



Partnership Newsletter

December 2023

Welcome to our Autumn Partnership Newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for their hard work and commitment over this busy autumn term, including all our staff, partnered schools, universities and associated organisations. The many shared enjoyable and festive events we have engaged within across schools, reminds us of the significant partnership school community culture our Trust promotes – this 'Trust family' that we are all part of ensures all children receive the best.

Our dedicated Early Career Teachers working on the EHLT training programme have all completed the autumn term with huge successes – well done to each and every one of them!

With Christmas just around the corner, I would like to wish you all a happy, restful and festive holiday and hope that you get to share this special time with those nearest and dearest to you.

Merry Christmas!

Rebecca Wood – Headteacher of Partnerships for Learning.



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EHLT host pilot ITAP for Trainee Teachers

Elston Hall proudly hosted an 'Intensive Training and Practice' day for a group of PGCE students from University of Birmingham last week. This proved to be a huge success for the trainee teachers as they were able to be part of observation, reflection, rehearsal and review strategies during the day. The many opportunities that were shared throughout the day allowed the Trainees to gain a deeper understanding of the work that goes into becoming a primary school teacher.

EHLT have always taken pride in the close partnership links we hold with Universities for teacher training, and this was another example of how the sharing of best practice can impact and further develop the future teachers of our world.



Trust EYFS Nursery Rhyme Week

All schools from across the Trust came together to celebrate Nursery Rhyme week last month. It was a jam-packed week full of exciting experiences for all children, staff and families where collaboration was at the heart of sharing nursery rhymes.

Check out the school's Twitter pages and websites for many more photographs of this wonderful week!



Calling any previous students from EHLT schools!

Did you, or anyone you know attend a school from within the Elston Hall Learning Trust? If so, we would love to hear from you and listen to the exciting journeys you have taken in life.

We would like to display a 'hall of fame' area within our schools to showcase the successes of our previous students and the career paths they have taken. This will not only celebrate the successes we have within our school communities but will show our children that the world is their oyster, and they can achieve their dreams!

We would love to hear from you, please get in touch with Sarah Mallon – enquiries@ehlt.org.uk



Are you keeping updated via our Twitter feed on the progress of our EHLT ECT programme?

Our dedicated ECTs have been working extremely hard this autumn term. The conferences that have taken place so far, have been a huge success and the engagement from these individuals continually impacts on pupils' learning – well done! Huge congratulations to them all!

Follow us on [@ElstonHallLT](https://twitter.com/ElstonHallLT) for more information on the programmes we run.

School Communities' time to shine!

Strong community links are an important part of our school culture and the partnerships that are formed with our local communities are one of the many reasons we strive to give the best opportunities and experiences to our children. This term, we have come together with our many communities for times of celebration, praise and remembrance to ensure that all children in schools can reach their full potential!

In November, children from Pheasey Park Primary School played an important role in the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Barr Beacon War Memorial. Special occasions such as this, remind us of the wider contributions our children make to the local community with such pride.

More recently, the children and staff of Edward the Elder came together with the local community to launch Christmas 'in style' through the streets of Wednesfield on Santa's sleigh! The Mayor's Parlour was another wonderful visit for children from across our Trust schools also!

We are always searching to widen and strengthen our community links, so please do get in touch, if you or an organisation you know wishes to become part of our wonderful school communities.

Together we can achieve more!



Pop-up swimming pool at Edward the Elder

Last year, it was brought to our attention that nationally over 110,000 children leave year 6 unable to swim the National Curriculum requirement of 25m. Our schools recognise the importance of ensuring pupils learn to swim but also the challenges faced nationally with swimming pool availability. In response, a 'Pop-up Pool' was erected on one of the school playgrounds at Edward the Elder. As part of this intensive programme, children from classes across all of Key Stage 2 swam daily for three consecutive weeks. A fully qualified swimming teacher led the sessions each day, also providing lifeguard facilities.

We found the whole scheme to be thoroughly enjoyable and beneficial to the children, with many of the non-swimmers now able to swim at least 5m. We now have children who have achieved their 5m, 10m and 25m badges, which is excellent! Children have also now mastered a range of strokes, and learnt further water safety. The children's confidence has grown and they all have thrived off the success they have achieved.

"The swimming pool was a significant investment for school but worth every penny. The progress made by the children in such a short space of time was phenomenal," (Mrs B Highman, Headteacher)



Message from the CE

I would like to add my thoughts to this final newsletter of 2023 and thank all our staff for another successful and effective term. Our Trust now shares around 2,400 children in six schools within three Local Authorities; Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Walsall. Collaboration around school improvement remains the cornerstone of our vision, particularly in our desire to improve the rates and levels of achievement. Data published earlier this term confirmed improvements in our standards in reading, writing and maths at the end of Key Stage 2, showing average Trust scores above National averages. A number of our schools are within the Ofsted window and working hard to achieve the best possible grades. Further support for this aim is seen in the development of a revised curriculum with inspirational topics covering the expectations of individual subjects.

We are determined to ensure at Elston Hall Learning Trust, that we offer the widest range of activities and opportunities available to children in all our schools. Our sporting legacy continues, with attention not only to success but an inclusive offer to as many of our children as possible. Examples include recent football and netball success seen alongside a 'pop up swimming pool' in one of our schools allowing every child the opportunity for a period of time to swim every day.

I do hope folks reading this newsletter are able to respond to the request to send us information about your own successes since leaving our schools; either in the job you now have, higher education, sporting success etc... We would love to share your stories with children across the Trust now, to serve as an inspiration into opportunities they will have from their learning – now.

Finally, thank you to our children for another term of hard work - I do hope you all are able to enjoy a lovely Christmas holiday with your families.

Kevin Grayson – Chief Executive



EHLT School Websites

Have you seen our new school websites which have been launched across the Trust – Pheasey Park, Elston Hall, Edward the Elder and Palmers Cross have revised school websites to showcase our inspiring children and their learning.

Goldthorn Park will be the next school to have their site launched over the upcoming weeks. Then Tipton Green Juniors will follow in the early spring 2024 – keep checking our websites for further updates!



Thinking about Teaching or looking for a career change?

There are different routes available to you, so why not come and chat to us about our Strategic Alliance Postgraduate routes into Primary Teaching. We work with a wide range of schools across Staffordshire, Sandwell and Dudley and we can look to place you within schools that best suit your training needs. As we work in conjunction with Birmingham University and the University of Wolverhampton, we are sure you will find the programme that suits you best!

Our 12-18 months full time courses will prepare you for the most rewarding career in the teaching profession.

For further information please email: rwood@ehlt.org.uk

Have you accessed the 'get into Teaching' website where the DfE share some helpful steps to support ITT to explore further information on Teacher training and the courses out there...

Have a look - [Steps to become a teacher | Get Into Teaching GOV.UK \(education.gov.uk\)](#)
(<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/steps-to-become-a-teacher>)

**How to become a
teacher**



**Elston Hall Learning
Trust wishes
everyone a very
Merry Christmas!**



EHLT Contacts –

Headteacher of Partnerships for Learning - Rebecca Wood

Any enquiries – please email - Sarah Mallon - enquiries@ehlt.org.uk

Chief Executive Officer – Kevin Grayson

Phone: 01902 558866

Email: enquiries@ehlt.org.uk

@ElstonHallLT

