

TKAT TERM

Inspiring learners, changing lives.



SPRING IS ON ITS WAY

We were all hoping that this term would see a swifter return to a more normal school routine for our pupils, families and staff. I continue to be amazed by the positive, committed and resilient ways in which everyone in our TKAT family has responded to the ongoing challenges of the pandemic.

The second edition of our newsletter covers just some of the hard work and successes happening in all our schools every day. I hope, like me, you feel that Spring is finally on its way.

Dr Karen Roberts **TKAT CEO**



Natasha Devon MBE

NATASHA DEVON MBE LEADS TKAT WELLBEING CONFERENCE

"Yes You Can Ace Your Exams Without Losing Your Mind" delivered a fascinating session. This explored practical ways to include three key skills for good mental health into school life - Critical Thinking, Healthy Coping Strategies for Stress/Anxiety and Emotional Literacy - using a whole-school approach.

The training included tips on peer support and spotting possible early symptoms of mental illness, with a particular emphasis on self-harm and eating disorders.

Andrew Wright of 'Action Your Potential' spoke about how to

transform wellbeing, learning progress and parental engagement through daily practices that work with our brains.

Delegates heard about exceptional practice from 2 TKAT schools, **Cleeve Meadow School** and **Drapers Mills Primary Academy**.

Feedback from the event was very positive:

"I found the day so useful, not just in terms of my job role but as a parent too. Natasha Devon was really engaging, and I loved her analogies around what can be an overwhelming subject." (Conference delegate).

BBC MAKE A DIFFERENCE CAMPAIGN

The BBC local radio campaign 'Make a Difference' has inspired a new charity Computers 4 Kids to secure eighty laptops for **The Bewbush Academy**.

The charity made sure the devices donated from local businesses were cleaned and ready for use.

The BBC interviewed TKAT Headteacher Christine Dickens, who said: "We are so very grateful. These devices will make such a difference. To know the laptops are safe is paramount to us - thank you!"



VIRTUAL SCHOOL TOURS ARE A HIT DURING LOCKDOWN

As they have been unable to hold their usual Open Days for parents and prospective pupils, TKAT Academies have responded positively by making 'virtual tour' films.

At [East Wickham Primary Academy](#), the children became the presenters and were given a camera and microphone to show off their favourite parts of school. They gave a running commentary on what goes on in their classrooms and what they like best about being pupils there.

You can see the videos on the school websites and on the news page of www.tkat.org.



TKAT AMBITION TUTORS: A CHAMPION FOR EVERY CHILD

TKAT has launched an ambitious project to improve the life chances of the 7,000 pupil premium (PP) pupils across the Trust.

This innovative project will focus on providing the specific support that each PP pupil needs in order to succeed. 'Ambition Tutors' will help these children and young people identify and overcome the barriers to success.

Every PP pupil and/or their family will have contact twice per week from their Ambition Tutor.

TKAT Trustees agreed to fund a pilot, starting in January 2021, involving [Front Lawn Primary Academy](#), [Pebsham Primary Academy](#), [Cleeve Meadow School](#), [Shenstone School](#), [Chichester High School](#), [Rainham School for Girls](#) and [Debden Park High School](#).



The pilot will feed back to all 45 TKAT Academies during the summer term of 2021 to inform Trust-wide implementation from September 2021.

TKAT PARTNERS WITH BUSINESSES TO BOOST SCHOOL SUPPORT

TKAT is delighted to be one of the first MATs working in partnership with Business 2 Schools. The charity, recently featured on the BBC, recycles and distributes good quality furniture, computers and other IT equipment to schools and other educational establishments.

Business 2 Schools works with large private sector organisations who donate their surplus resources instead of them being wasted.

[Chichester High School](#) was very happy to be one of our first schools to benefit from the partnership that has delivered over 300 devices,



furniture and more to TKAT schools. We are very pleased to be working with the CEO Lindsey Parslow and such a great charity.

For more information, please visit the website: www.business2schools.com

TKAT LEADERS AT MAT EXPO

In December, TKAT CEO Dr Karen Roberts and Deputy CEO Liz Harrison were speakers at the annual Virtual MAT Expo.

This was the UK education sector's biggest ever virtual event with more than 1,000 delegates over the 2-day event.

Joining a select group of panellists in discussions around women in leadership, Dr Karen Roberts said:

"As a female leader, it cannot be underestimated just how powerful connecting with other female leaders is, and the support network you can get from that."

In the second session with leaders from the country's largest Multi Academy Trusts, they shared TKAT's work to respond to COVID 19 and to support staff, pupils and parents throughout and beyond the pandemic.





MEET TKAT TRUSTEE PETER BAINES

What is one of your best school memories?

One of my best memories was my sixth form maths teacher. She had a passion for the subject and she explained things in an engaging way. She left me with a solid grounding for my future career and also a life-long interest in maths. My only regret is that I never thanked her and told her how much I appreciated what she did.

What career did you choose and why?

I've had several different careers and each has been rewarding in its own way. After University, I

developed software for the very first MRI scanners which led, later, to a career in Venture Capital. I really enjoyed working with passionate entrepreneurs developing innovative technologies and collaborating with them to build successful businesses. Now, I work with organisations which can make a real difference, in both the non-profit and private sectors.

Why did you become a TKAT trustee?

I'm a believer in the power of education to reduce disadvantage and to allow each child to reach their full potential. TKAT's focus on ensuring that all pupils, regardless of background, are given opportunities to thrive resonates with me.

What did TKAT do well in 2020?

I've been impressed by the Trust's reaction to COVID, and how everyone both adapted and pulled together to get through the crisis. I think it has really shown the benefits of a MAT, and the strengths of the TKAT team.

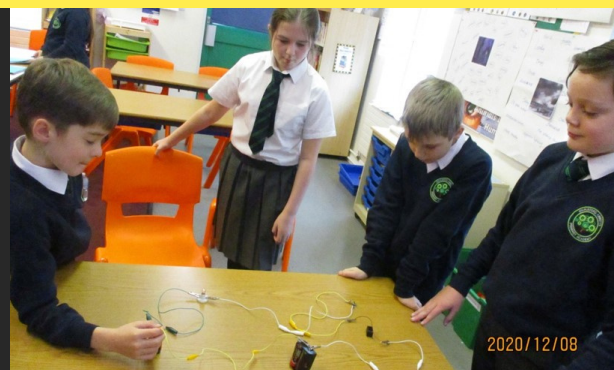
What is a key priority for 2021?

The challenge for 2021 will be to recover from COVID (eventually it will be over!) and deal with the disruption to children's education, whilst retaining all the teamwork, flexibility and creativity that was bolstered by it. I believe ultimately TKAT will emerge strengthened from this crisis.

HYLANDS HOSTS VIRTUAL STEM DAY FOR TKAT ESSEX PRIMARIES

Determined that their annual STEM day would still go ahead, Headteacher Andrew Parry, Krysia Sosin and the **Hylands School** team delivered a fantastic full-day virtual experience for TKAT Essex primary children.

To mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of radio in Hylands' home town of Chelmsford, the sessions focussed on designing circuits, sending messages using Morse Code, and writing a broadcast. Primary colleagues were delighted with the event and said that the children found all the challenges interesting and engaging.



The winning entry came from the Inspirational Improvers class at **Stapleford Abbotts Primary Academy**, and all the children taking part received a certificate.

TKAT'S FIRST VIRTUAL SEND CONFERENCE

Over fifty TKAT colleagues joined a virtual Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Conference. Delegates explored what 'Becoming a Trauma Aware School' means, how to support pupils and the impact trauma can have on school communities.

Shenstone School shared their bespoke assessment system for pupils working below the National Curriculum and the school's journey to create their own unique holistic assessment system across 6 areas of learning.

The conference looked at how key data and strategic tools can be used to develop effective understanding and leadership of SEND and how working memory affects everybody, especially pupils with SEND.

TKAT WINS FUNDING FROM SPORT ENGLAND

Led by Tan Cornish (KTC) and the Heads of PE, TKAT secured almost £10,000 in funding in January from Sport England.

The money will be used to introduce secondary school children to new sports, provide training for teachers and help build links with local clubs.

If you would like to support a Trust or school project, please contact david.churchill@tkat.org





Letter from Liz

Deputy CEO **Liz Harrison** reflects on some of our recent highlights.

OUR ACADEMIES:

The Kemnal Academies Trust is one of the largest Multi-Academy Trusts across the South and East of England, with 45 Primary and Secondary Academies in the TKAT family.



Dear Reader,

Some Year 6 pupils from [The Bewbush Primary Academy](#) had the honour of reading their poems on Radio Sussex to mark Remembrance Day.

At Christmas, it was uplifting to hear all the thank you messages that school staff received from families, such as at [Pluckley](#) and [Tangmere Primary Academies](#). There were some fantastic virtual nativities, and I particularly enjoyed a guest appearance from "Boris Johnson" at [Royal Park Primary Academy](#).

At the end of 2020, TKAT received another very positive audit on its annual accounts. Our brilliant finance teams run an extremely tight ship so we can invest as much as possible in TKAT schools. Just 3 very minor management points (already addressed) is exceptional, but our **Head of Finance Rachel Carter** tells me the goal next year is "nul points".

In our schools, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) carried out COVID spot checks at [Front Lawn Primary Academy](#) and [Broadfield Primary Academy](#). They were delighted with our practices and spoke very highly of the TKAT risk assessments that our **Head of Health & Safety Paul Roberts** provides to all our schools.

The procurement team has done a great job to secure effective broadband across the Trust and the first two schools to benefit from rollout in January were [Dame Janet Primary Academy](#) and [Weyfield Primary Academy](#).

It was great to hear that [Seymour Primary School](#) was asked by the Department for Education to share the findings of its workload reduction project with teachers across the country. It was also very encouraging to hear positive feedback from the interim Ofsted visits to [Kemnal Technology College](#) and [Thomas Bennett Community College](#) and their virtual visit at [Horizon Primary Academy](#).

Finally, there has been some wonderful feedback on social media for the transition to remote learning for most pupils again, for example at [Maldon](#) and [Portfield Primary Academy](#).

Remember that every school does amazing things every day, and you are making a difference.

Liz

TKAT WELCOMES ALEX QUIGLEY TO ITS READING CONFERENCE

Alex Quigley, Senior Associate at the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), was keynote speaker at our online Reading Conference and spoke about 'closing the reading gap'.

TKAT teachers and leaders came together to hear from Alex and participate in online workshops for primary and secondary schools. These focussed on sharing good practice and tools to support pupil progress, such as Renaissance's Star Reading tests and Accelerated Reader used across the Trust.

On the day, delegates explored how best to support early and emergent readers, as well as sharing practical ideas for TKAT schools on the implementation of reading strategies.

If you would like to find out more about Alex Quigley's work, he has written a number of successful books including 'Closing the Vocabulary Gap', 'Closing the Reading Gap' and 'The Confident Teacher'.



Alex Quigley

