

The magazine of Creative Education Trust schools Issue no.4 December 2015

Connected

Double Day of Sports

Rugby, dodgeball, cheerleading and more

Knowledge Connected

29 cross-Trust events
9 best practice case studies
6 concepts for personal
development and connecting
the curriculum

CET Young Photographer

This year's winners

Motion Settings

Creative motion engineering



Strength in numbers



With the vision of Knowledge Connected providing a focus and practical, creative challenge to all the schools in the Trust, and the annual list of cross-Trust events now pushing 30, we have turned a corner in collaboration and communication.

There is a palpable feeling that member schools feel the benefit of belonging to a larger organisation as something realised rather than imagined. We are printing the full list of cross-Trust events opposite as testimony to how much and how frequently we now share.

The annual staff awayday in July produced plenty of food for thought about how to connect our knowledge (please see www.youtube.com/creedacad/knowledgeconnected). In this issue you can read about the case studies that were deliberated and the fruits of a creative workshop led by Francis Gilbert. We are also proud to publish the winning entries for the CET Young Photographer competition, and, as always, your news and special commendations.

Thanks to our Programme supporters Garfield Weston Foundation, the Conran Foundation, the Comino Foundation and Classics for All.

Emily Campbell
Director of Programmes



& CONGRATS

To our four sixth forms, where careful course selection and improved teaching has driven up A-level performance.

To our primary schools, with an average increase of 13% in the headline percentage measure of Level 4+ in reading, writing and maths.

To **Hagley Park, Caister, Lynn Grove** and **Abbeyfield** for their double-figure improvements in GCSE grades, and to **Thistley Hough** which continues a prominent upward trajectory in challenging circumstances and is the most improved school in Stoke-on-Trent.



HOT-A-TWEET

140 characters from the Chief Executive

We're delighted that Nick Gibb, Minister of State for Schools, included Ash Green in his recent visit to high-performing Coventry schools.

2015

8 September, Old Queen Street, London **Principals' and Headteachers' meeting**

11 September, Abbeyfield **Governors' training and development day**



25 September, Friends' House, London **Music teachers' meeting**



28 September, Three Peaks **Primary PE teachers' meeting**

5 October, Weavers **Secondary PE teachers' meeting**

20 October, Abbeyfield **Design Faculties' meeting**

20 October, Weavers **MFL teachers' meeting**



2-3 November, Somerset House, London **Creative Motion Engineering training**

6 November, Three Peaks **Primary Headteachers' meeting**

11 November, CET Sicilian Avenue **Secondary Principals' meeting**



25 November, Conway Hall, London **Sixth form public speaking competition final**

3 December, Ash Green **Day of Shakespeare (West)** Thistley Hough, Fair Oak, Hagley Park and Ash Green

4 December, Lynn Grove **Day of Shakespeare (East)** Abbeyfield, Weavers, Caister and Lynn Grove



2016

21 January, London **Principals' and Headteachers' meeting**

9 February, venue TBC **Design Faculties' meeting**

10 February, Rugeley Sixth Form **Heads of sixth form meeting**



15 March, venue TBC **Primary Headteachers' meeting**

15 March, CET Sicilian Avenue **Secondary Principals' meeting**

17 March, Abbeyfield **Year 7 Day of Performance: We'll Meet Again**

March, date and venue TBC **Teach First/NQTs cross-Trust event**

March, date and venue TBC **Teaching Leaders cross-Trust event**

11 May, CET Sicilian Avenue **Secondary Principals' meeting**



17 June, Design Museum, London **Design Faculties' meeting**

21 June, Weavers **Heads of sixth form meeting**

22 June, Woodlands **Primary Headteachers' meeting**

22-23 June, Woodlands **Primaries' overnight camp and sports day**

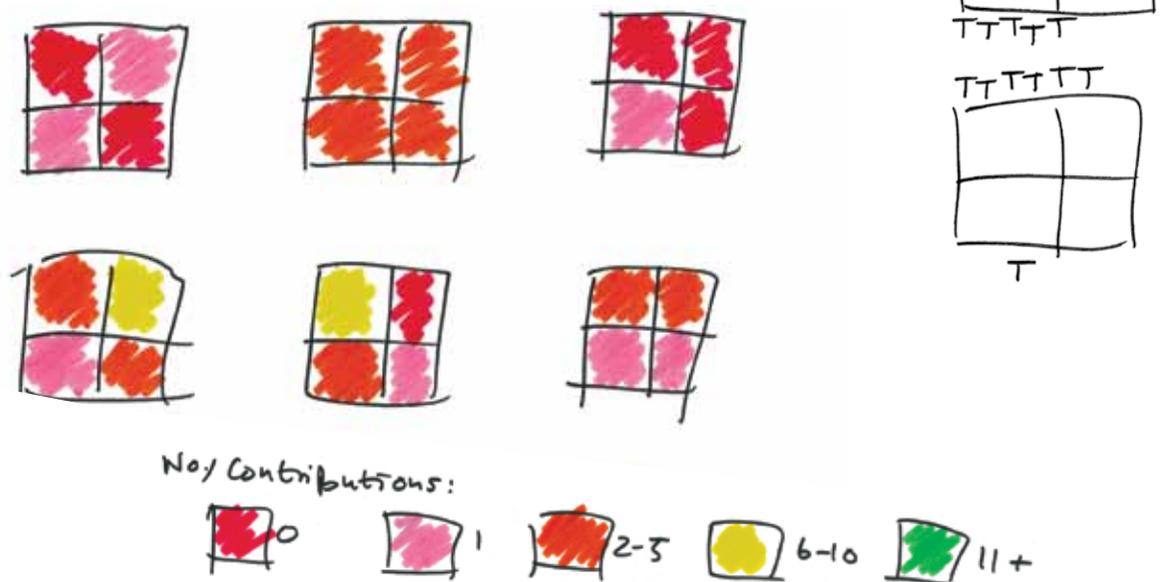
1 July, Loughborough Design Centre **Annual staff awayday**

7 July, Caister beach **Secondary Principals' meeting**

7-8 July, Caister Academy and beach **Secondaries' overnight stay and sports day**

Knowledge Connected:

A self-improving organisation



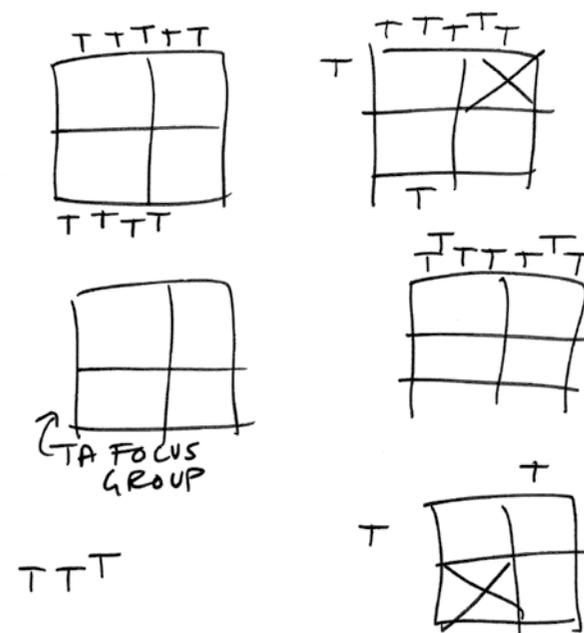
How can the Trust and its member schools continually improve? How do we know what good practice is? By looking at successful strategies from all quarters of school operations, could we establish criteria for what we identify and propagate as 'good practice' across the network? These were the questions posed to schools by Philip Cantwell, Director of Education, along with his invitation to each school to present something they believe they do well as a case study at the 1 July annual awayday.

Loughborough Design Centre's magnificent new auditorium was the setting for a rapid-fire series of presentations and eager debate which ran well into lunchtime so that everyone's thoughts could be heard.

The primaries focused squarely on teaching and learning. Harpfield presented a revised system for year group reviews to improve the consistency of judgements, yield clearer insights into the quality of teaching, and include pupils more. An enriched reading programme has put Woodlands ahead of the national figures for pupils attaining Level 4+ reading at Key Stage 2. Three Peaks have successfully used popular culture and a focus on pupils' interests to engage pupils in curriculum design. Queen Eleanor presented a suite of visualisations of the data inferred from lesson observations, ingeniously revealing the impact of classroom layout in addition to teaching style.

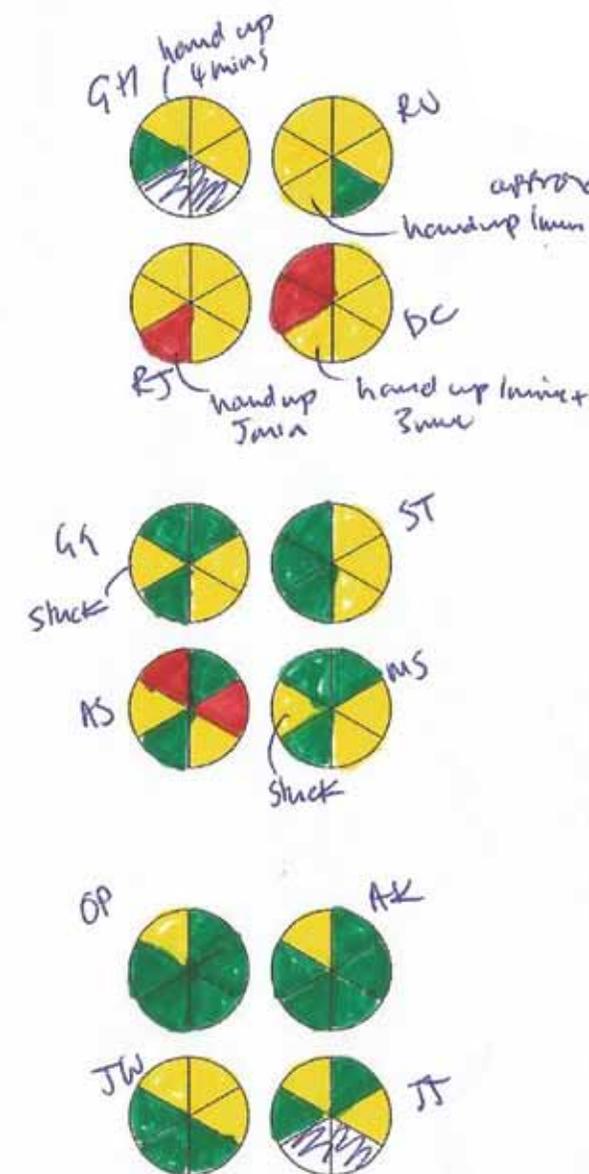
Five secondaries proffered new approaches to a range of pedagogical and pastoral issues. Weavers explained

Rapid-fire presentations and eager debate ran well into lunchtime so that everyone's thoughts could be heard.



the strategy behind their impressive attendance figures (significantly above the trend for the proportion of FSM students), particularly the explicit linking of attendance to future education, employment and training. Abbeyfield's quality assurance framework for teaching is a rigorous 360 degree analysis of a teacher's performance over an extended period. Lynn Grove history teachers have developed a new assessment structure to improve consistency and ensure timely, formative feedback to students. Ash Green's literacy programme uses the technical language of PE to give students practice in assessment and self-assessment, with key vocabulary and language skills that they can transfer to exams in other subjects. The inclusion team from Thistley Hough shared the principles and practices they follow in all of their inclusion work. Of particular interest were the processes followed when welcoming vulnerable students who have arrived from overseas directly into the academy.

Each presentation has been uploaded to the Knowledge Connected site as a shared resource.



Pupil participation and engagement, and teacher movement in lessons, observed and visualised by **Daniel Smith**, Deputy Headteacher of Queen Eleanor, who has now been invited to present this case study to Teach First graduates at Nottingham University.

Knowledge Connected: An educational vision for the curriculum

“Creativity is the ability to recognise or make new connections between the things we know.” So opens CET’s breakthrough animation by the graphic artist Paul Plowman, entitled *Knowledge Connected*. Thus defined, Einstein and Hawking are no less creative than Shakespeare and Bach; and it is not the arts alone that embrace creativity.

So how can students be helped to connect what they learn in different subjects; to be creative? CET’s answer is six simple and familiar but powerful concepts: structure, pattern, meaning, performance, human interaction and practice. A teacher has pointed out that, as educated people, “we were never taught these concepts explicitly, we just absorbed them and they were implicit in our success”. The Knowledge Connected project aims to discover what happens if we make the implicit, explicit. At its simplest, this would mean increasing the frequency with which these six words are used around school, but what else could we do?

Writer and teacher trainer Francis Gilbert led a workshop with a dozen teachers and senior school leaders to turn the six concepts into practical ideas for the classroom. Formerly an English teacher (author of *I’m a Teacher, Get Me Out of Here!* – a memoir of his NQT year, which was serialised on Radio 4) and a keen advocate of creative writing, Francis opened by asking three teams to write a poem about the six concepts.

have the most immediate traction: a science lesson in which the margins of physics, chemistry and biology are dissolved by the unifying concept of pattern; a study of the patterns in poetry from medieval courtly love to the modernist artefacts of Jacques Prévert; and patterns as an entrée to the key beliefs of Islam. The utility of the concepts was amply demonstrated; as one participant said, “we fell on them like a pack of wolves”.

The group turned its attention to how the concepts might be used to foster personal development and learning behaviour, in general life as distinct from academic knowledge. Francis invited participants to list under each concept the learning ‘misbehaviours’ they witness at large in school. Contributions under ‘structure’ ranged from ‘the quality and regularity of food’ to ‘ambiguity about who’s in charge’; under ‘meaning’ from ‘the meaning of success and failure to students’ to their ‘sources of meaning’ (including TV, film and social media); and so on through the six concepts to failures of ‘practice’ such as the inability to make conversation, fill in forms or ‘interact with people who are different to you’.

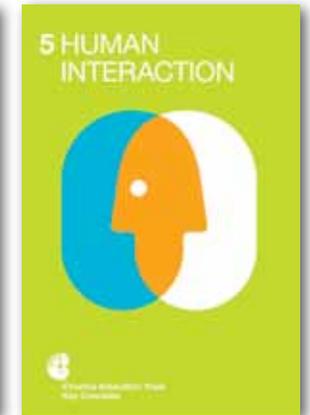
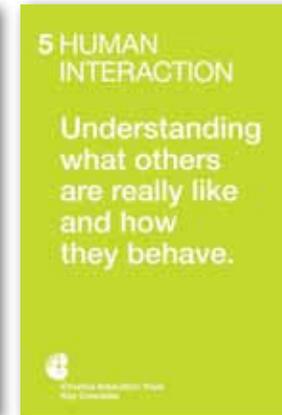
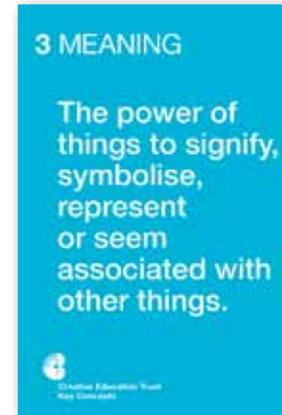
This fertile brainstorm yielded prompts for a starter bank of 15-minute tasks for tutor time and PHSE, which combine each of the concepts with an area of personal development, learning behaviour or ‘character’ such as resilience, employability, ethics or long-term thinking. Here is a sample task that yokes the concept of structure with ethics. It’s called ‘Who’s in Charge?’

Write a timeline of your regular school day, from when you wake up in the morning to when you go to sleep at night.

At every stage in the timeline, identify who’s ‘in charge’. That is, who are the people (whether you know them personally or not) who control or influence the structure of your day.

When are you in charge?

Next, asked to consider how the concepts might link to their subject – and link their subject to other domains of knowledge – teachers came up with fine propositions, with pattern and human interaction seeming to



A tabletop version of the ‘Rocks Game’ (summarised, right) substituting Liquorice Allsorts for the bucket of rocks, got all humans in the room interacting in a highly self-conscious fashion.

The six concepts have prompted a number of special projects: a Year 7 learning behaviour programme at Abbeyfield, devised around the six concepts; a pilot Year 9 cross-curricular subject-linkage programme for the most able students at Lynn Grove; the Rugeley Academies’ new Key Stage 3 Ethics programme, substantially tied to the concepts; a personal development plan for each Year 8 student at Thistley Hough using the six concepts to strengthen attitudes to learning; and a special focus on the key concept of Human Interaction at Ash Green to increase discussion, dialogue and debate at all levels in the school and provoke a less ‘led’ approach to learning.

How can students be helped to connect what they learn in different subjects; to be creative?

Finally, of course, the CET design programme at Key Stages 2 and 3 is the most material and literal application of the six key concepts. Structures? We build them. Meaning? We make signs and symbols – non-verbal expressions of meaning. Performance? We choose the right materials for the job.

The Rocks Game

The game is this: everyone gets some rocks. You take turns either placing a rock on the floor somewhere or moving a rock that’s already there ... What’s amazing and surprising is that this turns out to be a really interesting game. All kinds of stuff comes up. People start moving rocks together into one pattern and everyone might start to work toward that one pattern, then someone gets bored and does something else. People might appreciate this or be angry about it. People might fight with each other or try to cooperate.

From Chapter 23 of *The Chairs Are Where The People Go* by Misha Glouberman with Sheila Heti, Faber & Faber, 2011.





CET Young Photographer 2015

The brief for the second annual photography competition was 'People in Places: photograph a person or group of people from your school community in a way that suggests, reveals or celebrates their connection to the school'. Students in each of the eight CET secondary schools were partnered with a professional photographer who launched the project and offered a five-minute one-to-one tutorial with every student who submitted work to the competition.

Steve Macleod, Creative Director of Metro Imaging, Nick Vincent, Art Director of *Connected* magazine and Marc Jordan, Chief Executive of CET judged the competition and were impressed by the maturity and variety of the students' responses. 24 shortlisted entries were exhibited in the gallery of structural engineers BuroHappold Engineering in London, where Michael Dickson CBE, CET Trustee and former Chair of the Happold Trust, presented awards to three runners-up and the overall winner, **Lauren Jackson**, a Year 8 student at Weavers Academy.



Clockwise from top left: The winning photograph by **Lauren Jackson**; submissions by runners-up **Zainab Fadhal**, **Charlie Rumbolt** and **Ellie-Lee Hyden-Falls**; the winning students and their teachers with **Michael Dickson CBE**.

Successes and special commendations

Students



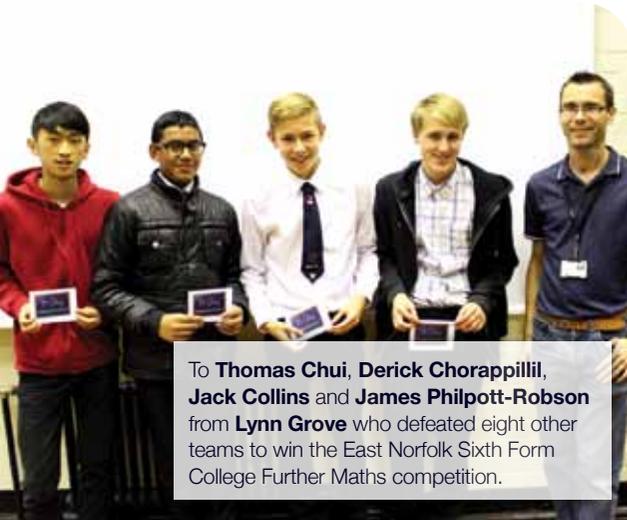
To **Maddison Stevens**, Year 7 at **Ash Green**, for raising £3,000 for Myton Hospice.



To **Woodlands**, for their recognition by the Great Yarmouth Schools Music Association



To **Thistley Hough's** Red Cross Peer Mentors, **Aisha Shaukat**, **Liam Tiesteel** and **Georgina Nicholls**.



To **Thomas Chui**, **Derick Chorappillil**, **Jack Collins** and **James Philpott-Robson** from **Lynn Grove** who defeated eight other teams to win the East Norfolk Sixth Form College Further Maths competition.



To **Karthik Saravanan**, Year 9 at **Lynn Grove**, who represented England at the European Youth Chess Championships in Poreč, Croatia.

To **Samantha Marsh**, Year 10 at **Ash Green** for coming second in the Young Amateur Sportswoman of the Year with an opportunity to race for Great Britain in Australia.



To the cast of **Oliver!** at **Harpfield** and everyone who contributed to the production.

and staff



To **Sara Kane** of **Queen Eleanor**, for an 'outstanding' grading in her Teach First qualification.



To **Chris Holmes** (above right), singled out in the Great Yarmouth and Sports Award 2015 for the quality of PE at **Woodlands**.



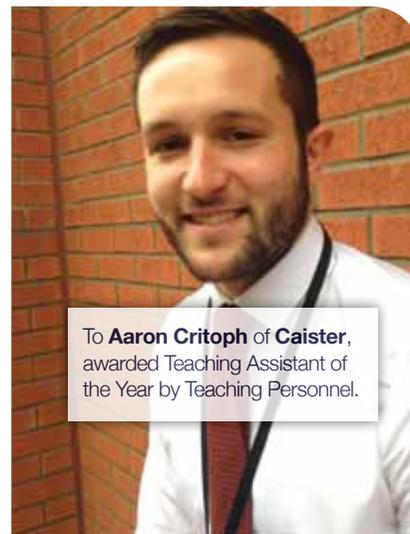
To **Emma Preston** of **Caister** for successfully completing her NPQSL.



To **Greg Thurling** who joined **Lynn Grove** in January and achieved 80% 5A*-C; a massive improvement on last year.



To **Jane Parris**, lunchtime supervisor at **Queen Eleanor**, who worked with children on the school gardens, for which the school received a 'Northampton in Bloom' silver award.



To **Aaron Critoph** of **Caister**, awarded Teaching Assistant of the Year by Teaching Personnel.



To **Thistley Hough's** six new 'Teach First' teachers for their incredible dedication: **Annie Sharman**, **Rebecca Collins**, **Alice Hall**, **John McGovern**, **Shannon McDonagh**, **Charlotte Halliday**, pictured with **Holly Hartley**, Principal.

To **Kirstin McRae-Smith**, science teacher at **Weavers**, awarded a Honeywell Scholarship to attend a week-long programme at Space Camp in the US.



Design Programme



Motion settings

In 2015 CET received funding from the Comino Foundation to increase and focus STEM activity across the Trust in a creative motion engineering project. A major portion of the Comino funding has been spent on training 13 CET art, D&T, science, maths and ICT/computing teachers in the Arduino programming language, and applying it to the conception of creative challenges in art, engineering and design.

Arduino is an open-source prototyping platform based on easy-to-use hardware and software, aimed at students without a background in electronics and programming. Arduino boards are able to read inputs (e.g. as light on a sensor, a finger on a button, or a Twitter message), and turn them into an output (e.g. activating a motor, turning on an LED, publishing something online) by sending a set of instructions to the microcontroller on the board. Arduino has been the brain in thousands of projects, from everyday objects to complex scientific instruments.

Top: **Gareth Townshend** (Rugeley) and **Julia Rogers** (Thistley Hough); Below: The workshop participants with **John Nussey** and **James Boock**.



In the cavernous basements of Somerset House occupied by Makerversity, we were trained by John Nussey, co-founder of ONN Studio, which specialises in product design and development, research and experimental electronics. Luckily for us, John is also author of *Arduino for Dummies*. The workshop produced prototypes including a robotic finger, an unfurling plant, a device to test and disclose wind strength, and another for chemical pH value, an interactive pattern of discs that display messages, and a programme to convert music (interpreted in numbers) into light.

The challenges will be run as pilot classroom projects or after-school clubs across year groups and evaluated carefully to help advance a STEM strategy for CET.

DAY OF SPORTS 2015



The inaugural **CET Primary Day of Sports** drew Year 6 pupils from Great Yarmouth, Northampton and Stoke-on-Trent to Three Peaks in Tamworth.

Woodlands' cheerleading team opened the event with a rousing routine. Teams tested their mettle in football, dodgeball and rounders, before moving into athletics: sprint and distance track events, a 4 x 100 m relay, quoit, javelin and shot-put throws and a standing long jump. Special awards went to Cobby Sulowski from Woodlands and Daisy Perks from Three Peaks, for their outstanding performances on the football field. The CET Primary Day of Sports trophy was taken home to Great Yarmouth by Woodlands.

Weavers hosted the third annual CET Secondary Day of Sports, where over 300 students from Years 8 and 9 of the eight Trust schools competed as teams in rugby, netball, table tennis and dodgeball; and in athletics: sprint, distance and relay track events; shot-put; long jump; and javelin. Jake Bailey and Alice Wakeley, both of Year 9 at Lynn Grove, were awarded Outstanding Performance trophies – Jake for his impressive 4.76 m long jump – and Alice for her 8.5 m throw of the shot-put. The overall trophy was taken home by Caister Academy following particularly impressive performances in dodgeball, table tennis and the 600 m relay.

Former England rugby player and veteran hooker for the Leicester Tigers, George Chuter, was our special guest for the day. Handing out medals to the victorious teams and learning that our Norfolk athletes had won both primary and secondary overall titles, he observed that professional rugby teams recruit vigorously from Norfolk, where 'young people just seem to spend more time outside, running around'. The Lynn Grove Year 9 rugby team's recent Norfolk Emerging Schools Newcomer's Trophy, and Woodlands' 2015 Great Yarmouth Sports Award, would both appear to support his theory!



Round-up

Bully-busting and e-safety on film

Across the Trust, students are channelling their ethical and creative energy to combat bullying and vulnerability among their peers.

Abbeyfield student Kamil Targonski's anti-bullying film won the under-16 prize at a county-wide presentation for Film Northants. The film, designed to support younger children, has been shown in several assemblies. At Caister, drama teacher Nat Curston and her student film-makers entered ITV's *Good Morning Britain's* national 'Action Against Bullying' film competition and made it to the final three. An ITV film crew came into the school to reshoot the movie and the winner is still to be announced.

Meanwhile, Weavers has been named as a secondary school category finalist in the 2015 annual Childnet Film Competition. Founded in 2010 as a way of asking young people to focus on the positive use of the Internet, Childnet invites schools and youth organisations from across the UK to capture their Internet safety messages in a short film. The Weavers' film, *We Have a Choice to Make a Better Internet*, was shortlisted in the two-minute film category.

Finally Sir Ian McKellen met with the Pastoral Anti-Bullying Ambassadors in a 'secret' visit to Lynn Grove organised by Kate Vince, pastoral support worker.



Abbeyfield ships school supplies to Syria

Abbeyfield supported Schools for Syria's appeal as their contribution to Giving Nation for the CET Day of Service 2015. Hand in Hand for Syria agreed to deliver a 40-foot lorry to Northampton on condition that Abbeyfield would fill it with school furniture and supplies and raise money for its delivery to Syria.

Students got their story featured on two local radio stations and in the local newspaper, did five assemblies and invited everyone to support the cause. With the help of students, staff and many people in the local community, including Queen Eleanor Academy, the lorry was filled with clothes, shoes, furniture, school supplies and gifts.

A charity concert, bake sales and student donations raised £1,348 to send the lorry off, and it arrived at a refugee camp near the Syrian border in September.

Caister boys and Caister girls

Caister Boys Dance were selected as one of 36 groups across the UK to work with the Rambert Dance Company in their Elements Dance Company in their Elements competition. In a further national selection round, 20 boys in Years 7 to 9 will be selected to work with choreographer Jack Stinton.

Caister girls have been putting their energy into STEM. Inspired by the Women of Future Conference to develop their knowledge of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine, a group of Year 11

girls accepted the opportunity to take part in the pilot year of the JIC Youth STEMM Award.

Taking the "Inspiring the Next Generation" theme to heart, the girls took display boards and hands-on activities for younger children to every parents' evening and open event at Caister Academy and Caister Junior School. These included an interactive fact board about space, a bridge-building competition, the instructions for making a lava lamp and a set of Halloween-themed science lessons.



Shakespeare 7 x 7; east and west



Workshops have been under way for seven Shakespeare plays, in expertly edited half-hour versions, to be performed in a CET Day of Performance (West) at Ash Green and its eastern counterpart at Lynn Grove. Royal Shakespeare Company voice and text coach Michael Corbidge has coached our actors in squeezing the most meaning out of ancient and beautiful language, while designer Mark Friend worked with production design teams to give visual definition to all the range of ideas and feelings we expect from Shakespeare: power, ambition, love, deceit, jealousy, villainy, human error and the rest.

Creativity is the ability to recognise or make new connections between the things we know. Connecting knowledge is at the heart of an effective education. It is vital to improving standards, and it will make young people resourceful and employable in the world of tomorrow.

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Connected is designed by
Vincent Design and printed
by **Cantate Communications**

Front cover image:
Ugne Skirmontaite of Woodlands
and **Kenzie McWilliam** of Three
Peaks in the 4 x 100 m relay
See full story on page 13.