

# NEWSLETTER

A CELEBRATION OF THE SPRING TERM

May 2025

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### CEO MESSAGE

A message from our CEO, Tammy Mitchell

### CELEBRATING OUR EKC COMMUNITY - BUMPER EDITION

Celebrating good news from across the Trust, and good news for our children, young people, staff, and wider community.

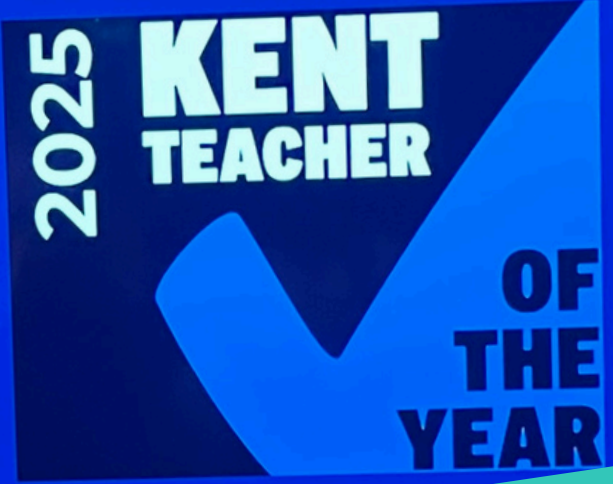
### EKC HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrating collaboration across the Trust and our wider EKC family



*Celebrating*

25 YEARS



# CEO MESSAGE

As we approach the final stretch of the academic year, I'm struck (as ever) by the incredible energy, creativity, and resilience that have defined Term 5 across our Trust.

From the student and staff successes vibrant student artwork showcased in our schools—such as EKC Sheppey Secondary's inspiring Envisioning Rail exhibition—to the continued commitment to excellence in classrooms, workshops, and community spaces, our learners and staff have once again demonstrated what makes our Trust so special.

This term has also seen continued progress in our strategic goals: strengthening inclusive practice ever further, deepening community partnerships, and investing in the professional growth of our staff. All whilst students and staff commit to excellence in the classroom.

As we look ahead to Term 6, we do so with momentum and purpose. There is much to celebrate, and even more to look forward to.

Thank you to every student, colleague, parent, and partner for your continued dedication and belief in what we're building together.

*Tammy Mitchell*  
CEO



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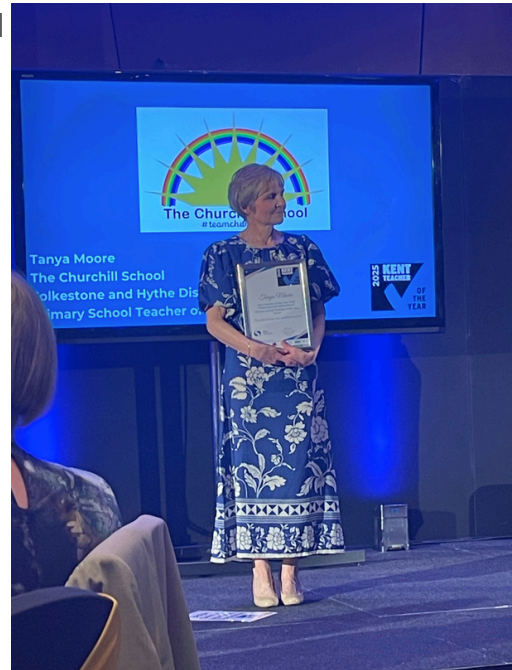
# CELEBRATING OUR EKC COMMUNITY

## KENT TEACHERS OF THE YEAR....

We're delighted to share that our exceptional Teaching teams at EKC Schools Trust have been recognised at this year's Kent Teacher of the Year Awards, held at the Ashford International Hotel.

Out of thousands of nominations from across Kent, two of our dedicated teachers stood out for their outstanding contributions and a positive impact on their schools:

**Tanya Moore, Year 2 teacher at The Churchill School, was named Primary School Teacher of the Year for the Folkestone and Hythe district.**



**Mel Tong, an art specialist at Palm Bay, was awarded Primary School Teacher of the Year in the Thanet district.**

We're especially proud to announce that, at the end of the evening, additional county-wide awards were presented, and **Mel Tong was named the overall Kent Primary School Teacher of the Year!** Mel received a framed certificate, a trophy, and a special prize to mark this fantastic achievement.

Nominations for the 2025-26 Kent Teacher of the Year Awards will open in June. Families, pupils, and staff are encouraged to put forward those who make a real difference in our schools.



Congratulations again to Tanya, Mel, and all our dedicated staff for their hard work and commitment!

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## ... FOLLOWED BY A TRIP TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE

King Charles III hosted a special Education and Skills Garden Party at Buckingham Palace last week, and our very own Zoe Stone, Headteacher at The Churchill School, was invited.

The event celebrated the contributions of educators across the UK and beyond, recognising their impact on education, innovation, and community service.

These garden parties serve as a way for the Royal Family to acknowledge and thank individuals who have made a meaningful difference in public service, education, and community leadership.



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# CELEBRATING OUR EKC COMMUNITY

## STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES...



Term 4 saw eight of our fantastic staff from EKC Sheppey Secondary rise to the Island Run challenge to raise money for their community support fund.

Raising well in excess of their £500 target, they raised more than £670!

EKCSS prides itself on living its values of aspiration, resilience, and kindness. Which were on full display from staff, students and the wider community who were out in full support.

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# CELEBRATING OUR EKC COMMUNITY

## STAFF SUCCESSES

LEARN  
LEAD  
THRIVE



"Being part of the EKC Trust has been a rewarding journey. One of the most valuable aspects has been the opportunity to collaborate with our family of schools. These connections allow us to share best practices, exchange ideas, and support one another in continuously improving our teaching. It's inspiring to be part of a network that values professional growth and innovation." Dan, Teacher

"Working at EKC has been an amazing experience. I have grown as a leader and am truly grateful for all the support I have received from my Headteacher and Trust leaders. They are truly inspirational, and I am really looking forward to what the future brings." Vanessa, Leader

"My learning journey began at East Stour Primary School at the age of four, and I'm proud to have returned to complete my teacher training here. I couldn't have chosen a better environment in which to grow and develop as a teacher." Rhiannon, Apprentice

Every day here has a moment to remember. Students and staff alike are all working hard to make EKCSS a happy and enjoyable place to work, learn and thrive in. "Emma, Leader

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# EKC HIGHLIGHTS

Of course, another Newsletter marks another Term of inspirational experiences for pupils and students in partnership with our friends at the East Kent Colleges Group.

Here are some highlights of the trips and visits we've enjoyed across EKC Group's six colleges: Ashford, Broadstairs, Canterbury, Dover, Folkestone and Sheppey. These experiences enrich the curriculum we're able to offer our pupils and students, and inspire and excite our little learners about the big possibilities that await them.



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# COMMUNITY WELLBEING

The wellbeing of our school community is uppermost in our minds.

Action for Happiness, a registered charity, have dedicated themselves to encouraging happier living.

There's a wealth of resources on the website [actionforhappiness.org](http://actionforhappiness.org) and we'll continue to highlight them here.

## 10 Keys to Happier Living

Everyone's path to happiness is different. Based on the latest research, we have identified 10 Keys that tend to make life happier and more fulfilling.

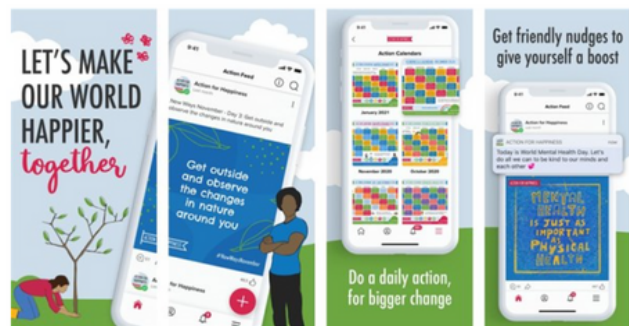
Together they spell GREAT DREAM and you can explore them below.

<b>Giving</b> Do kind things for others	<b>Relating</b> Connect with people	<b>Exercising</b> Take care of your body	<b>Awareness</b> Live life mindfully	<b>Trying Out</b> Keep learning new things
<b>Direction</b> Have goals to look forward to	<b>Resilience</b> Find ways to bounce back	<b>Emotions</b> Look for what's good	<b>Acceptance</b> Be comfortable with who you are	<b>Meaning</b> Be part of something bigger

## Monthly Wellbeing Theme

Check out to day's daily action and give it a go, take some time for you!

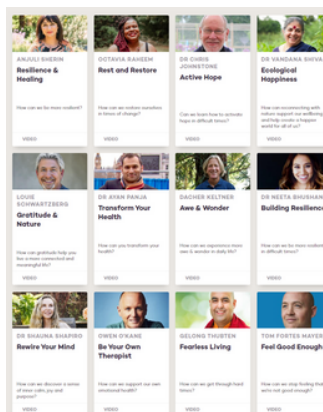
Why not sign up to be receive future themes and calendars right to your inbox. Or if you like your Apps, check out the Action For Happiness App.



## Online events and Talks Library

AfH hosts a regular series of free online wellbeing talks with world-renowned speakers offering insight and inspiration on happier living.

Register for upcoming events and browse their library.



Here is one of our past favourites:



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# LET'S ALL SAY A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOOLS

The national THANK A TEACHER campaign recognises all staff working in schools; school leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, and all support staff such as lunchtime supervisors, caretakers and cleaners. It celebrates the professionalism, passion and commitment of our schools.

Parents, colleagues and partners please take 5 minutes to thank an individual, team or school in our Trust (or other school/setting) for their hard work with a FREE Thank You e-card.

Not only is it lovely to receive a thank you but a card can be a springboard to entering the prestigious Pearson National Teaching Awards.

Please THANK A TEACHER today, it's simple, it's free and will make someone's day.

The THANK A TEACHER campaign is run by The Teaching Awards Trust and supported by Department for Education.



Simply go to  
[www.thankateacher.co.uk](http://www.thankateacher.co.uk)

and they will send a FREE  
personalised ThankATeacher card  
on your behalf

If you're feeling shy you can send a card  
anonymously!



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