

in sight

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EDUCATIONAL TRUST

ALL THE LATEST NEWS FROM
KINGSBRIDGE EDUCATIONAL
TRUST'S SCHOOLS

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🔍 Middleton Primary School launches new website

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A message from Trust CEO **Peter Barnes**



I am delighted that the Trust starts the summer term with every primary and secondary school place full for the academic year 2022-2023, following a significant number of applications received.

In this edition of Insight, there are many articles about the Trust's schools returning to in-person visits and activities during the spring term. Pupils in Kents Hill Park experienced invaluable learning when pupils from the secondary got-together again with those at the primary to read to each other. Monkston's pupils visited the Frontier Centre and invited the Milton Keynes Recycling Centre to attend the school to discuss the importance of their work. Across all of the schools, pupils and staff collectively embraced World Book Day, judging by the fun had and the imaginative and colourful outfits worn.

The reformed National Professional Qualifications programme has begun, with facilitated sessions starting in the summer term at Oakgrove School's new Oak Leadership Training Centre.

The repurposed facility, in what was the Leisure Centre, has been refurbished with new technology, furnishings and catering facilities.

Middleton has launched its new website, designed with up-to-date photography, information and news, which showcases the values and ethos of the school.

The work undertaken by directors, governors, and the governance professionals who support them, is the focus for a double-page feature in the third and final part in the series on Governance.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued resilience and professionalism, as the education profession begins to recover from the challenges of the pandemic.

Peter Barnes | CEO

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Mandela Class had a wonderful start to the spring term when they joined Da Vinci class for their first-ever swimming session.



Swim time

Potter Class enjoyed reading lots of different fairy tales and designed some beautiful gingerbread houses. They also had fun acting out scenes from some of the other books read.



Fairy tales

Seacole Class had an exciting start to their new topic Fire! Fire! After a virtual visit to the Museum of London to discover what happened during the great fire, they then play acted what it was like for people at the start of the fire.

In February, the whole primary phase came together again for the first **in-person assembly** in months. It was fantastic for all in Kents Hill Park to celebrate the successes and achievements in each class.

A 'lamb pluck' dissection was demonstrated in Mandela Class, which not only helped pupils apply their circulatory system knowledge to real organs, but also led to some interesting reactions.



Lamb Pluck

As part of Kents Hill Park's Lunar New Year celebrations, Potter Class learned all about the Chinese Zodiac and found out some interesting facts about the Year of the Tiger.



Lunar New Year

Potter Class were very excited to welcome a special adult into their classroom for a phonics masterclass with Miss Dolan. This was then followed with the creation of journal scrapbooks, filled with the childrens' amazing work.



Creating scrapbooks

Using inflatable planets, Da Vinci Class needed the space of the outdoors to show the relative distances between the planets in the solar system.

The children then produced '**out of this world**' homework on the subject during half term.



Discovering Planets

Curie Class proudly showed off their projects in last term's homework gallery, including models, posters and videos on mountains. A visit from a real-life mountaineer proved a 'Fabulous Finish' to the topic. Curie Class were intrigued to hear all about his adventures climbing mountains across the globe.



Mountains

Pupils celebrated their love of reading on World Book Day. They shared books brought in from home and staff enjoyed swapping classes to share a favourite book.



World Book Day



Sketchbook work

The work of artists Julie Marie and Yellena James was celebrated by Year 9 in their sketchbooks, with beautiful bright and colourful depictions.

Excellent tool and mechanical artwork produced by Year 10 during their charcoal studies.



Charcoal art

February saw the return of the secondary school pupils visiting the primary. Four secondary tutor groups visited pupils in Potter, Seacole, Curie and Da Vinci classes. The children **reading together** was a valuable learning experience for all.



Reading visit



Tom Sherrington & John Tomsett

In March the school welcomed Tom Sherrington and John Tomsett for a worthwhile day of staff continued professional development. It was a pleasure to demonstrate to them how Kents Hill Park School is growing and progressing.

A great reason to work at Kents Hill Park is the snack cupboard. The generous offer, to anyone who forgets their lunch, is that they can help themselves.

**Forgotten lunch?
Need a pick me up?
Help yourself!**

Snack cupboard

There were some great sporting triumphs during the spring term. The Year 9 basketball team won the Milton Keynes Eastern Region Schools Basketball Tournament and played in the final against the winners of the Western Region. In March, the Year 10 Rugby team took part in several development matches, playing against Milton Keynes Rugby Club, Bletchley Rugby Club and Walton High. They learnt so much and rose to the challenge. Year 9 football team fought until the very end in the County Cup Semi Finals and, despite not winning, they performed extremely well.

All the school's sporting stars should be as proud of their achievements, as the school is of them.



Year 9 Basketball



Year 10 Rugby

There was a nice boost to the start of the day for the Headteacher when an **unexpected gift** was left on his desk. After the treats were thoroughly enjoyed, the mug was restocked and passed on.



Headteacher's treat

Many congratulations to the 56 Year 9 and 27 Year 10 pupils who participated in this year's UK Mathematics Trust Intermediate Maths Challenge.

Bronze was achieved by 11 pupils. The two pupils who were awarded silver were invited to participate in the follow-on round, Grey Kangaroo, a 60-minute, multiple-choice challenge consisting of 25 problems.

Kents Hill Park raised over £1170 for **Save the Children for Ukraine**. It was fantastic that so many families, staff and pupils contributed and participated in organising the fundraising events.

Two students from Trinity College Oxford visited Kents Hill Park School to speak to Year 10 about studying at the prestigious university.



University visit

The final part of the series on governance within Kingsbridge Educational Trust focusses on the work undertaken by directors and governors and the role of the governance professionals who support them



The Board of Directors manage the business of the multi academy trust and is accountable for all of the academies within the trust.

The business of governance focusses on the following three core functions:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Hold executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Oversee and ensure effective financial performance

The Local Governing Body's role includes the following:

- Support the effective operation of the trust and its policies
- Provide support and challenge to the school
- Be a link for the trust to parents and the local community
- Bring issues and risks to the attention of the trust board
- Provide constructive feedback to the board where needed
- Help ensure the trust works as one entity, in the interests of all its schools equally



KET's scheme of delegation sets out where the delegated authority sits for decision making across all layers of governance. It covers financial and non-financial decisions and serves as a point of reference for all business conducted. The scheme of delegation, together with a yearly planner and policy review programme, are reviewed annually and serve to give each meeting a core agenda. Throughout the year, information flows between the Board and the Local Governing Bodies to ensure appropriate levels of awareness and scrutiny are maintained.

Members, directors and governors of the Trust are supported by a small team of governance professionals. They work within the central function and ensure governance adheres to good practice and meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. They support the efficient and effective operation of the trust board and its committees and ensure governance at all levels is carrying out its functions.

The governance professionals clerk the meetings held by the Board, the local governing bodies and other committees across the Trust. The clerks provide advice to directors and governors on constitutional and procedural matters; they keep up to date with policy, legal and statutory requirements and ensure meetings comply with the trust's articles of association, the Academy Trust handbook, company law and charity commission guidance.

Further information about governance, who's who, the committees and all statutory publications, can be viewed on KET's website and the governance pages on each of the school's websites.

Governance in Numbers

Did you know...

- In 2020/21 over 65 meetings were held across all layers of Trust governance.
- As part of their work, in 2020/21 directors and governors across the Trust reviewed over 125 policies and statutory reports.
- Directors are either appointed by the Members of the Trust or co-opted onto the Board by the directors.
- Governors can be appointed by the Trust's directors, appointed by parents, appointed by staff or co-opted onto the Local Governing Body.
- Trust staff attend meetings to share their expertise and experiences. This assists directors and governors in carrying out their roles and fulfilling their responsibilities within the governance of the trust.



During the Easter break Middleton launched its new website, with a fresh design and new photography. Seamless navigation will mean stakeholders will be able to easily access information and news.

Solving mathematics problems was the challenge for visiting Year 6 pupils from Oakgrove School when they joined Middleton's **maths workshop** in March. It was fantastic to see the two Trust schools working so well together.



Maths workshop

Pupils wore red to help support vulnerable people in UK and international communities, when they took part in Red Nose Day this year. An amazing £570.50 was collected.

Middleton pupils love to enter competitions, especially those that focus on writing. Original pieces submitted to the Young Writers 2022 competition from pupils in Year 5 and 6 will now be published in a book. The suspenseful stories and exceptional poetry left staff in awe of the young creative writers and, once in print, will be a fantastic keepsake for the pupils.



Young writers competition

Year 6 requested that they have an area in school to **swap books**, so that other pupils could enjoy a pre-loved book. The Book Swap proved to be a big hit, with pupils furthering their joy of reading.



Book swap

The school raised £220.15 on World Book Day, which will be used to purchase new literature for the school.



World Book Day

The spring term was a busy time for the Friends of Middleton. With the February half term fast approaching and wardrobes in need of a spring clean, the team launched the 'Cash for Clothes' appeal. Parents donated unwanted clothes, shoes, trainers, accessories, toys, handbags and belts and brought them into school. A whopping £254.20 was raised.

Friends of Middleton also held a 'nearly new' uniform sale in February with donations totalling £91, which will be used for the purchase of additional resources for the school.

The end of term was the perfect excuse for the Friends of Middleton to host one of the school's most popular events, the Easter cake sale. The delicious treats were snapped up, with an 'egg-sellent' £362.50 raised.

Learning about Shrove Tuesday would not be complete without pancakes. The children enjoyed working collaboratively to prepare, cook and, of course, taste the pancakes too.



Mrs Turner makes pancakes

To showcase and celebrate the work of Middleton's **talented young artists**, the school has created its very own art gallery.



Art on display

Middleton has continued its success in sport with Year 3, 4 and 5's badminton teams becoming Milton Keynes champions.

Year 5 and 6 achieved 2nd in a Milton Keynes swimming gala and qualified for the Buckinghamshire county event. Eight children represented Milton Keynes, swimming three individual races, as well as in two relays. This was the first time Middleton had qualified for the event and the children all supported each other brilliantly, finishing in 5th place.



Badminton team (top), Swim team (bottom)

During Wicked Work Week, Year 6 children **created gifts** for staff and patients at Willen Hospice. They made cards, weaved baskets with 3D eggs, sewed bunnies and created an Easter stained glass window effect. The staff were delighted to receive the gifts and to deliver them to the patients.



Gifts for Willen Hospice

Friends of Monkston held their termly 'Treat Day' at the end of March. They worked with a local business to create special Easter cookies for the children to purchase and take home. Several yummy varieties were available with gluten free and vegan options.

It was a very rainy start for Year 4 on their visit to the **Frontier Centre** in March, but this didn't dampen their spirits, on what was a very successful trip.

Monkston held a non-uniform day to raise money for comic relief. A fantastic **£417.10** was donated to the worthwhile charity.

MK Recycling Centre visited Monkston School, as part of Year 5's science studies. Pupils learned how items are recycled in Milton Keynes, why it is important and what happens to the rest of the rubbish that can't be recycled.



Recycling

PC Cooper from Thames Valley Police visited classes throughout the school in February to talk about his occupation. He discussed everything from the uniform that police officers wear, to anti-social behaviour. He also impressed on pupils the possible consequences of their future choices and actions.

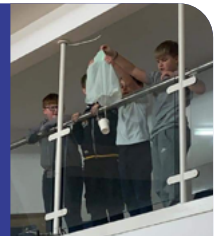


Police visit

Year 3 pupils enjoyed the virtual Eden Project workshop, where they learned about the rainforest, how humans and nature are connected and the importance of preserving the world.

Monkston has made its first step towards achieving the 'Planet Mark' sustainability certificate, which is in recognition of the positive impact the school is making towards improving the planet through its actions and learning.

On STEM Day, the aim for pupils was to challenge, to investigate, to discover and to learn. It was an exciting opportunity for pupils to take part in a range of practical investigations. They discovered how to protect an egg when dropped and how to make a rainbow.



Egg drop



World Book Day



Winning entries

As part of Reception's 'Where have you been?' topic, the children took several flights on board 'Monkston Airlines', accompanied by captain and crew. The pupils had a wonderful time experiencing world travel.



Monkston Airlines

The Milton Keynes Safety Centre delivered a valuable workshop to Monkston's Year 5 pupils on the '**Choices and Consequences**' regarding knife crime.

The workshop empowered and encouraged the children to discuss different scenarios and the possible outcomes of these.

Year 2 had a wonderful time making marvellous medicine, just as George did in the book of the same name.



Marvellous medicine

Year 6 showed off their impressive **engineering skills** when they created mini desk vacuums.



Mini desk vacuums



Welly Walk

Foundation classes had a thoroughly enjoyable time during their 'Welly Walks' around the school grounds. They discovered all kinds of minibeasts, plants and flowers.

It was fantastic to welcome WonderDome back to the school. Pupils explored a mobile planetarium, as part of their topic on space. They also learned all about the stars and planets.



Wonderdome



Mountain talk

Year 3 completed their topic on mountains with a fascinating visit from a mountaineer, who has climbed Mount Everest. The children were intrigued with his expedition equipment demonstration, to hear all about his adventures and view his photographs.

What a fantastic model of Mr Twit, produced by one of Oakgrove's Year 2 pupils. The impressive creation, inspired during the year group's topic on Roald Dahl, is now displayed in the school's library.



Mr Twit

As part of Year 3's topic on Brazil, pupils visited **The Living Rainforest**. Guides helped the children discover how animals and plants have adapted to the rainforest habitat.



Living Rainforest visit

Year 5 and 6 were **fantastic ambassadors** of the school when they competed in track, field and relay events at Denbigh School's indoor athletics festival.



Dragon display

Performing dragons made an impressive and colourful end to the day, when Year 5 pupils learned about China's geography and culture.

Oakgrove were named **champions** of the MKPSFA Year 5 and 6 football league, by winning 4 out of 6 games played.

Greek mythology was the theme of Year 5's residential trip to Lowther. Pupils enjoyed thinking about their heroes, monsters, settings and adventures, all whilst surrounded by amazing woodland. They particularly had fun singing around the campfire and toasting marshmallows.



Lowther trip



World Thinking Day

Oakgrove's Cubs, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides celebrated **'World Thinking Day'** in February by joining other groups from 150 countries. The theme for 2022 is 'Our World: Our Equal Future: The Environment and Gender Equality.'

FutureChef judges gave fantastic feedback to one of Oakgrove's talented Year 10 chefs when she cooked up a storm at the 2022 regional finals. A menu of Sea Bass and Crème Brûlée impressed the judges and accompanying staff. They also commented on how calm and organised the pupil was, especially as she hadn't used Crawley Catering College's commercial grade equipment before.



Talented Chef

During **Apprentice Week**, Oakgrove's sixth formers were given the opportunity to watch @BigAssembly LIVE. Following the assembly, 78% of pupils said they would consider an apprenticeship in the future.



Before



After

The new and reformed National Professional Qualifications (NPQs) programme has launched with online and in-person tuition. The courses will be delivered by trusted local partners working in partnership with UCL Institute of Education. The fantastic professional development opportunities will in part take place at the new Oak Leadership Training Centre at Oakgrove School and are designed for teachers and leaders to take the next step in their careers. For more information visit the website at mknpq.partners



Sixth Form Culture Day

Traditional dress, music, food and a quiz all formed part of the first-ever Sixth Form Culture Day at Oakgrove. Preparations for the day revealed that students at the school originate from 66 countries and speak 49 languages.

Train to Teach evenings were held virtually at the primary school and in-person at the secondary in February and March. The events enabled those interested in teaching to explore training routes with the Tommy Flowers SCITT.

A new operations and lettings office has been set up opposite the Oak Leadership Training Centre, in what was the Oakgrove Leisure Centre.



Quality in Careers Standard award

Oakgrove is the first-ever Milton Keynes school to be awarded the 'Quality in Careers Standard', in recognition of the outstanding careers advice and support offered to students in their next step decisions. The accolade, which was awarded following a rigorous external assessment of the school's careers education and guidance programme, acknowledges that Oakgrove has demonstrated strong leadership and has showed it administers effective training for staff who plan and deliver a careers package that includes all students.

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