in 2018 and has embraced her role in helping children reach their potential.



### **NICOLE ABBOTT - TRUSTEE**

Nicole Abbott went to St. Michael's Primary School, St. Angela's Ursuline School and then St. Angela's and St. Bonaventure's Sixth Form. She studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford University, followed by a law conversion course and law and business masters.

After working in the City as a banking lawyer for seven years, she recently left to be an in-house lawyer at the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

Nicole has been a governor of Nelson since 2018 and joined the board of trustees of the New Vision Trust in December 2021.