

CONNECT

EDUCATION TRUST



Parent Newsletter Spring Term 2024

Message from Androulla, CEO

As we approach the holiday break, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to our children, dedicated people and supportive parent community for your hard work and commitment to Connect's success.

This past term has been filled with challenges, triumphs, and invaluable moments of collaboration. Together, we have achieved milestones and overcome obstacles, proving time and again that our Trust is capable of creating Remarkable Futures when we work together.

May the break be a time of rest, renewal, and joy for you and your loved ones. Whether you're spending it with family, friends, or simply enjoying some well-deserved downtime.

MAT Excellence Awards

Connect has been shortlisted for the Digital Innovation Award!

We are thrilled to announce that Connect Education Trust has been shortlisted for the Digital Innovation Award at the MAT Excellence Awards. This is an incredible achievement and recognition of all the great work going on in our schools.

As a Trust we are committed to using technology to enhance the learning experience for our pupils to create remarkable futures.

Being shortlisted for this award is not just an acknowledgment of our past achievements but also a motivating force for us to strive for even greater heights in the future.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Let's celebrate this exciting milestone together!

Creating remarkable futures



Carterhatch
Junior School



Opening Letter from Androulla – CEO

I hope this letter finds you well and filled with the same sense of pride and hope that I carry for our community every day. As the CEO of **Connect** I am privileged to witness firsthand the incredible impact our Trust has on the lives of our children and families. At the heart of everything we do lies a commitment to empower and support each member of our community. Our Trust is not merely a name; it's a promise—a promise to nurture, educate, and inspire the next generation. Through our collective efforts, we strive to create an environment where every child can thrive and lead a **Remarkable Future**.

I want to take this opportunity to share with you some of the remarkable work that our Trust has been engaged in:

Education Initiatives: Our Trust is dedicated to providing access to quality education for all children, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Community Outreach: We understand that strong communities are built on a foundation of support and collaboration. That's why our Trust actively engages with parents, educators, and local organisations to address the unique needs of our community. Whether it's through parent workshops, community events or partnerships with other institutions, we are committed to fostering a sense of belonging and unity.

Health and Wellbeing: We recognise the importance of holistic development and prioritise the health and wellbeing of our children. From promoting physical fitness and nutrition to offering mental health support, we are dedicated to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to lead a happy, healthy life.

Innovation and Growth: As we look to the future, our Trust remains steadfast in its commitment to innovation and growth. We are constantly exploring new ideas and initiatives to better serve our community and adapt to changing needs. Whether it's investing in technology, deepening our curriculum, or exploring new partnerships, we are always striving to raise the bar and set new standards of excellence.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support and trust of parents like you. Your belief in our mission fuels our passion and drives us to make a difference every day. Together, we are building a remarkable future for our children and our community. As we continue on this journey together, I invite you to stay engaged and involved in the work of our Trust. Your feedback, ideas, and contributions are invaluable as we work towards our shared goals.

Thank you for your continued support, trust, and partnership. Together, there's no limit to what we can achieve.

Our Mission

To connect with our pupils and offer them an exceptional education. Recruiting inspirational and committed teachers, school leaders and people to empower each and every one of the children in our care.

Spotlight on:
BE
CONNECTED



[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO VIEW OUR
CONNECT DIGITAL VIDEO](#)

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.

The Trust took the decision to invest over £1 million to purchase Chromebooks and mobile devices so that every child across our schools can access our program of digital learning.

All schools within the Trust use 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 English as a second language, learning a foreign language (Spanish), reading and SEN. This has improved social skills and self-esteem.

The Moki's 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 has 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.

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The Power of Oracy in a Digital World

Allan McLean, Kathleen Cushnie, Rebecca Moore, Harry Bowman, Charlotte Law

Connect present at the World Education Summit

A group of teachers and leaders from Hazelbury and Bowes were invited to join Dr Fiona Aubrey-Smith to share their expertise at the world education summit. They shared how pupils are enabled to use digital technology such as VR headsets, robots and chromebooks to support their learning. They also shared the importance of developing speaking and listening skills and how to ensure this remains a key part of learning when using digital technology. Educationalists from all over the globe tuned into the live session.

Congratulations to all those involved for sharing the work of Connect schools at a global level!



Enhanced Learning Experience

Digital tools offer interactive and immersive learning experiences, making complex concepts easier to grasp for young minds. Visual aids, simulations, and educational games engage students, fostering a deeper understanding of subjects.

Preparation for the Future

Integrating digital technology into primary education prepares students for the increasingly digital-centric world they will encounter in their future careers. Familiarity with technology from an early age equips them with essential digital literacy skills essential for success in the modern workforce.

Spotlight on: Sustainability

At the Connect Education Trust we aspire to be a leader in sustainability. We want to motivate all of our pupils, staff and visitors to follow a forward-thinking approach towards protecting our environment - for now and for future generations. With a strategy spanning the curriculum, school sites and operations across the Trust, our aim is to reach out Trust wide Sustainability Goals by 2025 and to encourage all our pupils, staff and their families to continue following this sustainable focus outside of our school grounds.

“**One Planet Living**” is our vision of a world where we can live happily within the Earth’s resources, and we have adopted this straight forward framework to achieve this.



The 10 principles we follow from the “One Planet Living” framework:

Health and happiness

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing

Equity and local economy

Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade

Culture and community

Nurturing local identity and heritage, empowering communities and promoting a culture of sustainable living

Land and nature

Protecting and restoring land for the benefit of people and wildlife

Sustainable water

Using water efficiently, protecting local water resources and reducing flooding and drought

Local and sustainable food

Promoting sustainable, humane farming and healthy diets high in local, seasonal organic food and vegetable protein

Travel and transport

Reducing the need to travel, encouraging walking, cycling and low carbon transport

Materials and products

Using materials from sustainable sources and promoting products that help people reduce consumption

Zero waste

Reducing consumption, reusing and recycling to achieve zero waste and zero pollution

Zero carbon energy

Making buildings and manufacturing energy-efficient and supplying all energy with renewables

IMAGINE A WORLD WHERE EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE LIVES HAPPY, HEALTHY LIVES WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE PLANET, LEAVING SPACE FOR NATURE. WE CALL THIS ONE PLANET LIVING, AND WE BELIEVE IT’S ACHIEVABLE.

FIND OUT MORE

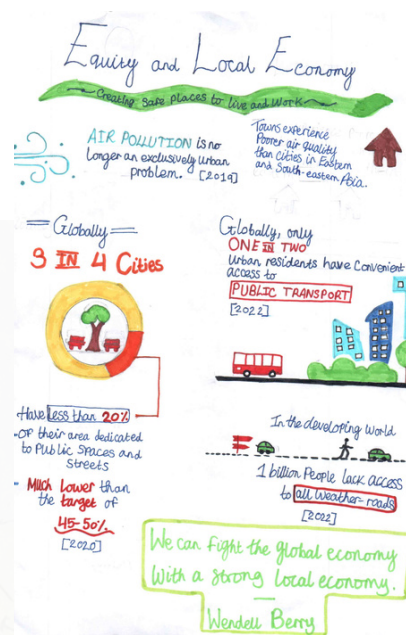
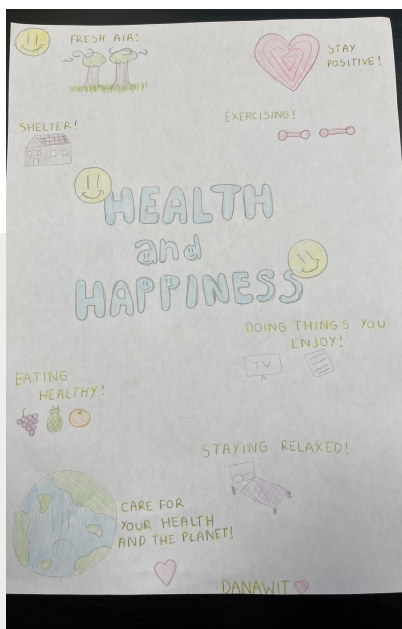
[HTTPS://WWW.BIOREGIONAL.COM/ONE-PLANET-LIVING](https://www.bioregional.com/one-planet-living)

Connect Pupil Parliament Sustainability Poster Competition

The Pupil Parliament met in March. Each school was tasked with running a poster competition on one or two of the bioregional principles. The shortlisted 3 were shown and the winner for each category was chosen by the Pupil Parliament. The posters showed creativity, thoughtfulness and awareness about sustainability. Congratulations to the winners but also well done to the runners up.



Our Winning Entries



We Care. It's our calling to protect and grow our pupils and our people. We work in a world where empathy, thoughtfulness and personal responsibility are absolutely essential.

GOOGLE VISIT GRANGE PARK



Grange Park were extremely lucky to have a visit from Google. They observed how staff and children used google in the classrooms to enhance their learning.

Google stated that if you want to see, consistent 1:1 practice, consistent use of GWfE, innovative classroom teachers, and leadership, collaboration at all levels and thoughtful and purposeful digital strategy, then visit Grange Park



CARTERHATCH SCIENCE WEEK

As part of science week pupils took part in a range of activities to spark and inspire their scientific thinking. Plastic bags were collected and data findings shared with the government.

CHESTERFIELD Y4 TRIP

Year 4 pupils visited the National Gallery to support their learning about the artist Paul Cezanne.



DELTA BOOK IN A BOX COMPETITION

The children really used their imagination and creativity to showcase a reading book. The winners all received a reading book as their prize.

We Create. We get things done, through hard work, resilience and high energy. We dream big and imagine bold new ways to shape the future of learning.

BETT VISIT BOWES IN JANUARY



In January, a number of international visitors visited Bowes as part of their attendance at the BETT (British Educational Training and Technology) show in London.

Our children and staff were fantastic at demonstrating how we use technology in school to support teaching and learning. The visitors were extremely impressed with the technology we have at Bowes and how confident the children use it.



FERN HOUSE 2ND IN BOCCIA TOURNAMENT

Fern House came second in the Enfield SEN PE Boccia tournament 24/01.

They won their group at the tournament hosted by Bishops Stopford and then were narrowly defeated by Fleecefield in the final.

HAZELBURY HABITATS

Year 3 and Y4 have been enjoying exploring our field investigating different habitats, playing games and looking for signs of spring.



EVERSLEY UPDATE

Eversley is looking forward to officially joining Connect. The transition is in progress.

We Empower. Pupils and our people are equipped and encouraged to be the best that they can be. We give pupils and our people the skills and the belief they need to succeed.