



A Warm Welcome to All!

Tina Lovey CEO of Rivermead Inclusive Trust

I am delighted to welcome you to our new style and revamped RIT newsletter. We are excited to bring you lots of fantastic celebrations and interesting think pieces from across our wonderful family of schools.

With the nicer weather fast approaching we are looking forward to the Easter break and we are very proud of the team spirit shown by all of our learners and staff who welcome and embrace inclusion, discussed in data shown from our 'Belonging Survey'. I am so proud to lead exceptional, strong leaders who work with fantastic staff across our schools and provisions. We have a wealth of expertise within our Trust who continue to support our learners, not only academically, but holistically and therapeutically.

With our Trust growing from strength-to-strength, I want to take this opportunity to not only thank our learners, carers and parents, but our committed Local Advisory Board members. Staff play an incredibly supportive role to our young people and the team ethic and collaboration is really special. I am also proud we have expanded our Trustee team and welcome Professor Andrew Peterson (Character Education), Becky Thomas (Facilities Management) and Virginie Giles (Marketing).

I sincerely hope you all have a lovely Easter break and I look forward to highlighting more of the Trust's fantastic work at the end of the summer. Very best wishes.

RIT NEWS INCLUDES:

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Luton Lights Up!

Luton Primary School helped light up the community thanks to a fantastic project called Luton Lights. Ideas Test worked with pupils to create amazing pictures that illuminated in the dark.

These were displayed in local residents' windows throughout Luton, with a special Lights Walk and a pirate guide taking people around!



Trust Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Schools and provisions across the Trust have taken part in a wide range of celebrations and projects since Christmas, including Indian and Jewish contributions to society, Diwali and the Holocaust.

In February, all six KS2-3 Trust provisions met for a Trust DEI Boccia (seated Bowls) game at Academy of Woodlands.

Each provision selected a team of learners with physical disabilities and non-active learners, who would not be able to access sports competitions like football. It was great to see all these learners playing against each other in a fun and inclusive environment. A huge thanks to all who took part and to Academy of Woodlands for hosting.



ROCC Supports More Young People

Rivermead Outreach Community Challenge (ROCC) – another of the Trust's provisions – offers school holiday, Saturday, and after-school respite to families of children and young adults with SEND across Medway. ROCC provides a crucial service for children, parents and carers, with feedback from parents stating it has "saved lives."

This year it has doubled its staffing numbers per day which allowed it to deliver over 150 places in its February provision. It's been a busy period for the team, which recently opened a satellite provision at the Marlborough to expand the number of spaces offered per day and winning an award for SEND Provider with the Medway Parents



and Carers Forum!

ROCC's amazing staff are the heartbeat of the provision. If you would like to join the growing team, or know someone who does, please get in contact. More staff = more families supported!

Recruitment Fayre

The Trust's first Recruitment Fayre was a huge success with dozens of people hoping to find out more about the Trust and its current opportunities as it continues to grow. With nine schools and provisions across Medway, a 'grow your own' culture provides plenty of scope for staff to progress in their career, step into other positions or learn other roles.

Trust Deputy CEO Kerri Edge said: "Our name and reputation is definitely getting out there! We met TAs looking for the next step, people looking for leadership and teaching roles, even interest in IT. It was great to meet so many amazing people."

Award Nomination!

Rivermead Inclusive Trust is very proud to have been shortlisted for a MAT Excellence Award! We have been nominated in the 'Wellbeing Trust of the Year' category – a testament to all the work that goes on behind the scenes to ensure that inclusivity and wellbeing run through everything we do!



Amazing Past Uncovered!

Walderslade Primary School used an exciting find at the school to bring history to life. Head teacher Mrs Rowley-Jones discovered an old log book and suitcase of photos, dating back over 120 years, in a cupboard, when starting in her role.

War-time memories of children being evacuated, air raid shelters and outbreaks of measles were among the interesting items documented in the logbook by the school's head teachers since it opened in 1906!

Mrs Rowley-Jones uses the artefacts to educate her pupils about the school's history and war-time efforts. Her inspiring story even made the BBC and Radio Kent.



Staff Feel They 'Belong'

RIT recently sent out a 'belonging' survey to all its staff and had an incredible response.

An amazing 96 per cent 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that the Trust and school cared about their professional development, while 95 per cent 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that the Trust and school created a trusting and open environment to work in. A massive 91 per cent said they saw themselves growing and developing their career within the Trust.

Trust CEO Tina Lovey OBE said: "The results of the survey left me quite emotional. Our staff want to

be here and they feel fulfilled every day that they're coming to work. It made me very proud."

The Trust encourages a 'grow your own' ethos, meaning there is huge growth potential for an individual working at Rivermead Inclusive Trust, should they want it. It also puts the wellbeing of staff, front and centre – as our recent MAT Excellence Award in the Wellbeing Trust of the Year, highlights.

To read more about this, Tina has written an article on LinkedIn. Please give the Trust a follow (as well as all our social accounts!!) and take a look!



Water Safety Lessons!

The Academy of Woodlands welcomed Claire from RNLI Sheerness into the school, who led workshops on water safety to all its pupils. They learnt about what to do if they got in trouble in the water and even practiced the starfish float (left).

Head teacher Mrs Brown said: "It was wonderful to hear the children talk about ways to stay safe around water. We know this learning will help them in life."

"I enjoyed your students' can-do culture, awesome questioning skills, and enthusiasm for learning."

"..it was one of the most engaging events that I've worked in some time. It was lovely to meet your students and to see their enthusiasm."

Rivermead School: What's My Job?



RIT Safeguarding Team

The Trust's DSLs work relentlessly to ensure that our families and children receive the support they need.

Our termly meetings give us the chance to collaborate, share ideas, and plan the next steps. These meetings also provide a chance to reflect on our work with external multi-agencies.

This term, we discussed the strong partnership we have with our Early Help Coordinators across Hubs 1-4, and the DSLs expressed how invaluable their support is. A huge thank you to our EHCs – your support is truly appreciated by both us and our families.

The Trust Safeguarding Lead, Deputy CEO and HR Executive have been visiting our Academies to review Safeguarding across the Curriculum. It has been encouraging and rewarding to see the school's strong commitment to ensuring that Safeguarding is woven throughout the Curriculum. We're in a great position where both children and staff can confidently discuss why Safeguarding is so important, which truly reflects the dedication and commitment of the staff.

In line with our Trust Values – CANBE, we ensure every child and staff member feels heard, accepted and valued.



Meet The Team

Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Trust: Mikala Ojuolape
 Academy of Woodlands: Sarah Palmer
 Luton Primary School: Lisa Darran
 Hoo St Werburgh: Michelle Pace
 The Marlborough: Kate Spiers
 Rivermead School: Carly Ewer
 Walderslade Primary School: Amy Rowley-Jones

Just the Job at Rivermead!

Rivermead School held its annual "What's My Job?" event, organised by Careers Lead Tori Raan, as part of Careers Week.

Seven fantastic volunteers – from a councillor, to professionals from scaffolding, nursing and plumbing – took part, with learners using their communication and deduction skills to determine who had which job.

Head teacher Mrs Campbell said: "The learners engaged incredibly well and should be very proud of themselves! We also received some wonderful feedback (left) from the volunteers!"

Marlborough on a Mission 2!

The Marlborough, part of the Trust, is an 80-place provision offering an aspirational and individualised learning environment for children with a diagnosis of autism. It looks holistically at pupils and provides bespoke curriculum plans, with a keen focus on learning and achievement, to have high aspirations for its pupils to help them fulfil their potential.

It is currently fundraising to provide its pupils with a safe outdoor forest school. If any business thinks it can help fundraise, please contact the office on office@hoo-st-werburgh.medway.sch.uk

Final Word:

Chair of Trustees Justin Stuart

Rivermead Inclusive Trust is doing incredible work to support children across the Trust. The ROCC provision is helping many children thrive, while Rivermead Solutions provides therapy for not only Trust schools, but also for schools across Medway and Kent, ensuring they can provide support to as many children as possible.

The Trust's commitment to improving wellbeing is reflected in its outstanding wellbeing 'Belonging' survey, which highlights how deeply we care about the welfare of both students and staff. This demonstrates that pupil and staff wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do. I am incredibly proud to be the Chair of Trustees for a Trust that is making a difference in the lives of so many children.

Mum's the Word for Fundraiser

Hoo St Werburgh Primary School's fundraiser is now in full-swing. The school is raising money for a new outside area for its pupils.

A pamper evening at the end of March and Mother's Day afternoon tea, are among the most recent activities the school has organised to raise money for the exciting venture!

Our Sponsors!

A massive thank-you to RIT's amazing sponsors, Amiga Kent Fire and Security, Kent Teaching Solutions and Equans. If you want to find out more about sponsorship opportunities to support our work, please get in touch!



Competition Time!

We are challenging pupils across the Trust to get their creative juices flowing over the Easter Holidays, with our favourites winning book tokens!

We want pupils from Year Four upwards to submit a poem about what they love about their school.

Entitled "My School!", they can write about any aspect of school life, from teachers and friends, to even a favourite room or subject. There are no subjects off limits, or length too small or big, as long as it is about the school they are at and why they love it!

Email them to

ritoffice@rivermeadinclusivetrust.org with the subject 'school poem' by 1st May, along with their name, class and school. We will select three winners, who will take home book tokens worth £20, £10 and £5, respectively, and a variety will go on our social media pages. Good luck!

Please follow us on Social Media for more news from across our Trust!



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