

The magazine of Creative Education Trust schools

Issue no.28 March 2022

Connected



Changing their world

Year 5 share their extraordinary ideas for the future

Across the Trust

Training, conferences,
working groups and forums

Knowledge Connected Reps

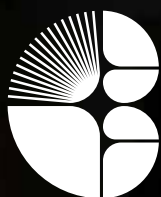
How Wrenn's student team
are championing the Key
Concepts

Creative Educated

Our alumni network meet
to discuss how they can
give back

Plus

National Careers Week,
Alumni in the Spotlight,
Humanutopia, Student & Staff
commendations and more



Across the Trust



Daisy Christodoulou
speaks to Trust
senior leaders

One of the benefits of belonging to a Trust is, undoubtedly, the opportunity to share our expertise and collaborate with colleagues with a wider range of experience than our own. With in-person forums becoming possible once more, we report on four such events in the spring term.

CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT

Luke Bowers, Director of Performance



On 1 and 2 March 2022, we held the inaugural secondary Curriculum and Assessment Conference for senior leaders across the Creative Education Trust family at Staverton Park Hotel, Daventry. All of our secondary schools were represented, and as part of our continuing professional

development (CPD) outreach programme we also welcomed colleagues from other schools around the country. A number of key topics were discussed including:

- Diversity within the curriculum
- Getting the balance right between formative and summative assessment
- Effective use of data and insights
- Curriculum quality assurance
- Disciplinary literacy
- Senior leaders' views from recent Ofsted inspections
- How to have effective conversations between middle and senior leaders regarding curriculum delivery
- Improving outcomes for pupils and developing an effective culture in this area

We were joined on the two days by some high-quality external speakers such as Daisy Christodoulou (No More Marking), John Tomsett (school leadership consultant) and Catharine Driver (National Literacy Trust), as well as Head Office presenters Luke Bowers (Director of Performance), Jason Howard (Director of Quality Assurance) and Nimish Lad (Curriculum and Research Lead). We were delighted to hear from Dave Fugill (Ellis Guilford) and Laura Parker (Wrenn) regarding their recent inspection outcomes.

We look forward to welcoming Trust colleagues to future events.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING

Gwayne Webb, Director of Learning and Teaching



In January 2022, we hosted our first-ever Trust-wide Working Forum for leaders of professional development and learning at the Milton Keynes Academy. Delegates benefitted from the expertise and experience of Abby Bayford, the Director of Institute of the Academy Transformation Trust, and Expert Advisor for the Teacher Development Trust, who delivered a session on the value of research. Sarah Cottingham, Associate Dean of Learning Design at Ambition Institute, delivered a keynote address on the Education Endowment Foundation's professional development report and the mechanisms behind it.

The goal of this two-day event was to further develop our collective transition away from the often top-down 'management of performance' in its limiting sense towards the enhancement of the performance of teachers and leaders by developing an ongoing, more continuous cycle of professional learning, rooted in research and access to best practice. Leaders across phases from all our schools were able to engage with each other to agree a 'career conversations' pilot initiative, scheduled for the summer term, and to support career pathways and progression for educationalists at all levels across Creative Education Trust. Pilot participants will gather again at the end of March '22 to further develop this innovative work. We were also able to begin the foundation design of an aligned performance objective-setting process to support performance improvement for the next academic year. The follow-up Working Forum will be held at the end of April '22.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY

Jason Howard, Director of Quality Assurance

The Trust's special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and behaviour leads met at Ellis Guilford on 7 March 2022 for the second SEND Conference of the 2021–22 academic year. Andrea Atkinson, one of the UK's foremost inclusion experts, encouraged delegates to think about all the information different school leaders have about pupils with SEND, and how to share it so that pupils' needs are understood and met. She reminded us that, often, information in schools 'sits in silos', or within countless emails that busy teachers struggle to access in a timely manner. We discussed the best ways to regularly update and share pupil-level information with colleagues, without overwhelming them. Andrea facilitated a productive discussion about 'quality-first teaching' approaches that work within the classroom, and stressed the fundamental importance of both positive relationships, and providing pupils with SEND with adaptations and support to enable them, wherever possible, to access the same challenging curriculum goals as others. We reflected that the culture set by senior leaders is crucial here – the everyday insistence that we must, will, and can meet the needs of every single pupil at school.

We were also reminded that although CPD is important, it's no substitute for every pupil having an advocate who knows them well – and for every teacher knowing what will work best to promote the learning of every individual. All pupils with, for example, autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are of course unique, so knowing our pupils as individuals is crucial. Andrea stressed that using this knowledge to ensure that quality-first teaching enables all, constitutes the most important, and ongoing, 'reasonable adjustment' for pupils with SEND.



Colleagues also discussed scenarios relating to pupils whose attendance, behaviour or both can prove particularly challenging to manage. A common refrain was "we've tried everything for pupil X and aren't sure what else we can do". The determination of colleagues to do everything possible to remove boundaries to learning was highly evident during these discussions. Discussion about what leaders should include within behaviour and provision, as well as pupil-by-pupil chronologies, was also really helpful. Getting these right aids leaders in reviewing provision, checking that 'reasonable adjustments' have been made, and ensuring that governors and others have a clear 'line of sight' when decisions around exclusion have to be made. With Andrea sharing a number of highly useful templates and resources to help colleagues with their day-to-day work, we left feeling better equipped to provide the support each pupil needs.



HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS

Louis Donald, Director of Safeguarding



On 4 March 2022, Creative Education Trust hosted its first face-to-face Safeguarding event, bringing leaders from across Creative Education Trust together to hear nationally recognised speakers such as

Catherine Kirk and Jason Tait speak about Harmful Sexual Behaviours (HSB), the RSHE Curriculum and capturing pupil's voices.

It was also an opportunity to share some of the fantastic work across the Trust to tackle harmful sexual behaviours and give our pupils a platform to speak out and influence societal change.

Helen Seath, Vice Principal at Caister Academy, shared the work of Caister in establishing student focus groups to discuss how curriculum and policy are shaped.

The day concluded with a group of brave young women from Bulwell, Thistley Hough, and Milton Keynes sharing their own lived experiences of online harassment and challenging leaders by asking, 'what are you going to do with what you have learnt?'

The Ofsted Report into Sexual Abuse in schools told us that we need to do more in this area. Leaders from across our Trust have listened and responded. Hearing their work to create change-makers in their school was inspirational.

This was a fantastic event, bringing together leaders who are leading innovative projects within their academies. The HSB Conference was the first of many face-to-face safeguarding events. We are only just getting started...

WORLD-CHANGING IDEAS!

On 23 March 2022, 15 teams across our 5 primaries gathered at the Milton Keynes Academy for one of the highlights of the Creative Education Trust annual calendar – the Day of Change. This was our fourth competition in collaboration with **8billionideas**, with our last competition taking place in 2019. Everyone was excited to be back together in person again!

Since their launch events in January, pupils across our primaries have been busy developing world changing ideas. The competition took them through different stages, from identifying problems they want to solve, generating ideas and potential products to address these issues, and creating a prototype for their proposed solution. All finalists were invited to showcase their ideas at the event final, where they hosted a stall with their posters and prototypes (constructed from a cardboard box) and delivered a presentation on their project.

The range of proposals provided a fantastic insight into the concerns of year 5, with ideas including an app to promote relaxation and good sleep, underwater drones to protect sea creatures from litter, anti-misting glasses, fitness pedals to generate electricity in classrooms and encourage exercise, and holograms to ensure students can have good attendance when they can't make it to school.

As part of the day pupils heard from inspiring speakers, including Gordon Farquhar, Principal of Milton

Keynes Academy, representatives from 8billionideas, and our guest speaker Nade Ward – Caister alum and co-founder of Socker Share. You can read all about Nade's world-changing idea in this edition's Alumni in the Spotlight feature. Nade shared key lessons with our year 5 students, including to always ask questions, to seek solutions to problems, to reach out to others, and to always believe in yourself.

Congratulations to all the finalists, and to the winning team from Woodlands for their O2 rocket, which ensures space travel is environmentally friendly by converting water into rocket fuel. Thank you to all our judges for this year's competition - Nade Ward, founder of Socker Share, Gwayne Webb, Director of Learning and Teaching, Kate Ward, Head of Programmes, Gordon Farquhar, Principal of The Milton Keynes Academy and Jo Oakley from 8billionideas. Our judges were impressed by the quality of the research carried out by pupils, and by the hard work put in by all our finalists. It's clear that our pupils have what it takes to make a positive change on the world, and we can't wait to see where it takes them.

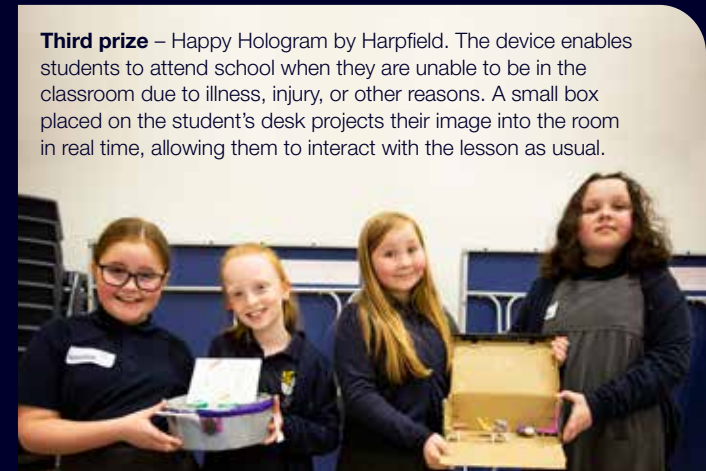
First prize – The O2 rocket, by Woodlands. The O2 rocket is carbon natural, converting water to rocket fuel to ensure space travel is environmentally friendly.



Best Stall – Healthy Eat by Queen Eleanor. The healthy eating app helps you to change your diet and lifestyle, with supportive coaches and rewards built in.



Second prize – iFridge by Wroughton. The smart fridge lets you know when your food is out of date, and which ingredients you need for different recipes.



Third prize – Happy Hologram by Harpfield. The device enables students to attend school when they are unable to be in the classroom due to illness, injury, or other reasons. A small box placed on the student's desk projects their image into the room in real time, allowing them to interact with the lesson as usual.



Best Prototype – Robodog by Wroughton, a medical bot that monitors your health and the environment to protect the user from illness and accidents. It has a built-in defibrillator and can call emergency services when in need.



Best Poster – Sleeping Beauty by Woodlands, for their device and app to support healthy sleep, allowing you to set goals, choose relaxing sounds, and use a variety of scented facemasks to aid rest.



ALUMNI IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In this issue of Connected, we feature Caister alum **Nade Ward**'s experience as a writer, football coach and co-founder of Socker Share.

After leaving Caister in 2015, Nade went on to complete an apprenticeship in fitness and exercise before becoming a personal trainer and football coach. As an apprentice, he worked in the sports department at Great Yarmouth College (now East Coast College), which helped him to develop professional skills early on: "There are some careers you need to go to university for, but sometimes it's better to gain experience straight away." Passionate about coaching, Nade wanted to continue this as a career. Aged 18, he travelled to Greece and the Maldives, coaching football in five-star holiday resorts. However, it was his time volunteering that inspired an unexpected path.

"I was lucky to discover the power of volunteering really quickly... It'll also do wonders for you as a person and your CV, so it's a win-win for everyone."

During a volunteering project in St Lucia with United Through Sport, a challenge came to Nade's attention. He noticed that many children were playing football in bare feet, with donated football boots remaining unused. He found out that this was due to a lack of socks – they couldn't wear the boots safely without a pair of socks! Coming home, Nade thought about what he could do. Speaking with his cousin, who has a background in online retail, he learnt about the different stages needed to set up a business and together they co-founded Socker Share in 2020. Every purchase of socks on their site is matched with a donation of socks to St Lucia, Mauritius, or South Africa. Socker Share are partnered with United Through Sport, who have worked in these countries and built up the relationships over many years.

Nade reflects on what he's learnt since starting his own business in October 2020. "I learn every single day, which makes it so exciting. I'm a marketer, content creator, accountant, and more!" His experience has meant using skills from school, whether it's maths for tax returns, or English for content creation. "I love to write and tell stories, which has stayed with me now as I also write for a lifestyle magazine and a brand called FC Not Alone", a platform which uses the power of football to improve mental health.

Nade really enjoyed his time at school. He saw his initial years as a chance to have fun and make everyone laugh, but he discovered that he wasn't where he wanted to be academically. He really focused during his GCSE years and went on to meet his target grades and received the Principal's Prize for his grades and personal development. "I've continued all the things I enjoyed about school, whether in a paid or voluntary capacity."

Nade encourages current students to take every opportunity they can, and to consider what they really want to do. "Have a look at people who are in the jobs you're considering and ask about their journey." Nade recommends volunteering as a great way to gain experience. "I was lucky to discover the power of volunteering really quickly. It's your opportunity to trial different industries out. It'll also do wonders for you as a person and your CV, so it's a win-win for everyone."

Thinking about his personal highlights since leaving school, Nade talked about Socker Share and how "anything you do that has real meaning and purpose is what you can be most proud of. I'm also proud of being part of youth football in four different countries. Sport is like an international language which you can take anywhere."



Ben Francoise,
Abbeyfield alum
and founder of
Saints Coffee

On 28 February 2022, alumni across Creative Education Trust met for the second time, welcoming more new faces to the network. The group has opted for termly meetings, with opportunities for professional development, to meet other alumni, and to provide support as role models for pupils.

Creative Educated

Through the Creative Education Trust network meetings, alumni hear from a guest speaker through an exclusive Q&A session, before having opportunities to discuss next steps with the network. In our latest event, we heard from Ben Francoise, Abbeyfield alum and founder of Saints Coffee, who we interviewed in a previous issue of *Connected*. Attendees asked a range of brilliant questions, including “How do you build credibility in certain spaces to create positive change?”, “What’s your ‘why’ for what you do?”, and “Does running projects as a business rather than a charity help with the sustainability of your work?” Ben’s advice for alumni included to “try not to race against peers who started at different places to you. Keep ploughing along and do things at your own pace” and, for those looking to have a social impact, “It can be helpful to think in terms of individuals. Start by having a positive impact on just one person. Narrow the scope, start small, and grow from there.”

Following the Q&A, alumni shared ideas for the format of the network, how to reach more alumni, and what they’d like to see in future meetings. Alumni also discussed what they wished they’d learnt whilst still in school – contributing ideas ahead of the first working group meeting for a Creative Education Trust employability programme. Suggestions included sessions reflecting on interests and building ambitions; learning how to build their CV, for example, through volunteering; developing life skills such as financial literacy; learning about the different career routes available, that it’s OK to not know what to do; and understanding that it’s OK to do something different to your family and wider community.

We look forward to seeing our alumni at our next meeting in June 2022. If you’re interested in getting involved in the network in the meantime, please email alumni@creativeeducationtrust.org.uk. You can also register for your former school’s alumni platform on the [Future First hub](#) where you can stay in touch with staff and alumni and hear about upcoming events and workshops.

Humanutopia Confidence to be Heard

Creative Education Trust schools have recently been opening their doors to *humanutopia*, providers of motivational courses for young people. Year 6 and year 11 are the first years in the Trust to get a taste of the programme.

‘The Big Jump’ is a day of activity for year 6, which aims to get pupils excited about their hopes and dreams and not to be afraid to try new things – invaluable attributes for the sometimes-daunting move up to secondary school. It’s all about empowerment and providing a positive experience to help support a smooth transition.

But it’s not just about looking forward, it’s also about looking back at the experiences they’ve shared together. One year 6 pupil from Harpfield reflected that the day helped them “realise that we haven’t got that much time left together as a class and we need to make the most of the time that we do have.”

For year 11, a day titled ‘The Final Push’ aims to help relieve some of the pressure students can feel as they near the end

of their secondary school journey. Encouraging them to express and then rationalise their fears and worries, students are supported to reassess their priorities, setting new and achievable goals.

With the first part of the day focused on considering their own feelings, confronting self-esteem issues, and openly discussing how others have made them feel, it’s easy to imagine a room full of silent teenagers looking downwards. But this is not the case. Students are being empowered to stand up and speak for themselves.

Caleb, year 11 at Lynn Grove, was encouraged to step out of his comfort zone and stand up to talk about his feelings, without worrying about others’ opinions: “A lot of people wouldn’t stand up because none of their friends were, so they [humanutopia’s facilitators] split us up so those people wouldn’t be held back by not wanting to be the first person [to stand up]. The experience encouraged me to be more confident.”

Creating a safe environment where confidence can flourish is paramount to the success of the day, and confidence is exemplified by humanutopia’s team of facilitators, many of whom are former participants of the programme. It’s a personal journey, and they know the power of speaking out and being listened to.

“It made me feel more confident to do the things that I want to do instead of thinking about what others might think about me.”

Year 6 pupil, Harpfield

Learning from Experience

Ahead of National Careers Week (7–12 March 2022) the Programmes team launched a new 'Key Concepts and Careers' page, helping students to connect their classroom learning with the world of work, and to develop the skills for whatever pathway they choose after school.

The page features nine of Creative Education Trust's Key Concept ambassadors, including a beatboxer who founded a social enterprise, an engineer, a sculptor who makes art that moves, a pharmacist, and a campaigns and communications officer for the UN Refugee Agency.

Alongside each of the films, a range of activities have been developed in collaboration with our ambassadors. For example, after learning about the importance of human connection in the workplace from Liz Edwards, former Head of Strategic Relationships at KPMG, students can practise an interview question on teamwork, carry out an exercise on levels of listening, or hold a group debate through a Harkness discussion

“Draw lots. Draw in 2D. Draw in 3D. Draw on paper. Draw on the screen. Draw on misted up windows. Explore ideas in drawings.”

Jonathan Rabagliati,
Computational designer



– an open conversation with minimal teacher intervention. Following a film from Simon Smart, lead pharmacist at Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust, students can investigate why a medicine isn't working properly for a patient with a lung infection. Meanwhile, after hearing from Dan Vo, founder of the award-winning LGBTQ+ Tours of the V&A, students are invited to complete a gallery labelling exercise, writing descriptions for objects in an exhibition.

Each of the Key Concepts – Structure, Pattern, Meaning, Performance, Human Interaction, and Practice – are embedded into the curriculum as skills transferable to work and employment. Although our Key Concept and Careers resources were launched for National Careers Week, we hope they continue to be useful for Knowledge Connected days in schools and as a resource in lessons and tutor time.

Ahead of National Careers Week, we've been in touch with our professional ambassadors and alumni to hear their recommendations for current pupils. Advice has included learning about the power of volunteering to gain experience, that it's helpful to try different roles before deciding what works for you, and of the importance of researching the variety of routes available, such as apprenticeships, work experience, or further education.

A key message is that you don't have to have it all figured out – many of our ambassadors hadn't heard of the job they were currently doing when they were still at school!

If you'd like to hear from Creative Education Trust ambassadors or alumni through talks or workshops, please get in touch with the Programmes team.



“Put your phone away. Step away from the screen. Focus on the quality of your human interaction.”

Liz Edwards
Former Head of Strategic Relationships, KPMG



“Try and meet as many people as you can who have different kinds of jobs. Try and figure out what they did to learn the skills that they needed to be able to do their jobs. What did they spend time doing? What did they learn? What did they read? Then do the same for yourself.”

Amira Aleem, Campaigns and communications officer,
UN Refugee Agency



“There's always room for improvement. The key here is practice.”

Danny Ladwa,
Beatboxer and social enterprise founder

“For anyone interested in pharmacy, I'd recommend getting some practical experience, be that at a GP surgery, a community pharmacy, hospital, or maybe even a drug company.”

Simon Smart, Lead pharmacist,
Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust



“I encourage you to stay creative and curious, be interested in the world around you.”

Emily McDonald, Engineer



“You don't need lots of equipment to do your own projects. You could use wood, wire, or even card. Just by trying things out and fixing them together you can make things move.”

Jim Bond, Kinetic sculptor

Successes and special commendations

Students,



To the U11 girls at **Woodlands**, who won the Norwich City Schools Cup and will now represent Norwich City FC in the National Finals in May.



To the students at **Weavers** who welcomed Apprentice contestant Francesca Kennedy Wallbank to the school. Francesca inspired Weavers' next generation of entrepreneurs, and was excited to learn about the school's 'Our Town' project and its focus on green initiatives as she had started her own company which sells sustainable, flat, reusable, and BPA-free water bottles.



To the Girls Futsal team at **Bulwell**, for winning the Nottingham indoor Futsal tournament.

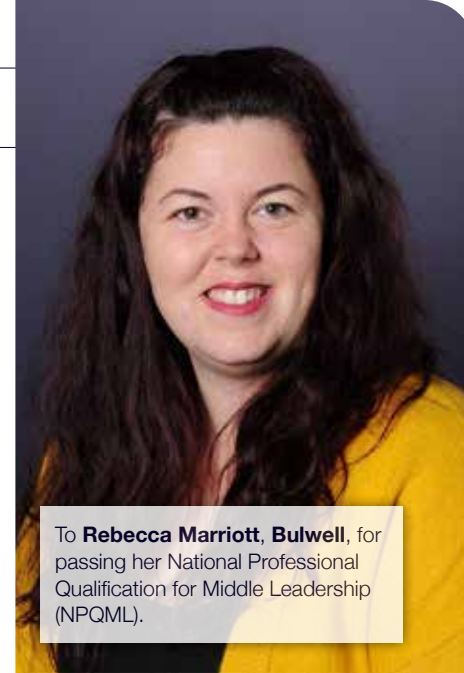
To the students at **Milton Keynes** who planted 70 trees for the Milton Keynes community.



To **Dylan Bryan at Thistley Hough**, for recently passing the Chartered Teaching course and for being promoted to Assistant Director of Maths.



To **Jayden and Brandon at Ash Green** for being accepted on the Target Oxbridge Year 10 programme, run by Trinity and St Catherine's Colleges at Oxford and Cambridge.



To **Rebecca Marriott, Bulwell**, for passing her National Professional Qualification for Middle Leadership (NPQML).



To **Tia**, year 8 at **Hart**, for her achievements in dance with the Ellise Locke Dance Company. Tia and her team were shortlisted from 3,000 entries across England to participate in a Dance World Qualifier, and will be representing Team England at the Dance World Cup in June 2022.



To **Hannes and Corbyn**, year 9 at **Lynn Grove**, who represented Norfolk in a county football match against Suffolk and won 5-3. They have now qualified to play Kent in the regional semi-finals.

Inspirational "girl talk" on the impact of social media on self-esteem



with international model, Lucy Gascoyne

To the girls in years 9–13 at **Bulwell**, for all the ideas generated following a talk with international model Lucy Gascoyne, focused on the impact of social media on self-esteem.



To the year 11 students at **Milton Keynes** for their excellent collaboration with students at Walton High as part of Brunel University's Urban Scholars programme. Students developed their teamwork and problem-solving skills as they worked on a CSI investigation – looking at evidence such as DNA, images, and blood samples.



To **Elisha and Aran** in year 5 at **Harfield** for attending their first training event as Shakespeare ambassadors for their school. They will work alongside the school leaders to run the Royal Shakespeare Company programme.

Successes and special commendations ...and staff



To **Aaron**, year 10, and **Alfie**, year 8, at **Ash Green**, for being awarded a year-long scholarship with Boxing Clever Academy after successfully completing their interviews.



To **Kate Lapper**, **Ash Green**, who has received offers from the University of Manchester and the University of Sheffield to study Speech and Language.



To the **Ash Green** students who were nominated by staff to receive a book token from the school's brand-new vending machine for a variety of reasons, including their reading speed, reading over 5 million words and developing their literacy and comprehension.



To **Lily Roett**, **Ash Green**, who has received an offer from the University of Cambridge to study Natural Sciences.



To **Natasha Bonner**, **Wrenn**, for going above and beyond for her students every day and for her role in creating an exciting World Book Week. Natasha is passionate about reading, literacy, and making the library a special place for students.



To **Orla Karibwami**, **Ash Green**, who has received an offer from the University of Liverpool to study Law.



To **Robyn Green**, **Ash Green**, who has received an offer from the University of Nottingham to study Modern Languages and from the University of York to study French and German Language.

To the newly trained team at **Weavers** who recently passed their Mental Health First Aid training with flying colours.



To the sixth form ambassadors at **Bulwell**, for always being ready to volunteer – 'working' the stationary stand to provide equipment to younger students, helping the PE team, and developing their leadership skills by delivering lessons.



To **Ben**, **Pippa**, and **Sophie**, year 10 at **Weavers**, who will be attending their spring residential at Somerville College, Oxford, as part of the University programme. They'll have the opportunity to access revision sessions, learn from world-class academics, and try a range of activities, from punting to visiting museums!



To **William**, year 5 at **Three Peaks**, for setting up his own volunteer litter-picking group on his estate after spotting bags of rubbish collected by volunteer groups. William is now helping the school set up their own litter group.



To **Sophie**, year 8 at **Hart**, for taking part in the Young Stars Ice Skating Competition in Sheffield as a level 2 skater. Due to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, this was Sophie's first time competing in two-and-a-half years, but she was successful in keeping her physical fitness up and achieving a new personal best!



To **Adam**, site technician at **Hart**, for recently achieving the industry-recognised IOSH Working Safely Certification.

Days of play

Over 100 pupils from nine of our secondary schools met at Wrenn for their first two of three Instrumental Days of Play. With beginners sitting next to more experienced players, the activity is a crash course in learning to play in an orchestra. Students learn to follow a conductor, listen to those around them, and experience performing music in a way that few will have done previously.

The first notes of an orchestral arrangement of 'Havana' by Camila Cabello may have been tentative but, by the end of the day, the increase in confidence and competence was clear. One more day follows for our formative cross-Trust orchestra. We expect tuneful things!

To **Jess Checkley**, year 9 at **Wrenn**, for her wonderful poem 'Just one word' which encapsulates the Wrenn ethos.

Just one word.

Just one word can fill you with delight,
Just one word can make someone's night.
Just one word can bring hope back,
Just one word can revive what they lack.
Just one word.
Just one word can ruin a day,
Just one word is needed to say.
Just one word can fill you with rage,
Just one word is needed to unlock the cage.
Just one word can cause panic,
Just one word could be manic.
Just one word.
Just one word could cause them pain,
Just one word could hurt their brain.
Just one word could cause a big hit,
just one word, yet they still do it.
Just one message, big egos can make you blind,
Just one word, choose Wrenn, choose kind

Farewell

In this issue we pay tribute to **Emily Campbell**, who left her post as Director of Programmes earlier this year.

A founding member of the executive, Emily joined Creative Education Trust in 2011. Working in collaboration with teachers from the first schools of the Trust to develop and implement the innovative Design Programme, it was Emily who proposed that the consideration of 'six Key Concepts' was vital to the success of any creative endeavour. The six Key Concepts were developed into Knowledge Connected, our flagship programme to support students in linking their knowledge across subject boundaries.

Emily is the author of Creative Education Trust's two commercially available packs of activities, published by Princeton Architectural Press. *A Few Minutes of Design* and *The Writing Deck* offer exercises which break down the sometimes-daunting task of design or writing into small, doable activities. Staff and students may recognise some of these in the activities distributed for World Book Day.



Always looking to broaden the horizons of our students and engage them in rare opportunities, Emily led the charge on many of our annual competitions and performances. The Sixth-form Public Speaking and Essay Prizes remain a highlight of our cross-Trust calendar, as does the Primary Poetry Competition, the Days of Shakespeare, and Day of Change (see pages 4–5).

As the founding editor of *Connected*, with the first issue published back in 2014, Emily encouraged sharing news and celebrating achievements between Creative Education Trust schools.

We thank Emily for her dedication to Creative Education Trust and wish her well in her future endeavours.



Wrenn Reps

Pictured from left to right: **Diana Meshcheriakova, Bartosz Gorecki, Alexandre Georgescu, Chamia Poleon-Henry**



In this issue of *Connected*, we hear from Wrenn's Knowledge Connected reps. Wrenn is the first of our secondaries to offer a reps programme, where year 8 students are key to the running of the day. Nominated by their teachers for outstanding work in the year 7 Knowledge Connected days, here's what they have to say about their role.

What does your role involve, and what are your typical tasks on a Knowledge Connected day?

"We go around to ask what students have done. We help with the activities, take pictures to document the day, and hand out reward points. We're also good role models because we did it before and we had a good idea about what they needed to do."

What do you enjoy most about the days?

"I got 16,000 steps in!"

"It's something unique and different from our normal timetabled lessons."

"It's nice to see the younger year group and have an input on their education."

Is there a particular Key Concept you most identify with? If so, why?

"Pattern – my daily routines mean a lot to me and it was interesting seeing how that fits under 'pattern'."

Going forward, the reps will have specific roles on the Key Concept days, including the roles of photographer, journalist, teacher support, and leads for the reward system. We look forward to hearing more from the reps in future issues of *Connected*!



Our reps capture images of the year 7 Pattern activities, which include explaining the reasons for patterns in the world around us, using mathematical rules to create decorative surface patterns and creating infographics to represent their lives and experience.



Up and coming

We have lots of exciting cross-Trust events and opportunities coming up over the summer, including:

12 May

Instrumental Day of Play

The third meet-up of our cross-Trust secondary school orchestra

9–13 May

Year 7 Meaning week

Knowledge Connected activities across all secondary schools

16–20 May

Year 8 Human Interaction week

Knowledge Connected activities across all secondary schools

20 June

Alumni Network meeting

The third meeting of our cross-Trust network: open to all past students of Creative Education Trust schools

24 June

Primary Day of Poetry

The final of the cross-Trust primary school poetry prize

30 June

Cross-Trust Science Prize

A day of STEM for Year 9 students at the National Space Centre

4–8 July

Year 7 Performance week

Knowledge Connected activities across all secondary schools

8 July

Songfest '22

Performance of the cross-Trust secondary choir and Singing Ambassadors.

13 July

Cross-Trust Debate Final

Year 9 students from eight of our schools compete in our first cross-Trust debating competition

The editorial panel for *Connected* – comprising representatives from the primary and secondary schools and Head Office teams – meets every half term to plan the contents of the next issue. We're delighted to offer a guest spot at each half-termly meeting to any colleague who would like to be involved in shaping the editorial content of the staff magazine.

If you would like to join us, please contact connected@creativeeducationtrust.org.uk

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Front cover image:

The winning team of the 2022 Day of Change; Woodlands and the 02 Rocket. The rocket is carbon-neutral to ensure space travel is environmentally friendly.

Photograph by
James Robinson

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