

TKAT TERM

Inspiring learners, changing lives.



WELCOME TO OUR FIRST TKAT TERM

In the year that we celebrate our 10th birthday as one of the largest Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) in the country, I'm pleased to launch the first edition of our TKAT TERM newsletter.

2020 has been an unprecedented year, and we have all had to find new ways of working and keeping well and safe through the pandemic. At this time, I feel it is more important than ever for our family of Academies to share what has been happening in their schools. We want to give our families, our communities and our partners a flavour of the good work and successes that our pupils and our staff continue to achieve every day.

I hope that you enjoy the first edition; if you have suggestions for future issues, please contact marketing@tkat.org.

Dr Karen Roberts

TKAT CEO

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Kemnal Technology College wins a fantastic funding bid to support pupils.
- Meet the TKAT Chair of Trustees, Gaenor Bagley.
- Learn about Cleeve Meadow, our newest school in the TKAT family.
- Students lead the way at our first Student Council Conference.
- Thomas Bennett hosts 200 students at the TKAT High Ability Day.
- Our innovative staff webinars prove a hit during lockdown.
- A letter from Deputy CEO Liz Harrison on recent TKAT highlights.

CHILDREN'S AUTHOR MICHAEL ROSEN IS GUEST OF HONOUR AT TKAT READING CONFERENCE

All seats were taken at TKAT's Reading Conference 2020; colleagues from across the Trust came together to share ideas, discuss research and plan next steps for their schools.

The day kicked off with some fascinating research and strategies from the organisation which produces 'Accelerated Reader' software. This helps teachers monitor pupils' reading practice and progress.

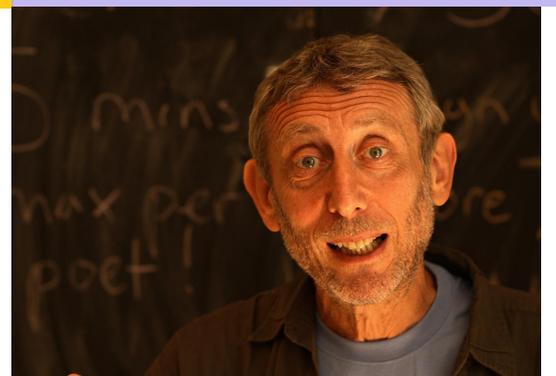
Workshops in the afternoon were led by TKAT's specialist reading, phonics and writing leads from across the Trust.

Feedback from colleagues was very positive; information and insight was used to maximise positive outcomes for TKAT pupils going forward.

One of the highlights was the keynote speech from Michael Rosen, one of Britain's best loved authors of children's books.

Michael had everyone energised, recalling poetry and creating a collaborative group performance poem.

Right: Michael Rosen



TKAT WELCOMES FIRST PUPILS TO BRAND NEW SPECIAL SCHOOL IN SIDCUP



Cleeve
Meadow
School



Above: Receiving the keys to the new school, and the new main building .

2020 marked the completion of a new TKAT school in Sidcup for children with special educational needs. **Cleeve Meadow School** has been designed to provide specialist education for 120 pupils aged 11-19 with moderate learning difficulties.

The school was made possible through a partnership between TKAT and the London Borough of Bexley. A significant amount of funding was also provided by Central Government.

TKAT officially took possession of the keys to the new building earlier this year, and the school welcomed its first pupils in September.

Built within the grounds of **Cleeve Park School**, Sidcup, the new free school has 12 teaching rooms, a therapeutic hub, large open plan library and IT space. Facilities also include a specialist music department, performing arts centre and a full-sized artificial football pitch that is available for **Cleeve Park School** pupils to use too.

TKAT'S FIRST STUDENT COUNCIL CONFERENCE IS A SUCCESS

2020 saw the launch of TKAT's first Student Council Conference. Led by members of the Junior Leadership Team at TKAT's **Rainham School for Girls**, fifty students from TKAT Academies came together to explore 'Mental Health and Wellbeing in Schools'.

The students examined how best to raise awareness of the importance of pupil wellbeing, raise self esteem, build resilience and change negative thought patterns.

During the conference, the

pupils found ways to build initiatives to drive things forward in schools.

The Keynote Speaker was Andrew Wright, from 'Action Your Potential' who explained the power of neuroscience and how it can be used to transform our understanding of ourselves.

The feedback from the day was very positive, with students feeling inspired, better equipped to deal with challenges and ready to share their new knowledge.



Above: TKAT pupils engage in workshop-style sessions during the 2020 Student Council Conference.



WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TKAT?

In September 2020, we published our 'Welcome to TKAT' brochure for 2020/21.

The booklet communicates our purpose, vision and values, along with an overview of our strategic

plans and direction over the next three years.

To download a copy, please go to the home page of our website www.tkat.org



MEET TKAT CHAIR OF TRUSTEES GAENOR BAGLEY

"What is one of your best school memories?"

One of my happiest school memories was getting my one star badge for athletics, as normally I was so slow I did not even qualify for that. Now I run 3 or 4 times a week so maybe that spurred me on!

"What career did you choose and why?"

At school, I wanted to be an accountant. I was good at Maths and I felt a professional qualification that I could fall back on would be a good idea. I joined an investment bank and then an accountancy firm (PwC) to be a tax advisor, where I stayed for over 20 years. I was asked to join the

board of PwC to be Head of People. I loved this role as I was also responsible for PwC's work in the community and this led to my desire to make a difference in society when I retired in 2017. Now I have a mix of non-executive roles, such as Chair of TKAT.

"Why did you become a TKAT trustee?"

Whilst leading on Community Affairs at PwC, I was really struck by the barriers to social mobility in our society today. On my retirement I actively looked for a role with an organisation that was making a difference and TKAT's mission and ethos really chimed with my own.

"What did TKAT do well in 2019/20?"

I was impressed with the way TKAT schools were already embracing the changes we have introduced to make it easier to support schools in improving attainment. Once Covid hit, the TKAT family came into its own. I think our response to Covid continues to be amazing - very child-centred and supportive, and it makes me very proud.

"What is a key priority this year?"

The key priority is to minimise the disruption to our pupils and staff as we steer through the pandemic. We need to remain ambitious for our pupils and continue to be flexible and creative in our response. I've no doubt we will succeed!



KTC WINS NEW FUNDS

TKAT's **Kemnal Technology College** has won a £150,000 grant to create and staff its own on-site Inclusion Unit. The money, awarded by the Evening Standard's Excluded Initiative, will be paid to the school over three years. The funds will enable targeted support for vulnerable pupils and transform outcomes for those who would otherwise be at risk of exclusion.

The aim is to nurture and reintegrate - rather than expel - disengaged students.

KTC aims to cut exclusions by adopting a preventative rather than reactive approach. In its new exclusion centre, students will be helped to address low self esteem, emotional control and conflict resolution, with additional assistance provided by the

charity Football Beyond Borders. Assistant Head Matthew Godden said:

"The grant allows us to employ a dedicated member of staff whose job is to help us become a preventative school. Our aim is to get permanent exclusions to zero and fixed period exclusions to below the national average of 10%.



We will intervene early, spot the warning signs and give them the help they need."

If you would like to support a Trust or school project, please contact: david.churchill@tkat.org

STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING CONTINUES DURING COVID-19

During the Covid-19 disruption, we have continued with a series of professional development virtual workshops and seminars. This has ensured that TKAT teaching staff continue to receive cutting-edge training, so that our pupils can benefit from their expertise and achieve their potential.

Our virtual NQT welcome conference was well received by our 110 Newly Qualified Teachers and included sessions on time management, managing workloads and top tips for the year.

Adapting at the last minute, our trust safeguarding leads Sara Walton and Scott Wilson delivered excellent training for Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs).

Our next programme for Recently Qualified Teachers (RQTs) will start in November 2020. Our 'Principles of Coaching' programme has been accredited by EMCC (European Mentoring and Coaching Council).

We also teamed up with Action Your Potential to deliver a series of ten 30-minute online webinars for teaching staff on how neuroscience

can help pupils (and us all) to maximise our learning potential. Subjects included how to train our brains to have more willpower, and how to support positive learning habits.

Our full programme, including events open to external colleagues can be found [HERE](#) (online version) or search via: www.tsa-tkat.org You can also subscribe to our Professional Development YouTube channel [HERE](#) (online version) for useful webinars, or simply search 'TKAT professional development' from the YouTube site.



Letter from Liz

Deputy CEO **Liz Harrison** reflects on some of the term's highlights so far.

OUR ACADEMIES:

The Kemnal Academies Trust is one of the largest Multi-Academy Trusts across the South and East of England, with 45 Primary and Secondary Academies in the TKAT family.



Dear Reader,

We are delighted to welcome 2 new Headteachers to TKAT, Steve Fisher at **King Harold Academy** and Rebecca Parrett at **Havant Academy**.

Tangmere Academy won Sussex Community's Reader's Choice award for best Sussex school for their work with the Dementia Support Hub at Sage House, and Tom Garfield at **The Academy Selsey** won a Sussex Headteacher of the Year award.

Ofsted did a pilot themed visit with Sophie Gosden and her team at **The Mill** and they saw an example of how well TKAT schools are responding to the challenges of Covid.

It's been lovely to see the parental feedback on all our staff's continued professionalism in these unprecedented times, such as for **East Wickham Primary** and **Weyfield Primary**.

Horizon have done excellent work on their BAME curriculum that runs throughout the year.

Andrew Strong and **Portfield** were one of the first to set up a fantastic system for teachers to teach their class virtually if needed, and Mel Strachan and **Seal Primary** have led the way with a wonderful virtual school tour.

I'll finish with just one of the inspiring things I've seen this term. It was a quote on the new **Ore Village Primary** website:

"There is freedom waiting for you, on the breezes of the sky. And you ask, 'What if I fall?' Oh, but my darling, what if you fly?" (by Erin Hanson)

Liz



**Thomas Bennett
Community College**

THOMAS BENNETT HIGHER ABILITY CONFERENCE

TKAT's **Thomas Bennett Community College** was delighted to host a Higher Ability Conference this year. Nearly 200 students across TKAT secondary academies attended.

The focus of the conference was exam revision, with particular emphasis on the skills needed to achieve the highest grades. The students were immersed in learning from start to finish, with the support of expert teachers from several academies.

Feedback from students highlighted the quality of teaching and they were grateful to work alongside students from other academies.

Teachers from across academies found that the sessions developed their teaching, particularly around the area of questioning and they were very impressed with the high-quality answers given by students. Well done to all involved!



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