



## Message from the CEO

Christmas is almost here and I am sure colleagues and children in all our schools are looking forward to festive time at home with family and friends. Not all the homes our children go home to are warm, festive or welcoming however and many of us will be only too aware of how Christmas can be a very challenging time for some children and their families. A significant number of the families we serve live in poverty and for them Christmas is a stark reminder of the differences that exist in our society and what it feels like to be left behind. Our mission as a Trust is to help all children access a great education and through that develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to be productive, happy and successful. Education is a fantastic gift to give to any child and is one of you help to provide for every child we serve.

While you relax on the sofa after a fine Christmas dinner also give a thought to Lt Colonel Rich Hall, the Commanding Officer of the Army Training College

in Harrogate. We have come to know Rich well over his time in command and he delivered an inspiring and entertaining speech at Harrogate Grammar School's Celebration of Achievement evening a couple of years ago. Rich is responsible for

training over 1000 junior soldiers many of whom come from some of the most deprived communities across the UK. Some of us may have reservations about the military but the education, care, support and guidance given to these young people really is outstanding and helps change their lives for the good. Rich is currently in a rowing boat with three other soldiers attempting to cross the Atlantic to raise money for the Army Benevolent Fund. It is an awesome challenge that will take an estimated 40 days completely unsupported. Christmas day will be spent at sea in the mid-Atlantic feasting on dried rations! On the side of the boat is our Red Kite emblem that we hope will sail safely into



harbour with them in the West Indies in early 2020. On his return, Rich has said he would be happy to come into Red Kite schools and talk about his journey...barring any unfortunate events with whales,

flying fish or sharks! His journey across the Atlantic could make a good focus for an assembly or form activity that can be followed up with a visit. You can follow him and the rest of the 'Force Atlantic' team by downloading the app: <https://www.taliskerwhiskyatlanticchallenge.com/2019-race-tracking/>

or via the website: <https://www.forceatlantic.com/>

We are delighted to be able to announce that we have been successful in our application to become a 'Teaching School Hub', one of only six pilot programmes in the country. Most of you will already be aware of all the work the Red Kite Teaching School Alliance does

and how this supports our work as a Trust. Becoming one of the first Hubs is a real accolade and puts us right at the front in terms of leading in the education system. We hope that our work as a Hub will bring real benefits to staff and children over time.

Thanks to everyone across the Trust for battling through to the end of the

year, I appreciate that for many the various viruses going around have not made this easy. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and look forward to working with you in 2020.

Richard Sheriff

## Meadowfield promotes reading

At Meadowfield we, like so many schools, are trying to improve our reading resources and facilities. We are so lucky to have a staff team who came in during the holidays to set up a refurbished and reinvigorated library for us! Along with new books and a fresh approach to promote reading for enjoyment we think we have made a strong start and are so grateful to have such dedicated people who will give up their time to make a difference for our young people.



## The Curriculum at Western

An important part of Western's commitment to providing an engaging curriculum for all pupils is provision of real experiences that make learning across the curriculum meaningful. In the past month, pupils across KS2 have had the opportunity to perform their Christmas Carols at the local Italian Restaurant at a busy dining time, work in collaboration to create a contribution to the local church's Christmas Tree Exhibition



and display their sculpture work entitled 'Fragile Earth' in the local art gallery.



## TLA Premises Manager wins National Award

Hello, my name is Aaron Aznar-Perez, I am in my fifth year working at Temple Learning Academy. I have never heard about The National Network of School Site Staff but I must say I wish would have known about it years ago.

The National Network of School Site Staff celebrated their annual conference on 10th October 2019 in which I was shortlisted amongst thousands of schools nationwide for the award of 'Site Manager of the Year'. The appropriate slogan used in this conference was "Take Care of the Caretaker" and is something I've taken as my manta when working with my team.

The conference took place in Bristol and had various people speaking about products that may interest schools such as lockdown alarm systems or equipment compliance software as well as H&S or acting in the middle of a crisis. We even

got the chance to hear the site manager who won last year on his experience on dealing with extreme situations in his school affected by the Grenfell Towers fire in London. It was a great experience and I am so pleased with my 'Highly Commended' award, third place in the country. It is great when your hard work is seen and recognised, especially when working behind the scenes as our site teams do in our schools.

As a result of this award, I was invited to the studio of the BBC Radio here in Leeds to have a chat with the presenter of the morning show Richard Stead. I'm happy to share the link so you have the chance to listen to it.

[www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p07sh50q?ns\\_source=twitter&ns\\_campaign=bbc\\_radio\\_leeds&ns\\_linkname=english\\_regions&ns\\_mchannel=social](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p07sh50q?ns_source=twitter&ns_campaign=bbc_radio_leeds&ns_linkname=english_regions&ns_mchannel=social)

It was lovely to receive this award but there is still lots to do in our school and our Trust. I am so looking forward to being able to work alongside the rest of the schools with the aim of improving the service we, as site staff, provide.

I must take advantage of this opportunity to thank my Co-Principals for their kind words when nominating me. I also wanted to thank all staff here at TLA for being so helpful and supportive.



## MoneySense Award at Rossett Acre

At Rossett Acre we are committed to teaching our children about Financial Education to help them be money savvy and responsible consumers. We aim to become a Financial and Enterprise Education Centre of Excellence and are proud to announce that we have recently become a MoneySense Accredited School.



Our ongoing Financial Ed curriculum has seen children take part in money workshops and national competitions; investigating the difference between wants and

needs; planning activities on a budget; learning how to keep money safe, and of course the importance of regular savings. Even our youngest pupils in EYFS are

learning to save up for a long-term goal through our class currency scheme.

MoneySense is a scheme supported by NatWest and has a

wealth of information and resources available to teachers and schools, and parents who wish to help their children become more financially aware. [natwest.mymoneysense.com/home](http://natwest.mymoneysense.com/home)

## Finance team

Merry Christmas from all at the Trust Finance team and a big thank you to everyone who has helped with a very smooth year-end audit this year. We look forward to welcoming many of you to our new office in the former nursery building at Harrogate Grammar School in the New Year.



## Parental Engagement at TLA

Parents new to Reception have been in visiting classes a couple of times since starting in September.



The first occasion was to join in with a 'Dough disco' party where they learnt the benefits of finger gym style activities to develop fine motor skills and muscle strength. Just last week they joined us for a phonics workshop where we explained how phonics is taught at TLA and gave them the chance to join in with a lesson so they felt more confident and skilled to help their child at

home. The next time we will see them will be for our movie premiere of the 'Wiggly Nativity!' in the last week of term.

We are lucky to have a great library on our doorstep and we welcomed the team from Halton Library to do a story workshop with our Phase 1 children. This linked in with handing out the free 'Booktime' packs and has been a wonderful boost for our little readers! The children now take home a lending library book to share with an adult in addition to their home reader.

The children in Year 1 have been learning about themselves in their "Amazing Me" topic and made portraits using lots of different media. As a celebration for the end of the topic parents supported by helping us create Picasso-style portraits, as this was the famous artist we studied. The parents and children both really enjoyed the event and can't wait for the next one!



## Colton Primary says 'thank you'

As part of the Leeds 'Year of Reading', Colton Primary School are celebrating over 20 years of community involvement with the school library.

Georgina Heywood has volunteered at the school since 1998 and supported hundreds of children who happily chat every week about their favourite authors, stories and books.

Working with the librarians, Georgina has kept the online catalogue up to date, organised our new books and ensured the library reflects the children's interests. She persevered when we updated the online system

and smiled through all the 'teething troubles'. All the children and staff at Colton would like to say a huge thank you to Georgina for her many years of dedication to our library.



## Remembrance Day at Meadowfield

As a school, during last year, we fund raised to purchase a Tommy - this is a soldier silhouette from the charity 'There But Not There'. This year, on Remembrance Day, we decided to have our minute's silence outside around our Tommy silhouette. It was a wonderful, special and respectful occasion. Mr Dea'th (one of our site team) who is retired from the Armed Forces, read a poem to us - this made it very real for the children.



## Bio: Sam Taylor - Trust Estates Manager



### Responsibilities

Providing the Trust and its schools with effective estates management. This includes leading on the management of the property and land portfolio across the Trust working closely with the Director of Operations, Site Managers and teams, School Business Managers and the Chief Finance Officer. The role also includes ensuring the Trust complies with requirements of its Health and Safety Policy.

### Background

I graduated with a BSc(Hons) in Quantity Surveying in 2012, going on

to work in the Construction Industry for the next 7 years as a Quantity Surveyor and Project Manager. Whilst working in the construction industry I also undertook my APC (Assessment of Professional Competence) to become a Chartered Surveyor in 2014. In my time with my previous employer I delivered a range of construction projects valued between £50,000 and £5million working with the University of York, Manchester Metropolitan University, University of Bradford, City of York Council and the Humber Bridge Board.

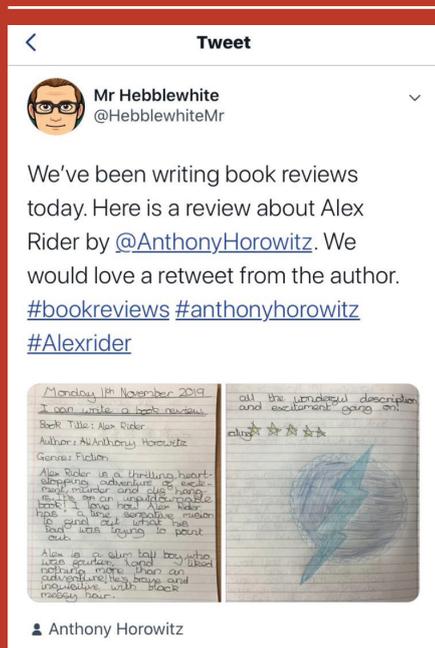
### About Me

I'm Mum to Oscar who will be 2 in February, I love to travel and am always looking to see more of the world. I'm always a sucker for romantic period dramas, (have lost count of the amount of times I have watched all the Jane Austen adaptations) and I love to read and bake when I get spare time, (although "spare time" is in short supply since Oscar arrived).

## Quality mark for Coppice Valley

Coppice Valley Primary have recently been awarded the Silver level of the National SMSC Quality Mark. This was after a verification visit to speak to the pupil leaders, Emma Meadus (Head) and Sam Wright (SMSC Lead) to look at how SMSC is being developed across the school. Key examples highlighted in the report are the Coppice 50 which provides many positive activities and experiences for the children to enjoy and aspire to, community links and the work with Horticap which have been recognised with a 5 star accreditation by the RHS, the commitment to working and learning outdoors and the commitment to improving social and emotional wellbeing and mental health throughout the school community. The award is a strong silver and recognised for 3 years.

## Western reaches out on Twitter



The school is beginning to communicate its work via Twitter so that pupils' achievements reach a wider audience than the school community alone. A brilliant example of this was a recent tweet of a book review to Anthony Horowitz who promptly retweeted to his 76,000 followers and commended the child's work in a reply to our tweet!



## Curriculum Development at Harrogate Grammar School (HGS)

We would like to thank all the staff at HGS who have been involved in a number of subject reviews over the course of the new term. As part of our curriculum development focus, we invited Janet Sheriff to share her expertise with our subject leaders before further sessions with Mike Maddison. Our first review took place with English and our Faculty Leader, Charlotte Dunne, stepped forward and was observed by other Faculty Leaders in her curriculum conversation with Mike - a very brave thing to do! Since this review, a number of subjects volunteered for their own reviews in Maths, Science, Music, Art and History.

We have been incredibly impressed with how our whole staff, students and leaders have engaged in this process. Whilst our main focus has been in adapting and preparing for the new inspection framework,

what has come out of this work has been a real focus on ensuring we have the highest quality curriculum offering. As leaders, it has given us the opportunity to genuinely understand what is being taught, when and why - a refreshing change in focus, away from data, and on the genuine love and passion that staff have for their subject areas. Our students have been honest, insightful and appreciative in their feedback on their learning and have valued having the opportunity to express their views with an independent reviewer. Completing six subject reviews before Christmas is no small feat, but we have seen subject leaders develop in confidence and what we have heard and seen fills us with pride in the opportunities our students have. We very much appreciate the efforts and dedication of the HGS team.

## High-vis vests!

Thanks to Specsavers for giving away for free high-vis vests to our primary schools for children to wear when out and about.



## TNCP School Council and Junior Leaders

Last week our new School Council and Junior Leaders group met for the first time. We had 11 children and young people attend, representing schools from across the Cluster, and they had a very busy first meeting! They drew pictures of each other, made Christmas decorations for a community Christmas tree, and did consultation around local youth



activities. We also had some special visitors from Leeds City Council come to talk to us, including one of our local Councillors.

## TNCP Take 3 Parenting Programme

Autumn Term Take 3 has been very popular and take up was high. The current course has just finished and the next course will run in Spring 2020. Please keep an eye on our website for further details.

We've received really positive feedback from parents who have attended the latest course -

"When I started Take 3 I was anxious about being around different people and being judged, now I feel hopeful."

"I enjoy the group work activities and listening to different views."

"The quiz was useful for me, it showed me things from my child's perspective."

"I liked the session on brain growth and development. The DVD is good and makes it more real."

"I really enjoyed the paired listening skills, it made me think about how I come across to my children."

## TNCP Community Consultation

Over the Autumn Term we ran our Community Consultation, 'What is important to you in your community?' We received over 80 responses from children and young people, parents and carers, community members, staff, and volunteers.

**We asked** - What issues concern you in your local community?

**You said** - Littering, mental health and wellbeing, and violence and anti social behaviour

**We asked** - What issues do you think children and young people should be looking at in schools and community groups?

**You said** - Littering, discrimination and equal opportunities, mental health and wellbeing, and anti social behaviour

**We asked** - What do you think should be the focus of our Activity Programmes?

**You said** - To increase confidence and self-esteem, to keep children safe, and to improve mental health and wellbeing

Thank you to everyone who took part in the consultation. We will use your views to drive the work of the TNCP and look at how we can help the community to address local issues.

For the latest TNCP newsletter please click on the link below:  
[https://mailchi.mp/e41bd5171322/tncp-newsletter-november-2019?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/e41bd5171322/tncp-newsletter-november-2019?e=[UNIQID])

Merry  
Christmas  
and a  
Happy New  
Year!