

# Connect Education Trust

## Creating Remarkable Futures



Carterhatch  
Junior School



### Connect Parent Newsletter Autumn Term 2023

As we come to the end of a busy autumn term, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the efforts and achievement of our children, dedicated people and supportive parent community. It has been a term marked with growth, awards and a shared commitment to creating [Remarkable Futures](#).

This term I had the pleasure of hosting our first Pupil Parliament Network meeting on sustainability. It is made up of 2 pupil representatives from each school across Connect. I was particularly impressed with how much our pupils know about this matter and their strong views on what we should be doing. I am looking forward to seeing the posters created by our pupils and picking the 10 final winners with the Pupil Parliament!

We care  about sustainability

### Androulla Nicou - Chief Executive Officer



As the holiday season draws near, take the opportunity to cherish special moments with friends and loved ones. Additionally, don't forget to prioritise self-care and ensure you take time for yourselves. I wish you a joyous and warm holiday season. Androulla Nicou

## Here are some highlights from the autumn term

Connect Education Trust has been pioneering digital learning techniques for many years and prides itself on being tech-savvy.

Effective technology integration enhances teaching and learning experiences. It promotes pupils' engagement, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.

More than three years ago, the Trust invested over £1 million to provide a Chromebook for each child, ensuring that our schools can access our digital learning programme. The Trust bought an additional 500 Chromebooks this term to replenish equipment in all schools.



All schools within the Trust use the Google Workspace for Education which provides tools to aid teaching and learning such as Google Classroom, Google Docs, Google Meet, Google Forms and Google Chat.

NAO robots are used to provide personalised and adaptive learning experiences for pupils such as learning a foreign language (Spanish), English as an additional language, reading and SEND. This has improved their knowledge, social skills and self-esteem.

The Moki activity wristband trackers have helped to develop health habits and have provided teachers

with data to monitor children's activity levels incorporating movement breaks in the day.



Virtual reality headsets have provided more immersive learning experiences in class. It has allowed our pupils to explore new environments and scenarios. The impact is pupil engagement and retention of information has significantly improved.



Connect Education Trust will continue with its strategy to work hard to upskill the next generation with core knowledge to ensure that all our pupils are properly prepared for the challenges they will face in the 21st century. Our education strategy for ICT is also built around closing the skills gap in computer science and offering equality of access through high quality digital learning opportunities to all our pupils across Connect schools.

Please click [here](#) to see our children using technology in lessons. Scroll down to the bottom of the page for the video.

We create  innovative learning opportunities.

Bowes Primary School



Chesterfield Primary School

## Digital School Awards

Connect Education Trust is delighted to inform you that two of its member schools, Bowes Primary and Chesterfield Primary, have been awarded Digital School status for their innovative teaching methods and efficient use of technology. These schools are among the pioneers in England to receive this award, which recognises excellence in digital learning and teaching. Congratulations to both schools for this outstanding achievement!

HP and AMD are proud sponsors of the Digital Schools Awards programme which has recently been extended to England. This expansion is a significant step toward empowering teachers and students across the UK with the tools and skills they need to excel in a digital age.

To become a digital school, Bowes and Chesterfield demonstrated strategies that empowered students with digital skills whilst also ensuring a secure and inclusive educational environment where every student, regardless of ability, can thrive.

The awards ceremony took place on 6<sup>th</sup> October at Bowes. It was a fantastic event. The children were a real credit to both schools and to themselves. They spoke confidently about how they use digital technology in school and answered lots of questions about their use of VR headsets, Marty the Robot, Google Suite, Moki Activity Trackers, Crumble Controllers and Google Passport.



## Connect partners with Dr Fiona Aubrey-Smith

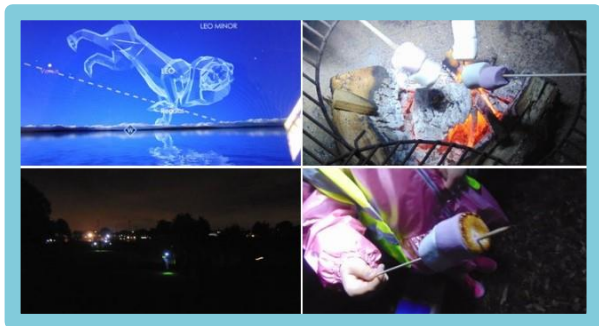
**This year we are working together across the Trust to research best practice in teaching and learning and the use of digital technology.**

The focus of work this term has been on our partnership work with Dr Fiona Aubrey-Smith. Fiona published a book "From Edtech to Pedtech" at the end of August which has instantly become an education bestseller. A team of Deputy Headteachers from each of the schools have worked together alongside the Chief Education Officer, the Director of Digital Learning and author, Dr Fiona Aubrey-Smith, to create a set of pedagogical principles and practices for all Connect schools. This research project has involved visiting classrooms across all of the schools in the Trust, speaking with pupils and discussing as a group the different pedagogical beliefs, intentions and strategies that are effective in supporting the learning process.

This project is set to continue throughout the year with dates set in the Spring and Summer term. As a result of this groundbreaking work Connect Education Trust has been invited to share the research findings at the World Education Summit in March 2024.

**Carterhatch Junior School**  **Carterhatch Junior School**

Carterhatch had their first stargazing evening on 9<sup>th</sup> November. This was made possible by a generous parent buying the telescope for the school. Year 5 came back to school at night. The telescope was set up and ready but unfortunately it was a little cloudy. They also got to sit around the campfire and toast marshmallows. A great night was had by all.



**Delta Primary School**

**Hazelbury Primary School**

**Chesterfield Primary School**

**Delta, Hazelbury and Chesterfield** represented Connect at the Houses of Parliament to take part in the Children's Rights Inquiry debate. The children listened to debates on the Environment and Climate, Racism and Discrimination and Mental Health and Free School Meals. They had the opportunity to ask questions. It was a wonderful day and a great experience for our children.



**Fern House School**



Well done to the pupils at Fern House School for coming joint first place in the Gymnastics Festival on 29<sup>th</sup> November, at Southbury Leisure Centre. This was a fantastic achievement for the school.

**We empower**  **our pupils to be the best they can be.**



**Grange Park Primary School**



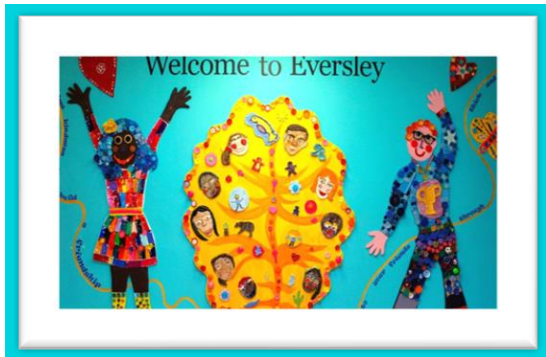
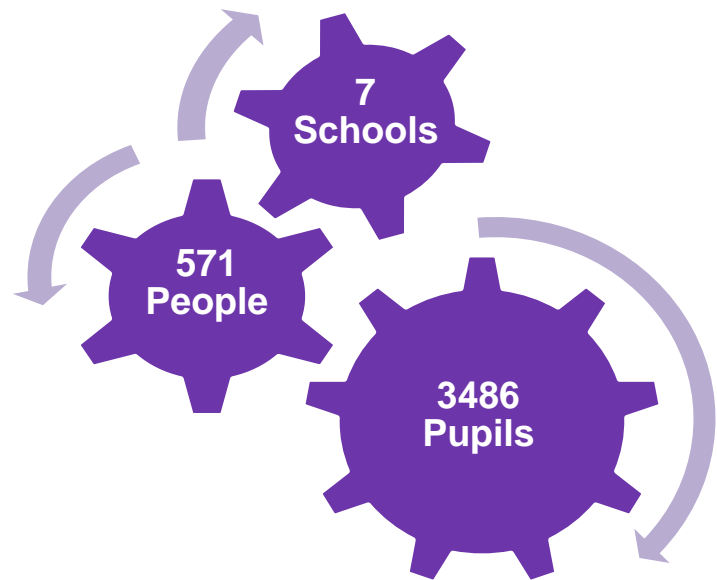
Grange Park is thrilled to have been awarded the Eco Schools green flag with merit award. This is given to schools who go beyond the Eco-Schools Seven Step criteria. This accomplishment reflects their collective commitment to sustainability.



## Connect Growth Plans



We are excited to share some wonderful news with everyone. **Eversley Primary School** has taken the decision to become part of Connect and has passed a resolution and applied for academy status. Like other schools that have previously joined Connect, Eversley will be an Associate Member. We invite you all to extend a warm welcome to the Eversley children, staff and community as we process the legalities.



### Eversley Philosophy Statement

**AIM HIGH and BE KIND**

At Eversley Primary School they believe children learn best when they are happy and have a love of learning. Their values, based curriculum provides them with the tools they need to be effective learners and prepares them for life, whilst supporting them to have the self-belief and determination to be the best they can be.



## Premises Improvements Across Our Schools

- Bowes carried out reception playground improvement works in the summer holidays. They now have a free-standing timber shelter with a sloped roof;
- Carterhatch refurbished the boys' and girls' toilets. They also rebuilt the pond area;
- Chesterfield carried out roof repair work;
- Fern House have moved into their brand-new school and are enjoying the fantastic facilities;
- Hazelbury put up new external fencing and installed a more durable play surface for the children;
- Grange Park is due to start partial replacement of the heating system and new boilers;
- Delta has new signage in the playground area.

