

# NEWSLETTER

February 2024



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[ekcschoolstrust.org](https://ekcschoolstrust.org)



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Another Term and another celebration of the care and commitment of our schools and staff teams.

I hope the Trust Newsletter continues to be a source of pride; as each issue attests, we really are #StrongerTogether.

Once again, we held our annual Governors Conference, and once again, it was wonderful to bring local governing bodies together for an evening of CPD, networking and supper. A big thank you to EKC Canterbury College, who gifted their College for the event.

As we move into Term 4, I know schools are looking forward to the latest Trust Inter-Schools sports tournament, which this Term will be hosted by our Associate Member school, Aylesham Primary. Good Luck, everyone!

There are undoubtedly many more amazing opportunities across the EKC family, bringing schools, the Trust and colleges together, and I look forward to reading about these in our next issue.

*Tammy Mitchell*  
CEO



# IN THE NEWS

## STRENGTHENING & ENHANCING OUR COMMUNITIES... INCLUDES OUR PEOPLE

### GOVERNORS CONFERENCE 2024

Strong and robust governance is a key asset in securing high standards of educational achievement.

Each February, we host our annual Governor (LGB) Conference, bringing together our now 7 local governing boards and some 50+ governors for an evening of CPD, networking and supper.

As always, topical themes delivered by local experts ensure our LGBs deliver strong governance for the benefit of our children and young people.

Joining us this year were not only Churchill governors but also governors from the newly formed Board at EKC Sheppey Secondary.



You can learn more about governance via our website:  
[ekcschooltrust.org/governance/](https://ekcschooltrust.org/governance/)

## SPRING SUBJECT LEADER NETWORK

Each seasonal term, subject leaders from across the Trust (including our Associate Member school) come together for an hour of peer-to-peer professional development, covering some 12 core and foundation subjects.

These networks are just one of the many ways we collaborate and continually strengthen and enhance our communities... our community of committed staff and leaders #StrongerTogether, #TheEKCFamily.

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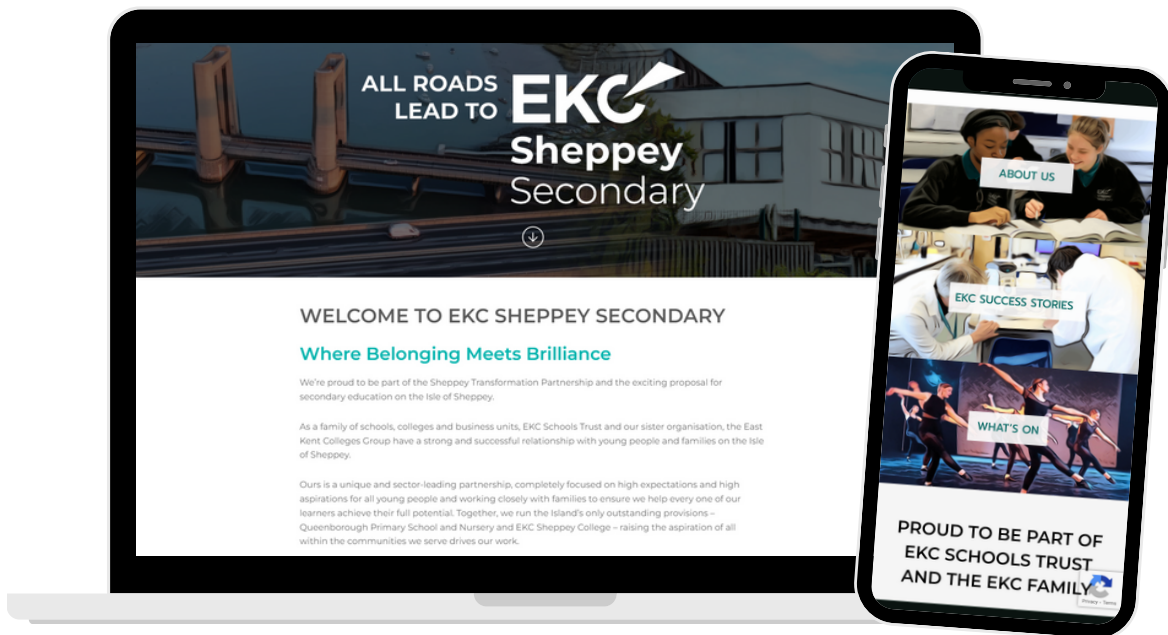


# STAY CONNECTED WITH THE TRUST & EKCSS VIA OUR NEW LOOK WEBSITES

[WWW.EKCSCHOOLSTRUST.ORG](http://WWW.EKCSCHOOLSTRUST.ORG)



[WWW.EKCSHEPPEYSECONDARY.ORG](http://WWW.EKCSHEPPEYSECONDARY.ORG)



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# EKC HIGHLIGHTS



## EAST STOUR YOUNG CARERS TRIP TO EKC ASHFORD COLLEGE

We are so incredibly proud of our determined Young Carers at East Stour who had an amazing time at EKC Ashford College. Our children were some of the first to experience the College's new Virtual Reality (VR) room.

Getting creative, the children used the VR headsets to design portraits of themselves, exploring a new way of making art. A truly amazing experience!

## HOLYWELL & EKC SHEPPEY COLLEGE EXPLORE FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH VALUES TOGETHER

Pioneer Class (Year 5) was warmly welcomed by staff and students at EKC Sheppey College this term. Starting the day with a tour of the campus, staff and children were wowed by the wonderful, hands-on facilities. We believe that learning about a range of careers at an early age is extremely important as it provides opportunities for our students to strive further in their education and achieve their goals.

Tour complete, children confidently worked alongside college students to enhance their understanding of Fundamental British Values and the importance of the democratic process. The College were brilliant with our children, listening to them, prompting questions, and sharing new knowledge which was immediately put into practice back at school.

Children held elections for new School Councillors, writing and presenting manifestoes to support their campaigns, holding elections and voting.

It is a wonderful learning experience, and with more events planned with our EKC partners through the year.

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# OUR COMMUNITY HUB

## FAIRY GODMOTHERS AND READING WIZARDS WANTED!

If you love books and have a little time in which to make a big impact, this is the perfect opportunity for you!

Please contact your local school and join our amazing teams of Reading Volunteers! Just 15 minutes a week can help a child develop improve their literacy skills and grow in confidence... can make magic! Plus it's a lot of fun! You'll meet new people and share your love of books with children who might not otherwise have the opportunity to read and instill a love of reading that will last a lifetime.

Each school runs its own scheme; please contact your local school to learn more and offer your support.



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# WELLBEING FOCUS

The wellbeing of our school community is uppermost in our minds, particularly supporting our dedicated staff so they can continue to support our children and families.

Action for Happiness, a registered charity, have dedicated themselves to encouraging happier living.

We invite colleagues across the Trust and beyond to learn more about these keys and how you might apply them in your daily lives.

There's a wealth of resources on the website [actionforhappiness.org](http://actionforhappiness.org) and we'll continue to highlight them here.

## Monthly Wellbeing Theme

**GREAT DREAM**  
Ten keys to happier living

- GIVING** Do things for others
- RELATING** Connect with people
- EXERCISING** Take care of your body
- AWARENESS** Live life mindfully
- TRYING OUT** Keep learning new things
- DIRECTION** Have goals to look forward to
- RESILIENCE** Find ways to bounce back
- EMOTIONS** Look for what's good
- ACCEPTANCE** Be comfortable with who you are
- MEANING** Be part of something bigger

**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS**  
[www.actionforhappiness.org](http://www.actionforhappiness.org)



Check out today's daily action and give it a go, take some time for you!

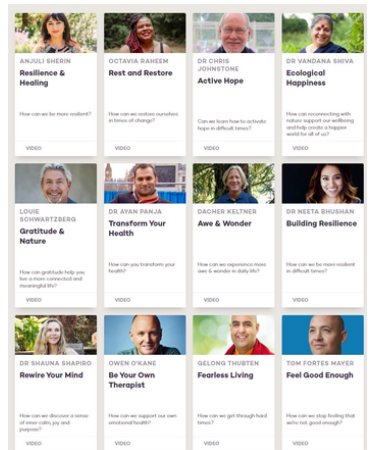
Why not sign up to be receive future themes and calendars right to your inbox.

Or if you like your Apps, check out the Action For Happiness App.



## Online events and Talks Library

Action for Happiness host a regular series of free online wellbeing talks with world renowned speakers offering insight and inspiration on happier living



Register for upcoming events and/or browse their library

Here is one of our past favourites:



Click to book/ view or visit the [AfH website](http://AfH website) to learn more.

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# JOIN US

Are you looking to start a rewarding career in education? Or know someone who is?

Are you looking to the step next in your career?

Want to work in an amazing learning environment and amongst a fantastic team?

Interested in sharing your skills in a Trustee/Governor capacity?

Well our family of schools could be just the right place for you and your career!



If you're interested in joining the talented teams in one of our family of schools or in supporting our work as a Governor or Trustee, we would love to hear from you. Please visit our website to learn more.

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# LET'S ALL SAY A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOOLS

The national THANK A TEACHER campaign recognises all staff working in schools; school leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, and all support staff such as lunchtime supervisors, caretakers and cleaners. It celebrates the professionalism, passion and commitment of our schools.

Parents, colleagues and partners please take 5 minutes to thank an individual, team or school in our Trust (or other school/setting) for their hard work with a FREE Thank You e-card.

Not only is it lovely to receive a thank you but a card can be a springboard to entering the prestigious Pearson National Teaching Awards.

Please THANK A TEACHER today, it's simple, it's free and will make someone's day.

The THANK A TEACHER campaign is run by The Teaching Awards Trust and supported by Department for Education.

Simply go to  
[www.thankateacher.co.uk](http://www.thankateacher.co.uk)

and they will send a FREE personalised ThankATeacher card on your behalf

If you're feeling shy you can send a card anonymously!



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