

# NEW VISION TRUST NEWSLETTER

*Issue 5 Summer 2022*



## **SHAHED AHMED CEO AND EXECUTIVE HEAD AT ELMHURST**

Foreword from Shahed Ahmed CEO - Going further together

I am pleased to share our biannual New Vision Trust newsletter, showcasing the successes of our individual schools and trust as a whole.

Last year's Trust leadership work was centred around Ofsted preparation, with Elmhurst leading the way in October 2021 to be awarded 'Outstanding' in every judgement in a section 5 inspection. Gallions and Vicarage received a Section 8 inspection and were both awarded the highest outcome- that they were likely to be outstanding in the next graded inspection (within two years). Nelson was also inspected and deemed a good school with outstanding features. I couldn't be prouder of all of our schools and communities, including staff, pupils, governors, parents and carers. Our trust is truly embodying our motto of going further together!

Each school's success is built on the richness of the curriculum, high expectations of learning and behaviour and provision for vulnerable pupils, including those with special needs. The NVT Tag Summer Rugby event was a lot of fun, bringing our schools together for some sporting fun and competition. Many thanks to Adetomi Cole from Nelson for pulling together all of the organisation. The New Vision Trust Annual Poetry Retreat brings all of these elements together in a unique opportunity. Thanks to Jonny Walker and Adisa the Verbaliser and our staff who lead the retreat-it allowed our young people the opportunity to grow as writers and develop their self esteem in the lovely surroundings of the New Forest. See within for more details. Currently all of our schools are working on the beauty of Greek myths with Mr Walker.

The fabric of our buildings continues to be a trust priority, as can be seen in the extensive works carried out in all of the schools including : remodelling of Nelson's reception area, Gallions extensive outdoor play improvements and Quintin Peppiatt Theatre Wing at Elmhurst. Our ambition for further improvements continues with the plans for a £700,000 new extension at Vicarage and a state of the art new building to provide support services for pupils with SEND at Elmhurst.

The nationally assessed end of year results were strong across the trust, with all schools attaining 90% or above for the Phonic Screening Check, and standards at the end of KS2 in reading, maths, writing and grammar were either approximately in line or well above the national for some schools for pupils working at the expected standard.

It has been both a heartwarming and sad time as our schools paid tribute to Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II for her contribution to the country through the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and more recently the special memorial assemblies to reflect on her life and achievements.

We would like to thank Mr Quintin Peppiatt's father, Mr Brian Peppiatt, for his very generous donation of £25,000. This will be used to purchase high quality books for pupils across our trust to continue their reading journeys.

I am looking forward to working in partnership with our wonderful learners, staff and families to ensure we enjoy another happy and successful year for all. A special thank you to our governors and trustees who continue to support our trust to offer an excellent quality of education.



## QUINTIN PEPPIAT CHAIR, NEW VISION TRUST

I write this introduction in the time of mourning for the dear departed Queen. The end of an era in our national life. I know each of the schools has been holding assemblies and acts of remembrance for our Queen during the last week. Our children will grow up in a new age.

There are some parts of the past few years that I will be more than happy to discard.

Recently, this introduction has too often had to talk about the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Our rich yet reduced offering of the curriculum online and the impact the pandemic has had on our staff and pupils.

So it is with much relief that we seem to be getting back to normal.

Poetry Trips, sports matches and school visits to places of interest.

It is wonderful to see these extra curricula activities returning.

We offer a wonderfully rich and diverse curriculum to the pupils within our four schools.

Yet, the return of normal service has also meant the return of OFSTED inspectors to our schools.

I was delighted that all the work that the staff, parents and children have done during the last two years has been recognised by OFSTED.

An outstanding inspection at Elmhurst and the potential to be outstanding at Gallions and Vicarage Schools.

We also have received a very good inspection at Nelson School.

SATs have also returned for our year 2 and 6 pupils and although the final published results will not be released until September the initial data is looking very promising. We hope, once again, to find that some of our schools are within the top 5% of schools in the country.

I would like to thank, on behalf of the board of trustees of the New Vision Trust, all who have made these excellent results possible. The Chief Executive Officer, the head teachers, staff, carers and most of all the pupils. Pupils whose enthusiasm and eloquence always shines within our schools whenever we have visitors.



## SPOTLIGHT ON HARIS DJEMAL SULLIVAN TRUST FACILITIES MANAGER



My skills and experiences have given me additional feathers to my bow, which have been so useful to my role as Trust Facilities Manager. I completed an Accountancy & Business Information Degree, after which I realized I did not want accountancy as a career path so I became a Web developer in the city for 4 yrs. I then got itchy feet, so created a portfolio which got me a prestigious place at ST Martins and London College of Fashion to study bespoke tailoring and fashion design. I managed to get a placement working on Savile Row during this same time. After I completed my tailoring qualifications, I saw that the salaries offered to starters did not even pay my basic living expenses so I decided to leave it behind.

I then got into the rental market and developed a few properties, re-trained as an Electrician and became an electrical foreman for a building firm. After four years I again got itchy feet and decided to re-train in traditional upholstery and soft furnishing. When I completed 2 years of studying, I was in the process of setting up my workshop in a garden room which I had especially for this new career path when my best friend Max, the previous site manager, called me to ask if I could help her out temporarily at Elmhurst and the rest is history...



## NELSON PRIMARY SCHOOL



### OFSTED

Nelson had their Section 8 inspection at the end of March. At the time of writing the report has yet to be published because we are questioning the outcome. However, the draft report reads very well and there were many outstanding features.

What is it like to attend this school?

- Pupils are enthusiastic about their learning and do well at this school
- Leaders and staff are ambitious for pupils
- Pupils say that behaviour is good and that bullying rarely happens.
- Pupils treat each other with respect and kindness.
- Pupils are happy and safe.
- Parents and carers are supportive of the school. One comment typical of many was, 'the best thing about the school is that they always have the children's well-being as a priority'

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

- Leaders and governors have made their vision for high-quality education clear. Staff have risen to this challenge.
- Pupils are proud of their work.
- Leaders' expectations are high.
- Pupils respond well to these, and learning takes place without disruption. Pupils' personal development is supported well through a range of planned activities that develop individual talents and skills.
- Staff are positive about the school. They believe that leaders are considerate of their workload and well-being.
- Governors and trustees share the vision of leaders to see pupils succeed in all aspects of school life.

It is clear that the school has moved from strength to strength since the last inspection.

### DAVID WALLIAMS VISITS NELSON!



The pupils of Nelson had a wonderful surprise for World Book Day on 4th March this year. The award winning author, David Walliams, dropped in for a surprise visit! The children got to listen to David reading extracts from Gangsta Granny and were able to ask him lots of questions about how he comes up with his characters and what inspires him to write. Every child in key stage 2 was given a book and our library is now the proud owner of a full set of signed David Walliams books. This has been a real boost to our reading for pleasure strategy and has inspired our children to love books even more. There is always a waiting list to borrow David's books from the library.



## MUSIC CONTINUES TO THRIVE

Nelson held another successful Spring Arts Festival in March. 5 nights of concerts featuring our school orchestra, wind band, five choirs and all of the children that have group instrumental lessons. The school has also had a visit from the American School in London who brought their big band to perform with Nelson's senior wind band. Our junior choir have followed in the footsteps of the orchestra and performed at the Royal Albert Hall in May. Nelson also hosted a special performance and workshop from Trinity Laban Chamber choir for the school choirs in the trust. It was great to be able to work with a professional choir.



## COUNT ON US MATHS CHALLENGE

Nelson took part in the Mayor's Fund for London Primary Maths Challenge in May. The team of 3 pupils from years 4 and 5 had to compete in a variety of maths activities against schools from Newham and Tower Hamlets. Nelson won their heat and got through to the final. The team had to compete against twelve schools from schools across London at City Hall. In the final we were delighted that our team were the runners up of the whole competition. This is such an achievement and we were very proud of the team.



## JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

On Friday 27th May Nelson turned red, white and blue to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The children learnt about the Queen's reign through their history lessons in the mornings and then took part in sporting jubilee activities in the afternoon. At lunchtime the whole school gathered for a giant Jubilee party.





## VICARAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Following a wait of over seven years, Vicarage received a Section 8 OFSTED inspection on the 22nd – 23rd March. The inspection was carried out by Adam Vincent (HMI) and Sir Robin Bosher (OFSTED Inspector). As well as deep dives in Reading, Mathematics, Art and History, the inspectors spoke to staff, pupils, parents, governors and the CEO of the Trust to look at a range of areas including teaching and learning, behaviour and safeguarding.



It was a very intense and thorough process and the findings were as hoped. Though the school continued to be a Good School, there was enough evidence of improved performance to suggest that the school could be judged Outstanding in a Section 5 inspection in the next couple of years.

Some of the key points from the final report include:

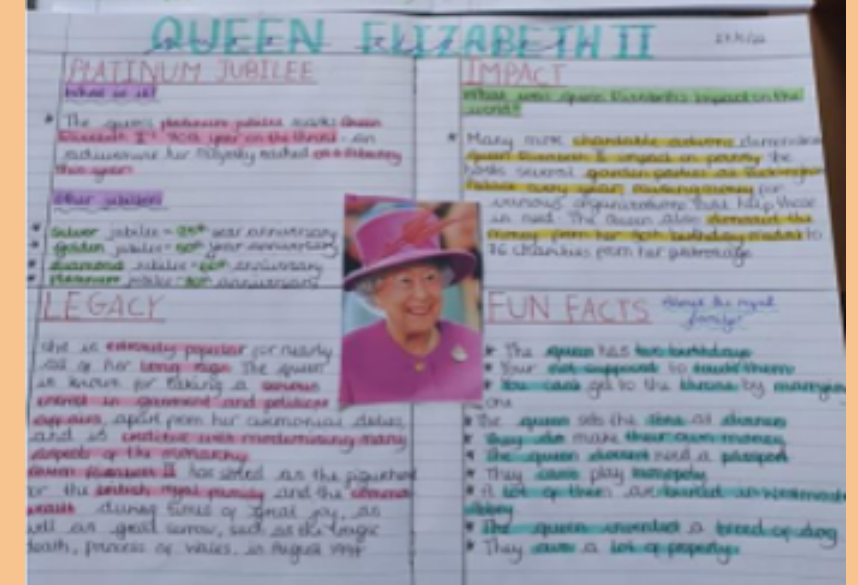
- Pupils enjoy coming to this welcoming and friendly school
- Leaders have high expectations of pupils' learning and behaviour
- Staff work hard to resolve any issues promptly and ensure pupils are kept safe
- Leaders have designed a curriculum with the school's values of Excellence, Resilience and Respect at its heart
- Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities are well supported. Leaders include all pupils in every aspect of the school

Everyone at the school was delighted with the outcome and very proud of this achievement. It is a testament to the accuracy of self-evaluation by school leaders, an ethos of high expectations and teamwork by the whole school community underpinned by a clear commitment to providing the best education and support to our pupils and their families.



### QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION AT VICARAGE PRIMARY

On Thursday 26th May, pupils and staff came to the school dressed in their finest outfits to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Pupils learned about the history of the Queen's reign both nationally and internationally. Our Year 6 dance group performed to music through the decades. Pupils received a souvenir from the school to mark the special occasion.



We had a special lunch fit for a Queen and ended the day with the whole school singing the National Anthem in the playground. A wonderful day for the whole school community.





## GALLIONS PRIMARY SCHOOL



A priority this year at Gallions has been to improve the outdoor learning provision for our nursery and reception classes and I'm delighted to share the results. The renovation has seen a complete transformation of the playground, both areas have had new challenging climbing apparatus installed, new enclosed sandpits, bespoke mud kitchens and woodland areas developed and the very popular addition of trampolines. All these improvements have enabled us to reform the opportunities we offer our children and ensure that our rich curriculum offer continues outside.

And we didn't stop there! An underused walkway between the nursery and reception classes has been redesigned into a shared grass area for role play and creative play. A stage takes centre place in the large area promoting Gallions love of performing arts and beautifully designed role play huts that invite pupils to play imaginatively are positioned around.



And that wasn't all! The success of the EYFS transformation and the addition of challenging climbing apparatus in both the nursery and reception playgrounds encouraged us to evaluate our year 1 playground. Again, we decided that a complete revision was best for our pupils. The old role play platform was replaced with a new large and exciting climbing net, a bespoke mud kitchen zone was added, the play surface was improved with artificial grass and the ever popular trampolines were added.

The feedback from staff, pupils and parents on the all playground improvement has been overwhelmingly positive and I know that these changes will greatly improve our pupils' time at Gallions. Over the summer holidays, we begin the first phase of our main playground development - I can't wait to share these next improvements with you.

### Ofsted

With just one week to go to the end of the summer term, and on a very hot day, Gallions was visited by Ofsted. We were the last New Vision Trust school to be inspected this academic year and are pleased to share that like our partner schools the inspection went very well. Judged good at our last inspection in 2015, we were excited for the opportunity to show off all the improvements and progress we have made since. The inspection took place over two days and was led by one HMI inspector, as expected they began the process with a deep dive into early reading and thanks to the hard work of our reading lead and staff, Gallions excelled at this. The inspection also took a close look at how we teach maths and geography, Maths like reading is a curriculum subject that Gallions has worked hard at improving over the last few years and we are particularly pleased that Ofsted were impressed with both the teaching and learning they saw. The report I feel reflects the Gallions I have come to know over the past year, and we look forward to welcoming Ofsted back in a year for a more thorough inspection 5.

Please read the full report here: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/145368>



## ELMHURST PRIMARY SCHOOL



The year began amazingly well with our outstanding Ofsted and ended on a positive note with year 6 SATs results exceeding targets, especially for those attaining the greater depth standard in reading ( 45% ) , grammar ( 54%) and Maths (49%). Our staff have worked hard to ensure that the school mitigated against gaps due to the national lockdowns and so standards are in line or have exceeded pre pandemic levels! All of the other year groups have also performed equally well in the standardised tests, including year 1 phonics (94% passed), year 2 SATs and year 4 Times Tables check (94% attained at least 20/25).

### REMEMBERING HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II



This year the school came together to celebrate HRH Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee through hosting a huge tea party - almost 100 thousand pupils enjoyed the pomp and sense of occasion. A Bake Off competition launched the event with expert baker Auntie Bobat judging with the most stringent criteria- see the winning entries above. These celebrations are now bitter sweet as we mark Her Majesty's passing. Pupils and staff have been reflecting on her lifetime of service through discussions and special assemblies.



Elmhurst has worked hard on tweaking the curriculum and our provision is seen as being of very high quality by other schools and awarding bodies, including Ofsted. Elmhurst has been supporting a number of local schools with developing their curricular offer.

Here are a few recent achievements:

- Platinum Games mark was awarded for the school's PE and Sports
- Elmhurst are the boys' Kwik Cricket ECB Park Champions for 2022
- Elmhurst received the intermediate International School Award in recognition of our global links in Kenya & Ghana
- Elmhurst are the regional debating champions for London and attained third place in the National Cup at the Houses of Parliament and are debating in the national league championships next week
- Our year 5 pupils won the spectacular 'Poetry By Heart' competition for their category at Shakespeare's Globe theatre



It was wonderful to reinstate our two residential trips abroad; I was lucky enough to attend the annual visit to Venice with talented year 6 artists and our art consultant Andrew Mutter. The final pieces are on display in the Quintin Peppiatt Wing so do come and take a peek!



Our summer term ended on a high as we welcomed a visit from Will Quince, Schools' Minister On Tuesday 21st July. Mr Quince was interested in learning about the ways in which New Vision English Hub has been supporting schools across NE London and Essex to develop the teaching of reading.

We began the morning by observing one of our Literacy Specialists, Fahima Khankhara, teaching an outstanding Y1 phonics lesson. This led on to discussion around how the Hub shares best practice and how we partner with schools across NE London and Essex through funding, training and bespoke school support.

The visit gave us an opportunity to reflect on how the English Hub support offer has diversified over the past four years, supporting schools in areas such as Reading for Pleasure and Early Language as well as Phonics teaching. It was a privilege for the school, trust and English Hub to be recognised nationally for its excellence in teaching reading and supporting other schools' practice more widely across our region.



## NEW VISION TRUST POETRY RETREAT

Since 2016, the Poetry Retreats have become part of the rhythm of our year in school. Each November, children and teachers from Elmhurst, Nelson, Gallions and Vicarage gather together, and work with Jonny Walker and Adisa in the New Forest.

COVID-19 put a stop to that...until now! It was with great excitement that we were able to bring the retreats back this year, between 24th and 27th May 2022.

Thirty children and five staff members from across the four schools of the New Vision Trust collaborated to take part in Jonny and Adisa's refreshed and reinvigorated post-lockdown Poetry Retreat, three and a half hours away in the New Forest.

There were some differences. For almost all of the children taking part, it was their first time away from home, and their first residential visit. We are all so impressed with the maturity and good humour that all the kids displayed. As is often the case, we had no real homesickness because we were just so busy adventuring from dawn til dusk!

We explored the vast, beautiful forests and the rolling hills beneath a wild and weird sky - at times, we basked in the heat of early summer, and at times we took shelter from the rain and the hailstorms! We even set fire to the booth, and recorded some of our own poetry performances with Adisa.

The children all had plentiful opportunities to write poetry, inspired by their surroundings, by their imaginations and by their interactions. As always, the diversity of our group and our life experiences led to a stunning range of poetic responses - children wrote about family life, about how it felt to be out in nature, and how it felt to experience a new and unusual kind of intellectual freedom.

And there was plentiful time for play too. The teachers from across the trust had put together a dazzling array of activities, and engaged in wonderful conversations. Enormous thanks to the adults who took part: Sophie Falkenburg (Elmhurst), Aysha Battiwala (Elmhurst), Rob Des Roches (Nelson), Kathy Dowdeswell (Gallions) and Hirra Zahid (Vicarage).

We cannot wait to share our anthologies with you too. Each child had plenty to choose from in their notepads, and each child selected a few pages to contribute. This year's anthology will be titled 'afraid...not any more' taken from a line in one of the students' poems.

Adisa and Jonny thoroughly enjoyed working with the New Vision Trust, and look forward to our project continuing in 2022-23 with New Vision Trust. Thanks must be given to the New Vision Trust too for generously funding the project, meaning that all children who were invited were able to take part, irrespective of financial circumstances.

The New Vision Trust's support for poetry and creative expression goes beyond just words - it is a significant and meaningful investment, and we are very pleased that the children were given this experience. We certainly enjoyed it too!





## PEN PORTRAITS OF OUR TRUSTEES



### **CHAIR OF TRUSTEES: REVD QUINTIN PEPPIATT**

Revd Quintin Peppiatt has been the parish priest for St. Mary Magdalene, East Ham since 1995. He is currently chair of the New Vision Trust and Vicarage Primary School. He has been a local councillor since 1997 and was Cabinet member for children and young people.



### **JANE LUCAS - TRUSTEE**

Jane Lucas has been a trustee of the New Vision Board since its formation in 2018, a role she immensely enjoys. Jane's career as a teacher has enabled her to take a strategic approach to her role as Trustee and she is always insightful with her thoughts and feedback.

She has a long standing relationship with Gallions Primary, where she worked from 2004 until 2016 as a Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher. Jane's love for Gallions has continued and she now supports its progress through her role as Chair of Governors. As a Governor Jane is very supportive, she has a good understanding of Newham and its community and is passionate about supporting Gallions pupils becoming lifelong learners. Jane's creative talents have supported Gallions drive for excellence in the creative arts and she is a huge supporter of our commitment to teaching all pupils a string instrument.



### **MARJORIE BROWNE - TRUSTEE**

Marjorie Browne had been a School Governor, a Local Authority Governor and is currently Chair of Governors at Elmhurst Primary school. She is proud to be a long-standing member of the governing body.

Marjorie has always been passionate about helping young people and children. Marjorie is the Gifted and Talented link governor and regularly attends the Shakespeare in school events.

Marjorie has been a trustee of New Vision Trust since it was formed in 2018 and has embraced her role in helping children reach their potential.



### **NICOLE ABBOTT - TRUSTEE**

Nicole Abbott went to St. Michael's Primary School, St. Angela's Ursuline School and then St. Angela's and St. Bonaventure's Sixth Form. She studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford University, followed by a law conversion course and law and business masters.

After working in the City as a banking lawyer for seven years, she recently left to be an in-house lawyer at the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

Nicole has been a governor of Nelson since 2018 and joined the board of trustees of the New Vision Trust in December 2021.