

# NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING OUR PEOPLE, OUR PARTNERSHIPS, OUR SUCCESS

Kent Education Awards | Parentkind Achievement | EKC's Got Talent



**KENT EDUCATION AWARDS**  
EVERY ROLE, EVERY SCHOOL, EVERY DAY

**EKC Schools Trust**

**We are proud winners...**

A collage of logos and text. At the top right is the EKC Schools Trust logo. Below it is a large, stylized graphic with the text "We are proud winners..." surrounded by various words and phrases like "BELIEVE", "THRIVE", "DIVERSITY", "WONDER", "INSPIRED", "DETERMINED", "EMPOWER", "WELLBEING", "GROWTH", "PROGRESS", "ACHIEVEMENT", "COURAGE", "RESILIENCE", "INTEGRITY", "HONESTY", "TRANSPARENCY", "ACCOUNTABILITY", "COLLABORATION", "COMMUNITY", "COURTESY", "COMMITMENT", "CONFIDENCE", "COURAGE", "COURTESY", "COMMITMENT", "CONFIDENCE". At the bottom are logos for Bysing Wood Primary School, Holywell Primary School, Queenborough School & Nursery, Thorneden Wood Primary School, The Churchill School, EKC Sheppey Secondary, Atlesham Primary, Teynham Parochial Church of England Primary School, and Moneton Primary School. A gold award ribbon with the year "2026" is also visible.

# COS MESSAGE

I know our CEO, Tammy Mitchell, usually opens our newsletter, but I'm delighted to step in this term with a very special - and celebratory - edition.

Across the Trust, everything we do is rooted in a shared ambition: to see every child thrive. That ambition is shaped and strengthened by our relationships with parents and carers, and by the conversations, trust and partnership we build together every day.

Last year, we teamed up with Parentkind, the UK's national charity championing the voice of parents and carers in education. Their recognition of our Trust as a national leader in parental engagement is something we are immensely proud of, but more importantly, it reflects the care, professionalism, and heart shown every day in our schools. In a diverse community like ours, we know we won't always see things the same way, and that's not only expected, it's healthy. What matters is that we keep talking, keep listening, and keep moving forward together.

**And so, it is a real moment of pride to celebrate that EKC Schools Trust is now the first (and only) Trust in the country to achieve Parentkind's Silver Accreditation across every school.**

**This spirit of partnership and shared purpose has also been reflected in wider achievements this term. At the Kent Education Awards 2026, our staff and schools were recognised at the highest level, including overall county success, reflecting the dedication, expertise, and teamwork across our Trust. We were equally proud of the many colleagues who were nominated, each one making a meaningful difference in their own way.**

**Alongside this, the launch of EKC's Got Talent gave us another reason to celebrate, showcasing the creativity, confidence and individuality of our young people. Watching students take to the stage, support one another, and embrace the moment was a powerful reminder that success is not only about achievement, but about belonging.**

Thank you to our incredible colleagues, and to the unwavering support of our communities - because shared success really is the best kind of success.

Thank you for being part of our journey.

*Summer Macer*  
Chief Of Staff

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# CELEBRATING BY NUMBERS

TOGETHER, THESE NUMBERS TELL A BIGGER STORY, ONE OF COLLABORATION, BELONGING AND SHARED SUCCESS.

12



SCHOOLS  
ACHIEVING  
PARENTKIND  
SILVER



1,800+

1800 KEA  
NOMINATIONS...  
AND WE WON!

8/48



8 KENT  
EDUCATION  
AWARD  
WINS!



EKC'S Got  
Talent

12 TALENT SHOWS,  
1 STELLAR GRAND  
FINALE!



ONE FAMILY!

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# A NATIONAL FIRST – POWERED BY PARTNERSHIP

## EVERY SCHOOL HAS ITS OWN STORY, AND EVERY ONE OF THEM EARNED SILVER BY BEING EXACTLY WHO THEY ARE

Parentkind is the UK's largest parent charity, working to support parents when working with schools. Since April, we have delivered our Parent-Friendly School services, supporting schools to deliver opportunities for parents to feel like partners in their child's education.

EKC Schools Trust set high ambitions and pioneered the pathway for 40 multi-academy trusts and 700 schools by quickly becoming a Standard Award-accredited trust. Their eagerness to be part of our mission and their engagement with us have demonstrated a keen awareness of your importance in delivering results for children.

The story gets better still.

**We are proud and delighted to announce that the schools within the EKC Schools Trust have all achieved Silver Award – and are a Silver Award Parent-Friendly Trust - the first ever Trust in history to achieve this.**

Your schools are pioneering a change that respects and appreciates parents' participation in their children's education. They clearly demonstrated that this practice was confident and shared, reaching a wide variety of parents. The average score for EKC Trust Schools is 75% against the most comprehensive framework nationally, against the achievement from other schools and trusts of 55 – 20% above the benchmark.

What has impressed us most is the depth of care each school shows for its community, and the desire to make life easier for you while offering aspiration and hope for your children's future. It has been an honour to hear the small ways the schools reach out to you, from phone calls at the end of the day if your child has had to be absent, to food banks, investment in homework solutions, and a friendly presence on the school gate.

We have interviewed all your schools and really dived deep into their commitment and values. EKC Schools Trust is unmistakably committed to its civic duty and is a pioneer in school leadership.

You, too, are part of this achievement as parents, because you have been open to engaging – thank you. Keep powering the partnership with your schools to deliver a difference for your child.

We are looking forward to continuing the journey to the Gold Award with every school.

Yours faithfully,



Cailean Carvalho

Head of Schools

# CELEBRATING KENT EDUCATION AWARDS

## CELEBRATING OUR NOMINEES

While we proudly celebrate our winners, we also want to recognise the many colleagues who were nominated this year.

From over 1,800 nominations across Kent, just 48 winners were selected on the night, making every nomination an incredible achievement in itself.

Being nominated reflects the invaluable difference made every single day.

To everyone who was nominated, you are seen, you are valued, and you are making a lasting impact.

Gemma Silk	Amy Voller	Dan Luck	Ben May	Denise Taylor
James Cotton	Gail Clifton	Carly Watson	Emily Knight	Claire Storey
Siobhan Pretty	Gemma Race	Lauren McCorn	Emma-Jane Lawson	Clara Barlow
Lara Cooper	Karen Abbott	Jane Campbell	English Team	Jane Walker
Caroline Teoni	Katie Dylan	Nicola Page	Hannah Newin	Judie Steele
Emma Smith	Melissa Overy	Rachel Bigginton	Hayley Bowman	Rachel Pullen
Zoe Rae and Katherine Hudson	Mrs Bernadini & Mrs Gavigan	Francesca O'Carroll	January Lorman	Samantha Lappage
Grace Saunders Nield	Mrs Marsh	Jan Howes	Jasmyn Limb	Laura Patel
Hazel Elks	Sarah Weaver	Kate Rogers	Kerry Dewberry	Lily Copper
Minster Office Staff	Wendy Oliver	Kirsty Parker	Michelle Therisa	Millie Borrie
James McPherson	Zoe Stone	Nic Barris	Nicky McHugh	Steve Fordham
Tracy Reynolds	Vanessa Groves	Sean Hill	<b>YOUR SCHOOL. OUR COMMUNITY</b>	

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EYFS Team Sunshine and Rainbow Class



# CELEBRATING SUCCESS AT THE KENT EDUCATION AWARDS

## A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

The Kent Education Awards 2026 celebrated the very best in education across the county, and EKC Schools Trust was proud to be among them. With multiple awards across our schools, including overall county recognition, we showcased the strength, dedication, and collective spirit of our Trust... a night we will never forget.



## PROUDLY WEARING OUR SUCCESS

Celebration banners will soon be displayed proudly on our school gates, marking and sharing this moment of success and sharing it with our communities.

**KENT EDUCATION AWARDS**  
EVERY ROLE. EVERY SCHOOL. EVERY DAY

**Social Enterprise Kent**

*Every day, we shape a better tomorrow!*

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# CELEBRATING SUCCESS AT THE KENT EDUCATION AWARDS

BE PART OF NEXT YEAR'S STORY - NOMINATIONS FOR THE KENT EDUCATION AWARDS 2027 ARE NOW OPEN.

If a member of staff has made a difference to your child, your family, or your community, we encourage you to recognise them.

Take a moment to say thank you!

Scan the QR code to submit a nomination



Let's celebrate even more incredible people next year.

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# EKC'S GOT TALENT – LETTING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SHINE

From singers to dancers, performers and a magician, EKC's Got Talent celebrated the individuality and confidence of our students.

But beyond the performances, it was the feeling in the room:

- courage
- encouragement
- joy

Congratulations to our first EKC's Got Talent Winner, Melodie, magician extraordinaire!



Every child deserves their moment to shine!

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# COMMUNITY WELLBEING

The wellbeing of our school community is uppermost in our minds.

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

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

Check out to day'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.

## 10 Keys to Happier Living

Everyone's path to happiness is different. Based on the latest research, we have identified 10 Keys that tend to make life happier and more fulfilling.

Together they spell GREAT DREAM and you can explore them below.

<b>Giving</b> Do kind things for others	<b>Relating</b> Connect with people	<b>Exercising</b> Take care of your body	<b>Awareness</b> Live life mindfully	<b>Trying Out</b> Keep learning new things
<b>Direction</b> Have goals to look forward to	<b>Resilience</b> Find ways to bounce back	<b>Emotions</b> Look for what's good	<b>Acceptance</b> Be comfortable with who you are	<b>Meaning</b> Be part of something bigger

### Altruistic August 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1. Ask someone how they feel and really listen to their reply	2. Spend time making for other people to be happy and well	3. Smile and be friendly to the people you see today	4. Give time to help or support or share your care about	5. Get an intention to be kind to others (and yourself) this month	6. Make some tasty food for someone who will appreciate it	7. Send an uplifting message to someone you aren't be with
8. Share an encouraging news story to inspire others	9. Contact a friend to let them know you're thinking of them	10. No plans today? Be kind to yourself so you can be kind to others too	11. Take an action to be kind to nature and care for our planet	12. Give people the gift of your full attention	13. Make a thoughtful gift as a surprise for someone	14. Check in with someone who may be lonely or feeling unwell
15. Today do something to make life easier for someone else	16. Be thankful for your food and the people who made it possible	17. Look for the good in everyone you meet today	18. Donate unused items, clothes or food to help a local charity	19. Give people the gift of your full attention	20. Share an article, book or podcast you found helpful	21. Be kind online. Share positive and supportive comments
22. Give your time, energy or attention to help someone in need	23. Find a way to play it forward or support a good cause	24. Notice when someone is down and try to brighten their day	25. Have a friendly chat with someone you don't know very well	26. Do something kind to help in your local community	27. Give away something to help those who don't have as much as you	28. Be kind and supportive to everyone you interact with
ACTION FOR HAPPINESS <b>Happier · Kinder · Together</b>						

**LET'S MAKE OUR WORLD HAPPIER, Together**

Get outside and observe the changes in nature around you

Get friendly nudges to give yourself a boost

Do a daily action, for bigger change

## Online events and Talks Library

AfH hosts a regular series of free online wellbeing talks with world-renowned speakers offering insight and inspiration on happier living.

Register for upcoming events and browse their library.

<b>ANJALI SHERIN</b> Resilience & Healing	<b>OTAVIA RANKIN</b> Rest and Restore	<b>DR JAMES JOYNTON</b> Active Hope	<b>DR VANDANA SIWA</b> Ecological Happiness
<b>LUIGI SCHWARTZBERG</b> Get Outside & Nature	<b>DR JOHN PAVEL</b> Transform Your Health	<b>DR JAMES WELSH</b> Awe & Wonder	<b>DR PETER BRIDGMAN</b> Building Resilience
<b>DR SHARMA SINGH</b> Rewire Your Mind	<b>OWEN O'BRIEN</b> Be Your Own Therapist	<b>SEUNG WOO KIM</b> Fearless Living	<b>TONY FORSTER MARRAS</b> Feel Good Enough

Here is one of our past favourites:

Happiness & Success - with Shawn Achor

**HAPPINESS & SUCCESS**  
Shawn Achor

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

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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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