



The summer term is now well underway and has brought with it the lovely warmer weather which makes it much more comfortable for staff and children to continue to follow guidelines and ventilate rooms. Thank you all sincerely for your support during the last year, both in helping your children with remote learning during lockdown and in trusting us to keep your children safe when schools could finally fully open to all children prior to the Easter break. Thank you also for doing your part during the pandemic by socially distancing, wearing masks around our schools sites and following the government guidance at all stages. With all our continued hard work we are keeping positive test outcomes to a minimum and managing any positive cases with rigour and safety.



I was pleased to welcome two new members to our Central Team over the past weeks. Sally-Anne Green joins us as Chief Financial Officer and Tracy Bannister is our new Head of Operations and Compliance. Sally Anne and Tracy are reviewing our central policies and procedures to make further efficiencies in the way that we operate. You can find out more about them below.

Children and staff are taking great delight in our Shakespeare project this term – A Midsummer Night's Dream - and are really enjoying the rich and varied opportunities that this fabulous play brings to our learning opportunities. We are really looking forward to a new digital performance to replace our annual performance at the Derngate, so please do look out for more details about this in the coming weeks.

We have also begun to work with a school in Milton Keynes, Langland Community School. Langland is looking for a great multi-academy trust to work with, and NPAT is keen to work with a wider range of schools. So this is the beginning of a new relationship as we both get to know each other and share ideas and experiences. Langland staff will be coming to Northampton to visit some of our schools to find out more about our curriculum and school improvement offer. We are also working with the new Teaching School Hub, Brooke Weston Trust, as they begin to form the professional learning offer for Northamptonshire. These are exciting times indeed.

Julia Kedwards
Chief Executive Officer

Hello from the CFO



I joined NPAT at the beginning of last term as Chief Financial Officer and have enjoyed the opportunity to meet (virtually at least) with many of you. These sessions have been engaging and enlightening, with each school having a unique feel whilst still working towards a collective purpose in a supportive environment. As our journey of growth continues and we welcome new schools into our community, my aim is to assist and work with you all in our mission to develop a Multi-Academy Trust of highly effective and sustainable schools for all children under our care.

I have almost twenty years' experience providing Board-level support for private, public, and not-for-profit organisations operating globally in the fields of construction, property development, education, research, medical, pharmaceuticals, media, and publishing.

After spending 20 years working internationally, I returned to England with my two children to work for an educational charity and group of colleges and more recently in distribution and construction. In my spare time I enjoy theatre, live music, reading, DIY and an enthusiastic but poor golfer. I look forward to meeting many more of you as things get back to normal.

Sally Anne Green
Chief Financial Officer

A message from our new HOO.



I am delighted to have joined NPAT at the very end of last term as Head of Operations & Compliance. I have already been blown away by what I have seen with the incredible levels of passion, commitment and empathy that NPAT staff show for our local communities. I am excited to be able to support this work and hopefully remove some headaches from you along the way.

I join NPAT having undertaken a similar role within another multi academy trust of 5 primary and secondary schools, an ITT provision and a trading company with a similar amount of pupils to NPAT but less sites. I am looking forward to visiting all our schools when we return after Easter and getting to know staff personally and the individual contexts of your settings.

As a parent to four young people, I totally believe in supporting all our staff so they can provide the very best for every young person in our care and I hope that if there is anything I can do, you won't hesitate to get in touch.

Tracy Bannister
Head of Operations & Compliance



A message from Anna Carter, NPAT Trust Lead for Curriculum and Professional Learning

Schools in the trust were delighted to welcome children back last term and pleased at how quickly the vast majority of children settled back into school routines.

Many of our schools paused on the work that they were planning on completing around A Midsummer Night's Dream during the lockdown period. Spring One is usually when children across the trust engage with a Shakespeare play as part of their English curriculum, as we work in partnership with the Royal Shakespeare Company as part of the Associate Schools Programme. Some went ahead remotely but many started delivering their curriculum work last week so you may be hearing lots of exciting stories about magical forests, fairies and mischief!

As part of this curriculum focus children engage in drama activity and Shakespearian language to produce writing outcomes. Some children are also rehearsing for a digital performance of the play using music, dance and drama, instead of our annual event at the Royal & Derngate. We are currently finalising plans for this performance and are excited to share news of how you can engage with it at home.

It is also fantastic for teachers to continue teaching our NPAT wider curriculum materials for Humanities, Science, RE and Art. The writing groups have been working hard to ensure that planning and resources are available for our teachers to ensure that children in the trust all have access to the very best curriculum that we can offer.

Now that the sun is shining and we are experiencing some warmer weather I am sure that the children will have more opportunities to be outside, safely of course, and individual schools will inform you of any plans they have for PE, clubs etc.



THE
NATIONAL
GALLERY

Take One Picture - Update

From previous editions of the NPAT News you may remember that a visit to the National Gallery in London for all year 4 children to see their own work on display is usually the culmination of the project. Meanwhile, as it is still not considered safe for the children to travel, the National Gallery selected artworks created by children at Headlands Primary School to be showcased across the United Kingdom on huge, digital billboards.

The 'Take One Picture' project aims to encourage children to create their own artworks by responding to various elements in the painting including themes, subject matter, historical context or composition. As part of a project the children made ceramics inspired by last year's painting 'Men of the Docks' by George Bellows.

Darren Smith, Headteacher at Headlands and Take One Picture project lead for NPAT, told local press prior to the launch that "It

has been great for the children as

it is cross-curricular learning. There is an art outcome, a humanities outcome and an English outcome. It's also great and unbelievable that ceramics that are literally outside my room will be on major billboards around the country".

Artwork produced by children from Headlands Primary school seen in the middle of a billboard at Westfield Shopping Centre, London. Photo: The National Gallery.



TAKE ONE PICTURE -

the National Gallery's programme for UK primary schools, which aims to inspire a lifelong love of art and learning. Every year, the Gallery takes one picture from the collection to inspire cross-curricular work in primary classrooms.



Alongside artwork from other schools across the country, the pictures of the work created by pupils at Headlands was displayed on more than 60 screens in six cities: Aberdeen, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London and Manchester for two weeks from 1st March.



Our own sporting super-school continues to 'Set the Standard' for primary sport in Northampton

Highlighting the importance of PE in covid times, Lings Primary School was selected to feature in a story for BBC Look East's primetime evening news slot.

The news team spent the day at Lings with journalist James Burrige interviewing parents, teachers, and pupils to capture how highly valued physical education and all forms of exercise are at the school. He then filmed a PE lesson taught by Mr Davies and Mrs Davies to examine how the children have returned to school full of desire to learn and be physically active.



The lesson was supported by interviews with two fantastic parents who gave examples of how they supported their children's activity at home with the use of the Create Jasmine Active Platform.

Lings staff were keen to thank all of the year 5 children who featured in the demo lesson as they represented the school brilliantly and to two outstanding students in particular who also stepped up to the mark when asked to give an interview on camera, speaking with confidence, showing fantastic attitude and willingness to lead.



The importance of sport at Lings and the seeds that are sewn there for a future active life was highlighted further when a former Lings pupil, Khanya Lashabela, made his Premier League debut for Leicester City Football Club. Khanya, a South Africa international player, helped his side to a 5-0 win over Sheffield United and provided local inspiration for the many budding athletes at Lings. His success story, perseverance, dedication and hard work has surely 'Set the Standard'.



Exciting new outdoor classroom at East Hunsbury Primary School

When the children and staff returned to East Hunsbury Primary School after the Easter holiday they were greeted with a brand new outdoor classroom. Thanks to a very generous donation from The Smurfitt Kappa Foundation the school now has this wonderful resource complete with its own solar panel and a mini wind turbine to monitor and provide energy. The Smurfitt Kappa Foundation funds projects in the communities in

which they operate, particularly those which focus on helping young children, through inclusive and innovative educational projects. The whole school will access the space which will expand on the outdoor learning opportunities already enjoyed by the children as part of EHPS's involvement in the Erasmus Funded Project—Science Outside the Classroom.

As part of the project staff have already been developing National Curriculum based Science lessons that are intentionally taught outdoors if it is considered that it is the best place for the learning to take place. The school looked at how to make better use of existing outdoor spaces on the grounds which included rejuvenating their pond and wildlife area and applying for grants and donations to help build the outdoor classroom.

While, of course the space will be used as a base for outdoor science sessions, there are also plans afoot to use it for yoga and story times.

Grateful thanks go to the Smurfitt Kappa Foundation from both EHPS and NPAT as the school hopes to be able to invite other NPAT Science Leads and Forest School Leaders to a Multiplier Event which would celebrate the end of the formal Science Outside the Classroom Project and introduce the new resources that EHPS are keen to share.



Northampton Primary Academy Trust

Abington Vale Primary School, Blackthorn Primary School, Ecton Brook Primary School, East Hunsbury Primary School, Headlands Primary School, Lings Primary School, Rectory Farm Primary School, Simon de Senlis Primary School, Thorplands Primary School, Upton Meadows Primary School and in partnership with Weston Favell CE Primary School

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NPAT TERM DATES 2021-2022

TERM DATES	STARTING	ENDING
TERM 1	Monday 6 September 2021	Friday 22 October 2021
TERM 2	Tuesday 2 November 2021	Friday 17 December 2021
TERM 3	Tuesday 4 January 2022	Friday 11 February 2022
TERM 4	Tuesday 22 February 2022	Friday 1 April 2022
TERM 5	Tuesday 19 April 2022	Friday 27 May 2022
TERM 6	Monday 6 June 2022	Friday 22 July 2022

TRAINING DAYS	
Wednesday 1 September 2021	
Thursday 2 and Friday 3 September 2021	
Monday 1 November 2021 (NPAT Conference)	
Monday 21 February 2022	

HALF TERM	FROM	TO
OCTOBER	Monday 25 October 2021	Friday 29 October 2021
CHRISTMAS	Monday 20 December 2021	Monday 3 January 2022
FEBRUARY	Monday 14 February 2022	Monday 21 February 2022
EASTER	Monday 4 April 2022	Friday 15 April 2022
MAY	Monday 30 May 2022	Friday 3 June 2022

BANK HOLIDAYS
Christmas Holidays Monday 27 December & Tuesday 28 2021
Bank Holiday Monday 3 January 2022
Easter Weekend Friday 15 April & Monday 18 April 2022
May Bank Holiday Monday 2 May
June Bank Holidays Thursday 2 and Friday 3 June
Summer Bank Holiday Monday 29 August 2022