

Trust Round-up

March 2023



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Welcome from Dr Witham, the trust CEO



It is that time again! Another Venn newsletter as we enter the Easter period.

Firstly, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all your hard work in our family of schools; supporting our children and young people. This term has certainly had its challenges and I am pleased in the manner in which we have all supported each other.

This round-up is our opportunity to highlight the work of staff and our pupils' successes.



March was an exciting month as we welcomed Brompton Hall School as our newly sponsored academy. Pat and the team have been working really hard to move the school forward since September and the joining date changed a couple of times. I am pleased that the Brompton team are now part of the Venn family. It is an exciting time for Brompton as it will soon have more students (including girls!) and in the future may even welcome key stage 1 pupils.

On another note, I would like to give a special thanks to everyone at our special and alternative provision settings, where it has been particularly challenging. Thank you Claire, Sarge, Nicola, Laura, Maria, Jake, Pat and your teams for coming to work every day to support our most vulnerable students. Furthermore, next term I want to wish all of our students the best of luck as we enter the testing season.

Last month I was invited to a round table event with Amanda Spielman, His Majesties Chief Inspector of Schools, to discuss the inspection framework for our partnership. An area that was discussed greatly was around pupil attendance having an impact on inspection outcomes. Amanda explained that inspectors were sensitive to post pandemic attendance and where schools could provide evidence that leaders have done everything they can then this would be taken into account. Additionally, a discussion took place regarding the development of adaptive teaching in our curriculums. In May we are expecting a visit from the Regional Schools Director. She is the Secretary of State's representative in the region and makes decisions about schools in the Yorkshire region.

At the current time, Venn has been approved as the sponsor of a school in the Rotherham area - more news to follow.

Again, thank you for all your endeavours and support and I wish you a well earned Easter break.

Best wishes
Simon Witham

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Message from Terry Johnson, Chair of the Board of Trustees



So here we are, two thirds of the academic year completed and the Easter break to look forward to. It has been a busy time for the trust, particularly since the new year. We have had the pleasure of welcoming Brompton Hall School into the Venn family and we look forward to a successful future together.

We held the first strategic governance event day at The Village Hotel. This was very successful and enjoyed by all of those who attended. It is hoped that such an event will be held again and all heads will be able to attend; they are at the heart of governance in our schools and therefore crucial in determining future governance structures and arrangements.

The employee survey results have been received. The response was just below 80%; a big thank you to all of those that completed the survey. As an organisation we do take your responses seriously and they are confidential. We hope to have an even better completion rate next year. It is important that we gain an understanding of your thoughts and concerns in order to do what we can enhance your work experience.

As we enter the final leg of the academic year we have the SATs and Year 11 examinations to look forward to. We know that the run up to examinations is an extremely busy and potentially stressful time for you all, but remember *"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity."* – Albert Einstein.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication and wishing you all a happy and restful Easter.

Terry Johnson

Brompton Hall School



Welcome Brompton Hall to our family of schools

Brompton Hall School is a special school, nestled in the heart of North Yorkshire, on the outskirts of Scarborough in the village of Brompton-by-Sawdon. It is a Grade 2 listed building and stands in beautiful grounds. It is currently an all-boys school, for key stage 3 and 4 pupils, with a small key stage 2 provision. All boys have an Educational Health & Care Plan.

Brompton Hall School joined our trust on 1 March 2023.

We are delighted they have joined our family of schools, and extend a warm welcoming *HELLO* to Pat, Denny and all the team in North Yorkshire.

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Cricket Skills at Sirius North

Some of our Upper Key Stage 2 pupils took part in a cricket event with other special schools in the area. Pupils proudly represented Bridgeview and enjoyed playing table cricket, soft ball cricket as well as a game of normal cricket.



Science Week

During Science Week pupils always enjoy the hands-on practical activities, they promote discussion and generate questions. Pupils conducted experiments, worked scientifically, collected data, made predictions and completed fair tests.



Chinese New Year

Lower Key Stage 2 pupils learned all about Chinese New Year from their special visitor. They found out that 2023 is the year of the Rabbit and predicted to be a year of hope. Pupils practiced and performed a dragon dance which represents power, strength and good luck.



Curriculum Activities and visits

Our curriculum has been enriched this term with a number of visitors and activities. Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed the experiences:

A group of our pupils visited The Ferens Gallery to explore the artwork and understand how it links to the art curriculum. The group enjoyed their experience and engaged positively, showing a keen interest in the artwork on display.



LKS2 have actively engaged with First Steps PE throughout their dance unit.



Not in our Community

Year 5 & 6 pupils engaged well with workshops exploring the dangers of criminal exploitation and knife crime. Reminding pupils that they have a right to say no!





Euler Academy



We have welcomed new staff to our team this term:



Jade Aldous



Charlotte
Edmondson

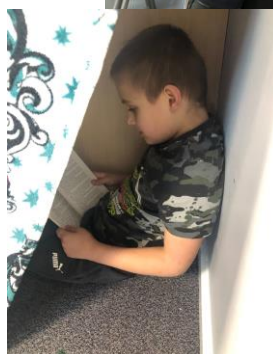


Nicola
McNulty

We were very sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Preston, who has been part of the Venn family since we began, and prior to this working at Whitehouse PRU, may she enjoy her well earned retirement!



World Book Day fun!



Enjoying mathematics and science

We welcome Donna Bowman as the School Business Manager for Venn Boulevard and Sullivan Centres, and Robina McNamara who will be teaching across the schools.



It has been an exciting and fast paced Spring Term in school. We have held mock exams for Key Stage 4, celebrated Comic Relief with an afternoon of fun activities and welcomed a new teacher, Ms McNamara and new business manager Mrs Bowman.

We were also so proud to be chosen by the Department for Education to create a series of videos to celebrate Neurodiversity Week. Our students were incredible, describing their lived experiences and how the school has helped them. This video has now had over 65 thousand views! Find all the videos on our twitter page.

Qualifications Success

We are very excited to announce the following students have successfully completed their ICT Functional Skills L1 Exam:

Ronnie, Harley, Dylan, Kobi

We are super proud of them all, they have worked incredibly hard!

The first of many successes for our amazing KS4 students.



Congratulations to our Executive Head Miss Goodaire on her amazing achievement on becoming an OFSTED inspector.

World Book Day

Thursday 2 March was World Book Day and both staff and students celebrated by dressing up as their favourite book characters. We also welcomed parents and carers to our Stay and Read sessions.





Our amazing students shared their experiences with neurodiversity with the Department for Education, to be shared on social media during neurodiversity week.

Department for Education @educationgovuk · Mar 13
This week is #NeurodiversityCelebrationWeek

What does neurodiversity mean? Staff and students at Venn @boulevardcentre and @CentreSullivan explain.

They show us how with acceptance and support, neurodivergent children and young people make progress and grow in confidence.



At the start of the year, we hosted our first Post 16 Careers Fair for students and families.

We opened our new schoolroom on Woodland Ward, Floor Two of Hull Royal Infirmary. The children have loved it and we are so busy we are having to use a booking system for the room for the first time ever!



Well done to our 'neurodiversity team' at The Sullivan Centre and @boulevardcentre, who created a tree for our Hull Parent Carer Forum. This will be filled with leaves full of parents/carers positive thoughts, feelings and experiences about neurodiversity #Neurodiversity



National Science week 2023

The school celebrated National Science week. Every year group did different investigations and experiments to test out different ideas. The children said they enjoy the practical side of science.



Year 1 have been working in groups to investigate waterproof/non-waterproof materials.



Year 5 have been investigating how to separate insoluble materials from liquids using filtering.



Year 4 investigated the patterns between the pitch of a sound and the size of an object.



Year 3 have been dissecting plants to identify the different parts of a flower.

Year 5 Ambassadors of Hull Visit



The children in year 5 had a great day out in the city as part of the Children's University project. They had the chance to ask members of the public for their viewpoint on what is good about Hull and what facilities they use in Hull. Staff said it was great to see the children's confidence grow as the day progressed. I am sure the children enjoyed the opportunity!





Mountbatten Primary School



Jigsaw families

We have another very exciting opportunity for parents and children to come together to complete our brand new 'Jigsaw Families' program. The program consists of one-hour sessions each Wednesday. The sessions are led by Mrs Whiteley and Mrs Cook in the nursery and snacks, drinks and a warm space are provided. Parents attend each session with their child. There are crafts, games and time for adults to chat about the sessions. There are a range of subjects covered from managing behaviour to ideas for healthy eating and living. The children will also receive a prize at the end of the program.



Football for ALL

Mountbatten girls got a wonderful opportunity to take part in the Let's play event which is supported by the English FA to get more girls accessing football in schools. They had a great time.



Working with parents in our community

We are very excited to welcome in the Hull Training and Adult Education team who have been delivering the 'Managing Children's Behaviour' course in our school. The course will be completely free of charge to our parents, led by an expert in adult education. Each parent will receive a certificate upon completion. This has been well attended and well received.

Humberside Fire Service

Humberside Fire Service paid us a visit. Year 1 enjoyed talking about the equipment and skills needed to be a firefighter and learning more about how to keep ourselves safe.



School Council working on the menu

Miss Jewitt and the school council have been working with Venn catering to create a new and exciting menu.

Y6 London Night at the Museum

Y6 and the team had an amazing trip to the Natural History Museum and Kidzania. The Children's University fully funded this trip which was amazing for our families. The children were exemplary. We even had a resident come up to us whilst waiting at a tube station to compliment the school on their behaviour.



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Griffin Primary School



Locational Knowledge

Following attendance at the Geography workshops at the Venn Training Day in January, our Geography subject leader identified a need to further develop locational knowledge in our pupils. We now have a display in each classroom which identifies where staff and pupils have been on holiday and where it is in the world; and we also have a school display in our main corridor showing the same. It has been fantastic to see the pupils studying the maps and spotting countries they have visited!



World Book Day

This year our World Book Day activities were based on the book *The Pet* by Catherine Emmett. We were lucky enough to have a personal visit from Catherine who met some of our KS1 pupils and answered some of their questions.



Proud!

We are really proud of Oliver in Year 5 who has been awarded a black belt in mixed martial arts. He is the youngest winner of this at his club!

Enrichment

Our enrichment offer across the school includes trips and visitors to broaden the knowledge and experiences of our pupils.

This term our Year 5 pupils have been involved in a Science project and have visited Air Products and Px Ltd.

Our Year 3, 4 and 5 pupils took part in a drumming and percussion workshop with Jeff Rich, Status Quo.



Good luck!

Good luck to our staff who have embarked on their NPQ CPD journeys this term. We have 8 members of staff currently taking part in one for their professional development.

We are very proud of Iden, Christian and Layni-Grace who were invited to South Axhorne secondary school to compete in a variety of Pi related problems against other local feeder schools. The children came first, winning with 171 points.

Our dojo shop has had a revamp and we now have some newly appointed dojo monitors. The children visit fortnightly to spend their dojo points. It is a real success!

Upskilling parents has been at the forefront of this term. We have held phonics sessions for EYFS and KS1 parents so they can confidently support their children at home. Mathematics sessions have also taken place with parents learning about the calculation policy. These parents were provided with resources and games to support learning at home.



To support curriculum learning, a number of year groups have enjoyed out of school visits. Here are year two exploring micro habitats, which links to their current Science unit.



Brooke celebrated World Book Day and parents/carers were invited into school to enjoy reading with their children. We held a book swap across school which proved very popular! The children demonstrated their right to vote by choosing their favourite dressed teacher.

It has been a very busy spring term at Marshland and it has gone so quick! We have had a number of visits out, including a trip to 'Crucial Crew', and a geography field trip to study coastal erosion in Hornsea.

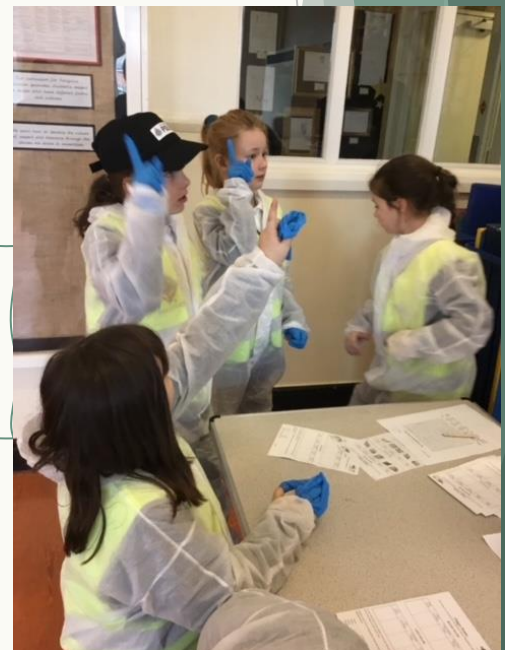
We are very lucky to have welcomed a number of new families into the academy and they have settled in very well indeed.

At the start of the term, our choir took part in 'Young Voices' at Utilita Arena, Sheffield. Although it was a very late night, the children (and staff) has an amazing time and had the opportunity to sing with Heather Small. Proud!



To support the Y2 science learning The Purple Pig Company came in to visit the children and talked about the basic needs of animals. By far the favourite was a two-day-old lamb and the children learnt about what she needs to grow.

Our Marshland Mini Police continue their good work. Their most recent session was looking at the knowledge and skills needed to be a scene of crime officer. They were enthralled at what the police were teaching them.



One of our Marshland Moments is to meet a real life judge. A visit to 'Crucial Crew' enabled the children to do this. Crucial Crew offers the children a chance to access critical safety advice from a range of agencies. It is always a very popular visit.



New Pastures Primary School



What a busy Spring Term we have had here at New Pastures with the pupils learning lots of new and exciting things. Year 3 had a visit by Linda Gardener who ran a workshop entitled 'Easter in a box' in which children looked at some artefacts that helped to fuel their imagination of what it must have been like to live during the first Easter time.



Reading is always a priority at New Pastures and we have been working closely with Mexborough Library. A mural is being painted on the outside of the building and will include quotes from children at New Pastures... take a look below!



We hold a uniform exchange every month at New Pastures. Children grow so quickly, that they soon become too big for their uniform. Instead of throwing it away, parents kindly donate it to school. Other parents can then take some items away for free. We are all helping each other. Every time we hold the uniform exchange it is getting more and more popular.



We were extremely proud to support Comic Relief and in fact raised an impressive £308 as well as having lots of fun. The children all knew where the money was going and how it would help those in need.

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Venn awards



Well done...

Schools nominated a pupil from each of the five qualities important to Venn (**Pioneer, Inspire, Achieve, Collaborate, Create**). The final selection was by the Chair of the Board of Trustees and the lucky winners are:

PIONEER

Thomas, Whitehouse Pupil Referral Unit

Thomas has demonstrated a fantastic attitude to pioneering new knowledge. He is always inquisitive to learn new facts.

INSPIRE

Shukrani, Mountbatten Primary School

Shukrani is an inspiration to her peers by always trying to be the best she can be. Shukrani challenges her own learning and applies learnt knowledge and skills to all areas of her work and support her peers to be the best they can be.

ACHIEVE

Malaki, Venn Boulevard Centre

Malaki spoke so eloquently in the DFE video about how Venn Boulevard has positively impacted his life. He also attended Hull Royal with life coaches to try to overcome anxieties relating to medical procedures.

COLLABORATE

Tillie, Marshland Primary Academy

Tillie seems to have grown in confidence since starting Y6 and is always willing to lend a hand. She has supported the children who have started the class in the last few weeks and always demonstrates a caring and collaborative attitude to her peers. In addition to the usual classroom timetable, Tillie is at her happiest supporting our younger children at breaktime; in fact, you could leave her to organise it! We are very proud of this young lady!

CREATE

Ryan, Brooke Primary Academy

Ryan was nominated for the 'Create' award due to his love for the arts. Ryan regularly spends his time at both school and home creating pieces of art. He is able to articulate how why he created the pieces. Often his pieces are linked to animals which is a huge interest of his.

Pupils will each receive a family ticket to a popular attraction!

Venn is a **pioneering** academy trust, where all pupils are **inspired** to become lifelong learners to **achieve** the very highest standards possible.

Collaborating with all partners, the Trust works with its settings to **create** world class learning experiences for all.

School improvement and staff announcements



School Improvement News

I would like to thank everyone for their very positive engagement at our January subject focussed training day. The evaluations were very positive. Molly and the team are already looking at shaping our next trust wide training day which is planned for Monday 8 January 2024!!

The school improvement team has been busy supporting developments in each of our schools. For example, at the primary special/AP settings, Vikki and Hannah have been working with leaders to develop an explorers' curriculum pathway. This is for pupils who are largely working well below the level of the National Curriculum year group expectations. It identifies learning experiences that are very hands-on and experiential. The team has been working to develop the idea of adaptive teaching and highlighting how this is very different to differentiation.

At our recent heads' meeting we were thinking about how ambitious our individual school curriculums are and how we evidence our ambitions, and our challenging end points for each unit, each term or each year group.

Molly has continued to work with the primary science cluster group. They have been planning a pupil-led summit to run next year, where pupils will work together from all our settings on a project to improve the school environment to encourage wildlife. Molly worked with Bridgeview and The Whitehouse to deliver a successful 'space and materials work shop'. Good use is being made of the science in a box materials. The 'space case' is the most popular. There are boxes available for electricity, evolution and inheritance. The group have decided on a focus to improve science capital across their settings and have been trialling resources and discussed different approaches to do this. Griffin is taking part in an initiative, Children Challenging Industry, which gives training on science capital and the opportunity for children to visit local science industries.

All our primary schools are committed to securing the primary science mark. Mountbatten have already achieved this so we're hoping that this time next year all Venn primary settings will have achieved this award.

As we come to the end of this term, we are acutely aware that Zoe will soon be taking maternity leave. In many ways her current 'babies' are Little Wandle, Bug Club and Fresh Start, so she will need to get used to a livelier and nosier bundle. Danny is continuing to support the development of leadership at Brompton Hall.

Staff announcement

Zach, our central team finance and admin apprentice, will be moving on at the end of March. He starts a new role as a bookkeeper for an accountancy firm after Easter. I'm sure you will all agree that Zach will be hugely missed! I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Zach for all his hard work, both within Venn Central and the school offices he has supported over the past 18 months. We wish you luck in your new role!

Estates Manager



An interview with Venn's Estates Manager

Question 1 – What is your name?

My name is Michael Swann but most people call me Mike.

Question 2 – Where do you come from and where do you live?

I am originally from North Belfast, Co. Antrim. I now live in Nottingham with my Partner Mel and her daughter Gabby (6).

Question 3 - What do you do for a job and what does your average day look like?

Good question! Every day is different. I travel round all the Venn schools from Brompton Hall to New Pastures Primary and I check to make sure pupils, staff and visitors are safe, warm and dry. I am often asked by schools to offer advice on building issues or safety issues, whilst balancing a workload of trust wide school development projects. It's never a dull day at Venn!

Question 4 – What is the best part about working for Venn?

I used to be a caretaker during covid and I really enjoyed seeing the pupils having fun and saying hello in the corridor. The best bit about Venn is, as well as seeing the pupils when I'm out and about, is that I am also involved in building our infrastructure, ultimately making pupils lives and learning experiences better.

Question 5 – If people see you around Venn, should they say hi?

Yes, absolutely say hi!



Employee Survey Results



The results for our 2022 survey are in! It's the third year Venn have conducted this survey.

325 people engaged with the survey - that's 64% of our staff. Thank you to all of you for taking the time to do this and thank you for your honesty when doing so.

Results showed more people are engaged than last year, which is brilliant, and 82% of people said they were proud to work for Venn!

2021 results

Category	Questions	% engaged	% disengaged	% Neutral
Head	I feel that my job is reasonably secure Working at Venn Academy Trust has lived up to my expectations I understand how I contribute to Venn Academy Trust's success	65%	2%	33%
Heart	I am proud to work for Venn Academy Trust My work is meaningful to me I feel a strong sense of commitment to Venn Academy Trust	77%	1%	22%
Hands	I feel that it is worthwhile for me to work hard for Venn Academy Trust Time flies when I am at work I feel personally driven to help Venn Academy Trust succeed	72%	1%	26%

2022 results

Category	Questions	% engaged	% disengaged	% Neutral
Head	I feel that my job is reasonably secure Working at Venn Academy Trust has lived up to my expectations I understand how I contribute to Venn Academy Trust's success	70%	1%	29%
Heart	I am proud to work for Venn Academy Trust My work is meaningful to me I feel a strong sense of commitment to Venn Academy Trust	82%	0%	17%
Hands	I feel that it is worthwhile for me to work hard for Venn Academy Trust Time flies when I am at work I feel personally driven to help Venn Academy Trust succeed	75%	1%	24%

There is always more we can do to improve so keep your ear to the ground for changes, subtle and otherwise, to act on the findings going forwards.

An engaged workforce is a workforce who can achieve great things with the children we work with and so is important to Venn. Keep up the good work everyone!

Governance



School Governors' Awareness Day

This term a national school governance awareness day was held. It was to raise awareness of governance in schools and celebrate the contribution governors and trustees make to improving the experiences for children and young people.

To reiterate this, the trust would like to thank all those who take the time to volunteer as a trustee or governor within Venn; you are valued.

Become a school governor

Do you know someone who would like to make a difference in the community, and develop their own professional skills? By volunteering as a school governor, they can do both. If you know someone please pass this information on.

School governors play an important role in leading our schools

They set the strategic vision and direction and hold the senior leadership team to account.

Why become a school governor?

The benefits of being a governor are immense. These benefits include:

- Developing your professional skills and experience such as strategic planning, chairing, financial planning and team working, all of which are valued by employers and can assist your own career development;
- Building relationships and networks in your locality and;
- Supporting children and young people in your community.

Anyone over the age of 18 can be a governor and you do not need to be a parent.

Applying to become a governor is easy

- Find out more by emailing hturner@vennacademy.org or by telephone on 01482 505030;
- If interested, they will be asked to complete an application form; there would be an appointments process and no obligation to accept a position.

Support in the role

To help induct a new governor into the role:

- They would receive a complimentary copy of the induction guide Welcome to Governance, produced by the National Governance Association.
- They can access our resources page with handy links to key documents and resources from the NGA and the DfE around the governance role.
- The board will support their induction with access to a local or national training offer provided by the local authority, academy trust or the NGA.

Wellbeing



Spring is here!

The daffodils are smiling, the bluebells are dancing...spring is here! During the Easter Holidays I encourage you to stop and notice the change of season with these few suggested mindfulness activities. You can do it on your own or with friends or family. You are important. Take in the moment.

- *Listen to the rain.*
- *Watch bumblebees at work in a garden.*
- *Notice the trees budding.*
- *Spot a rainbow.*
- *Listen to the birds singing.*
- *Go bare-legged.*
- *Feel the sun on your face.*
- *Breathe in – feel the fresh spring air in your lungs*



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