

# WENSUM news

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WENSUM TRUST

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FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

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Wensum Trust



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# ROYAL NORFOLK SHOW

Hundreds of children and families got to experience what Wensum Trust schools have to offer at the Royal Norfolk Show.

All eleven of our schools were showcased across the two day event - along with each of our partner organisations who demonstrated how we all work together to provide children with enhanced extra-curricular opportunities, life skills and career aspirations.

Children visiting the Wensum Trust stand had the opportunity to make keyrings, meet Norwich City Community Sport Foundation's Sport-A-Saurus, try out bricklaying with Lovell and explore animal artefacts from the Zoological Society of East Anglia.

The Wells Sea Cadets spoke to visitors about their connections with our Coastal Hub schools, children got to dress up in masks and costumes with Norwich Theatre and KLM quizzed visitors about aeroplanes.



# ROYAL NORFOLK SHOW



Daniel Thrower, CEO of the Wensum Trust, said: "The Royal Norfolk Show gave us the opportunity to demonstrate what is unique about the Wensum Trust. It was wonderful to have all our schools and partners together to highlight what we are doing for children, families and communities in Norfolk. We received some incredible feedback over the two days, particularly regarding our relational approach to education. I would like to thank all of our staff and partners for their involvement, but particularly to all of those who took time to visit us and make it such an enjoyable experience."

## Reading for Pleasure

The benefits of reading for pleasure have been highlighted at a conference hosted by Wensum English Hub.

The Hub, along with the Myland English Hub, brought together teachers from all over the region to explore best practice and techniques to empower young people to read because they want to, not because they have to as part of school.

Professor Teresa Cremin, a Professor of Education at the Open University, gave a compelling and passionate presentation on motivating all children to read for pleasure and how it makes a difference.

She said: “The goal is that children are choosing to read in their own time and supporting them by allowing them to read texts which are exciting for them. Reading needs to be directed by the child so they can own their reading space.

“By being a frequent reader, children will benefit from enhanced comprehension, richer narrative writing, better vocabulary and understanding, as well as enriching their psychological well being. Reading also connects people and helps build relationships with others.”

Throughout the conference, teachers took part in workshops to learn about techniques and practices which can be used to motivate children to read.

Professor Cremin added: “It’s a collective responsibility to raise our readers. The goal is to develop a habit of reading in children because they want to and love to.”



## Record Breakers!

The children of Lodge Lane Infant School are world record breakers!

They took part in the world’s largest percussion ensemble using recyclable instruments during the Royal Norfolk Show.

More than 1,200 pupils from schools across Norfolk helped to drum their way into the record books



## Wise about Words

Children across the Wensum Trust’s primary phase schools will benefit from the legacy of the Wise About Words programme.

The project, which has been running in our Infant, Junior and Primary schools, for the past two years, has come to an end.

In partnership with Norwich Theatre, and funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, it used drama and storytelling to support children in their love of stories, gain life skills and build emotional language.

A total of four professional creative artists and 16 teachers took part in Wise About Words and in order to continue the positive impact it’s been having in the classroom, a new toolkit has now been produced for teachers to continue the practices.

Hayley Clayon, a Year One teacher at Arden Grove Infant School, said: “Wise About Words has supported our links to emotion coaching and during this project we have noticed how children can express and discuss their own and others emotions, including empathising with other characters in stories.”

## Young Filmmakers Win National Final!

Young filmmakers from Burnham Market Primary School have won a national competition about e-safety.

Childnet, which works to make the internet a safe place for children, invited schools from all over the country to produce a two-minute film on the theme of 'Time to talk! How can people support each other online.'

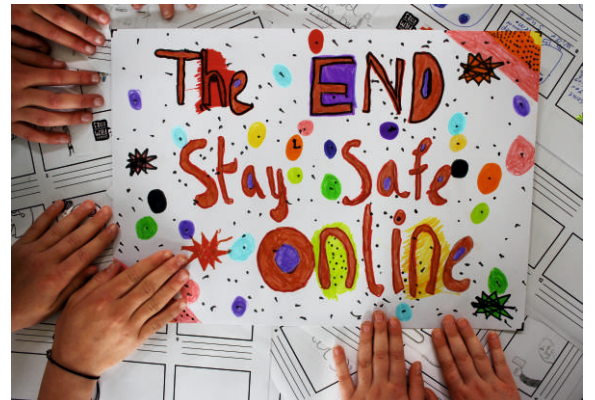
A group of Year 5 and 6 children planned, filmed and created a film which required them to plan storyboards, make props and animate scenes - as well as act in it themselves.

Seven of the children who featured in the film attended the finals at the British Film Institute in London July where they were announced the winners.



Ashley Williams, teacher at Burnham Market, said: "We are absolutely thrilled. BAFTA said that the quality was incredibly high this year in the Primary category with many excellent films. They said the Burnham Market film stood out for its creativity, clear story and its entertainment value, adding that the children were clearly having fun making the film which added to the final effect."

Rachel Stroulger, headteacher, said: "I am the happiest headteacher ever! I had tears in my eyes, I was so proud. Our current school value is teamwork so this is a true testament to the amazing teamwork at Burnham Market Primary School."



## Wensum Trust partners with community group to open daycare in Wells

A new day care facility is opening in Wells, thanks to a collaboration between Wensum Trust and a community led group.

Little Gillies will open in the former Polka Day Care building, providing childcare places for children aged 0-3 in the local area.

Following the closure of Polka day care in the town last year, the Wensum Trust has been working together with Little Gillies and Norfolk County Council to become a replacement provider.

The council is investing £50,000 in the day care provision to improve the building for local children.

Daniel Thrower, CEO of the Wensum Trust, said: "We know how important childcare is to parents in Wells and the wider community so we've been really pleased to work with Little Gillies to get this day care facility in place for the new school year.

"Once we heard about the closure we worked with Norfolk County Council to acquire the building which is on the same site as Wells-Next-The-Sea Primary and Nursery School. At the same time, we heard about the aspirations of Little Gillies to set up their own childcare provision, however, they needed a building. It was the perfect opportunity for us to work together to bring back much needed child care in the town."



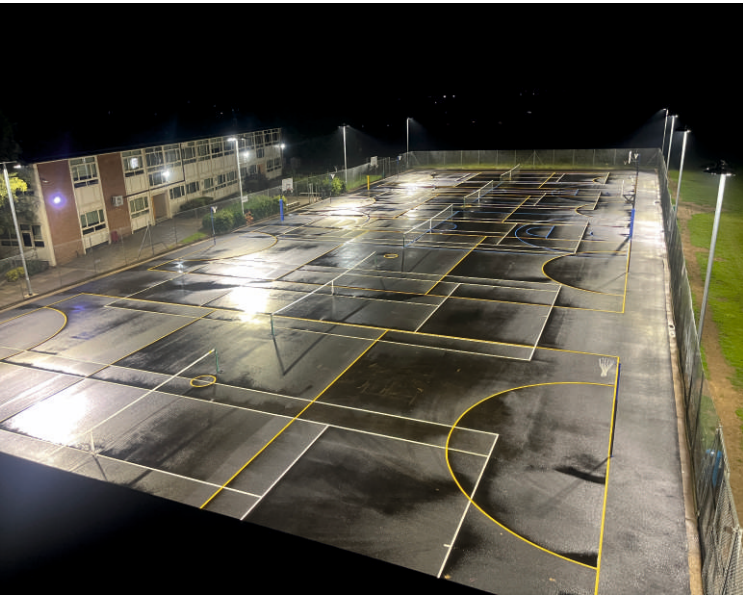
## Trust Staff Lend Expertise To New Book Supporting Children

Two members of staff from The Wensum Trust have lent their expertise to a new book.

The Trust's CEO, Daniel Thrower, and its lead for Attachment and Trauma, Anne Oakley, were approached during lockdown by Sarah Naish, Chief Executive Officer and founder of the Centre of Excellence in Child Trauma, to co-write *The A-Z of Trauma Informed Teaching, Strategies and Solutions to Help with Behaviour and Support for Children Aged 3-11*. Sarah, who is also a member of the Wensum Trust, has based the book on the original format of her best-selling *A-Z of Therapeutic Parenting*.

*The A-Z of Trauma Informed Teaching*, which was written in Anne and Daniel's own time over the last 18 months, also has contributions from Hannah O'Brien and Sair Penna. CEO of The Wensum Trust, Daniel Thrower, said: "We aim to be a trauma informed Trust and our relational approach was introduced with this in mind. This book has a much-needed message. It covers a lot of what our staff now know and they may already use many of the strategies advocated in the book. I was delighted that Sarah asked us to co-write the book and I hope it helps shape the future of the educational system.

"The book has already had some significant endorsements, including from Professor Peter Fonagy OBE, the CEO of the Anna Freud National Centre and actor Stephen Fry who stated: "This is a remarkable achievement. Like Batman's Utility belt for teachers. So many practical, wise, inspiring, and achievable ideas are packed in here. I can imagine this becoming as indispensable for teachers as Gray's Anatomy is for doctors."



## New Sports Facilities for Hellesdon Students

Hellesdon High School has new netball, tennis and basketball courts.

The existing tennis courts were resurfaced over the summer and installed with professional posts, along with state-of-the-art LED lighting. Kris Hart, Lettings Manager for the Wensum Trust, said: "Sport is so important in the mental health and wellbeing of young people and these new courts provide better facilities and more opportunities.

"It's hoped the local community will also benefit from the new courts and they are available to hire for local sports teams and groups."

Please see the back page on details of the Wensum Trust's facility hire.



## Top chef heads back to school!

One of Norwich's top chef's cooked up something special for students at Hellesdon High School last term.

Richard Bainbridge, owner of Benedicts Restaurant and winner of television's The Great British Menu, gave a motivational talk to the school's Hospitality and Catering students.

Richard, an ex-Hellesdon High student himself, spoke about never giving up following your dreams, even if obstacles get in the way, and shared his own journey, from visiting the countries which inspired his cooking to owning his own successful restaurant.

The chef followed his talk with a cookery demonstration of one of his award winning dishes - a savoury doughnut with kohlrabi sauce, which the students were then able to sample.



Mike Earl, Principal at Hellesdon High, said: "It was a fantastic day and was thoroughly enjoyed by all the students, as well as a trip down memory lane for Richard. It is wonderful we can give our students these opportunities in order to help them enjoy, achieve and succeed."

Richard Bainbridge, owner of Benedicts Restaurant and winner of television's The Great British Menu





## New football contract strengthens partnership

The Wensum Trust and Norwich City Community Sports Foundation will continue their commitment to the education of young people in Norfolk with a new five-year partnership.

The Trust and the Foundation have worked together for the past five years delivering the Football and Educational programmes for boys and girls, and more recently the PE Teaching qualification which Hellesdon Sixth Form students can achieve alongside their A-Levels.

Chair of the Wensum Trust, John Smith, is delighted with the new contract. He said: “We are very pleased with the partnership and how the Foundation has grown over the past five years. The Foundation have been able to support our young people with their education but also with developing their life skills and wellbeing – ensuring we are equipping them for a life beyond school and into careers, which is extremely important.”



Stevie Bramble, Head of Curriculum at the Foundation, added: “The partnership enables us to be really broad when recruiting students onto the programme as the Wensum Trust can support us with the right expertise around teaching and learning. Students are leaving us with grades significantly above average and this has been recognised by the Department for Education.”



## How Our Schools Are Helping The Environment

Schools across the Wensum Trust have prevented a massive 58,880kg of greenhouse gases being emitted into the atmosphere in the last year.

The savings are the equivalent of 203 trees being planted, 22 cars off the road and 36 houses powered.

As well as savings in carbon, the Trust schools have not sent any waste to landfill since September 2022.

Out of the 188,000kg of waste collected, 145,000kg was diverted into other methods of disposal, such as incineration, composting and reusable materials, whilst 43,000kg was recycled.

The use of energy has also been reduced by 3.5% in the last year and 7% since September 2021.

Estates Manager for the Wensum Trust, Bob Marrison, said: "The Wensum Trust has made a concerted effort in the past two years to reduce energy consumption and help protect the environment.

"We have been working with a new waste company which focuses on diverting waste from landfill and we have a number of initiatives in place, such as installing LED lighting and solar PV, to drive our sustainability plan going forward."



# SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

Sports Day fun at Garrick Green Infant School.



Firside students took part in a circus skills workshop.



The moment the butterflies, Lodge Lane pupils have been nurturing since caterpillars, flew away.



Burnham's beach volleyball players celebrating their cluster win.



Students from Acle Academy completed their RYA Stage 1 Sailing qualification.



Children at Arden Grove met a real life Octonaut - Marine Biologist Sam!



This gorgeous puppy joined Kinsale's Pets As Therapy dog for a visit to the school.



The new Year 7s at Alderman Peel enjoyed a trip to Hilltop.



Pupils at Wells have been making art with shells on the beach.



The teachers at Kinsale were keeping up with their reading over the summer. Here is Mrs Philpott being her best Reading Barbie!



# FACILITIES HIRE



## Do you run a group or club?

Are you looking for somewhere to meet regularly? Or somewhere to host a one-off event?

Many of our schools have facilities which you can use as your base.

Whether you're running exercise or antenatal classes, slimming world sessions, adult education classes or drama groups, we can help accommodate you.

If you're interested in talking to us about using our facilities, please get in contact with Kris Hart by emailing [k.hart@wensumtrust.org.uk](mailto:k.hart@wensumtrust.org.uk) or call 01603 254327.

Alternatively you can visit our website [www.wensumtrust.org.uk](http://www.wensumtrust.org.uk) to look at all the facilities we have on offer across the Trust.

"We are delighted to have access to the great facilities at the Wensum Trust. As a grassroots football club, they have been able to support us in providing good quality facilities at each of the formats we need; 5, 7, 9 & 11 a side, at prices that mean we can make football accessible for the children of our community"

Dan Henry Costessey Youth



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