

CONNECT NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

Trust's Pioneering Programme provides life saving suicide awareness training

Long service success

Trust Team tackle Great North Run for Children's Charities

Manor School welcomes new principal

Maths Professional Learning and Development Community Collaboration

Chris celebrates



Trust's Pioneering Programme provides life saving suicide awareness training

Trust leaders have introduced a pioneering programme focused on suicide awareness in a bid to help save lives, protect pupils and support staff.

In the month that marked World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10th, Nene Education Trust called for schools and education establishments across the county and country to follow its initiative to highlight how help and support is available for students and staff suffering mental health issues. The ground-breaking approach adopted by the Trust, which has seen more than 400 teachers and Trust staff undergo specialist suicide awareness training, was implemented following the death by suicide of Manor School student Callum Woodcroft in 2022.

Callum's former Head Teacher, Matt Coleman, Director of School Improvement at the Trust contacted Northamptonshire suicide prevention charity, Kelly's Heroes to collaborate on creating a package of specialised support available to all eight schools in the Trust, which he hopes will also be utilised by schools throughout the county and nationwide. At the Trust's recent annual training day Sherry Adams, CEO of Kelly's Heroes and the charity's team of specialists delivered the training session entitled Suicide Awareness – Creating A Suicide Safe Community.

Following Callum's death Matt Coleman explained he was determined to help make a difference to support students and staff. He said: "I was driven to make some positive change out of something so tragic that impacted so many.



"We have worked with Sherry and the team at Kelly's Heroes to create a package of support that is available to all schools in the county and beyond. The charity's team of specialists visited the Trust sites to shine a spotlight on this very emotive and often taboo subject, its potential causes, and effects.

" As it is estimated there are more than 700,000 suicides every year worldwide, Sherry Adams welcomed the opportunity for the charity to collaborate with schools and businesses to highlight how it is okay to talk about suicide.

As part of the specially commissioned training provided to the Trust teams, the charity covered: Prevention, Intervention and Postvention and highlighted the detrimental influence of social media has on those struggling with their mental health. Data also showed suicides increase exponentially following the report of a life lost to suicide.

The training covered common warning flags and specific risk factors – influences that may lead to someone to have suicidal thoughts. Chris Hill, CEO of Nene Education Trust, added: "I wanted to express my huge thanks to everyone involved in our training day which was emotional and focused on such important messages."

The Trust's ground-breaking pioneering training was featured by the media with interviews included by the BBC and ITV alongside regional publications.

For help or information contact kellys-heroes.co.uk



Trust Team tackle **Great North Run** for Children's Charities

Big hearted teachers tackled a fitness challenge, running miles to raise money for charity. Two teachers from Nene Education Trust's Newton Road School in Rushden ran the Great North Run recently in searing temperatures topping 30 degrees! One of the other runners on the day was Sir Mo Farah in his last ever competitive race - so they were in great company.

The AJ Bell Great North Run is the world's biggest half marathon, with 60,000 runners taking on the route from Newcastle to South Shields each year. It is famous for its inclusive atmosphere, unbeatable on-route entertainment, and warm Geordie welcome, not to mention the millions raised each year for worthy causes.

Running buddies Rich Bosworth and Jack Davies had been training together for some time in a bid to keep fit and wanted to set themselves a challenge and settled on the Great North Run. The dynamic duo were committed to their charitable causes from the outset. "At the start of the year, we were barely able to run a 5k!", said Rich.



Both decided to choose charities to support that were close to their hearts and settled on ones that support the education community. Rich chose NSPCC, as safeguarding is fundamental to everything we do and obviously the NSPCC is a great charity that focuses on keeping children safe/supporting children who may have suffered abuse.

Jack ran for Wellchild, who support seriously ill children - so again a great cause that is close to our hearts with the roles that we hold.

The runners said that the day was an amazing experience - with lots of support along the whole way. People gave out ice pops, jelly babies, oranges and bands played along the route to keep everyone's spirits up. Both runners completed the course in just over 2 hours which is extremely impressive.

In total they raised almost £1000 between them for the two charities and the support from our community of schools where staff have donated meant that they both exceeded their fundraising goals.





Long service **success**

A surprise presentation and commemorative cake was staged in recognition of more than 35 years service by trustee of the board Mike Busby. Fellow trustees also attended the presentation by CEO Chris Hill to mark Mike's momentous milestone as NET's longest serving trustee.

Mike's dedicated decades of governance first started when his son and daughter attended schools that were among the first to be part of the Trust. Mike said: "It was totally unexpected and was a very nice surprise.

I officially retire in October, however I will still be involved with some activities, so I will still be in touch with everyone. "What I have enjoyed most is the involvement and the fact that you are helping by adding your own experience and knowledge into a pool with fellow trustees to aid the senior leadership, the CEO and his senior leaders to formulate plans for the development of the Trust.

"Primarily, underlying all of that, the whole focus is on the education of the children, to give the young people of our community the best opportunities that we possibly can. All the time spent is all worthwhile because you are putting something back into your community;

Mike originally started his role in 1988 as a parent governor at St Peter's C of E School in Raunds where his son Matthew and daughter Claire attended as pupils. Over the years retired banker Mike has held a number of prestigious roles including Chair of Manor School and Vice Chair at Manor Learning Trust, which grew and evolved to become the renamed Nene Education Trust.

One of Mike's most memorable highlights was his involvement in a project to raise money for Manor School which resulted in him helping raise almost £2 million over five years. One of the funded projects was the installation of an all weather floodlit football pitch, which was opened by Sir Trevor Brooking in circa 2008.

CEO Chris Hill said: "We wanted to celebrate Mike's long service success and recognise the many, many years he has given to our schools and Trust."

Mike added: "I think NET is very progressive and forward thinking, it is very community focused and there is a wonderful rapport between the schools."

Also in attendance at Mike's presentation were Jenna Weedon, Peter French, Pat Worden and Ron Whittaker.



10 minutes with...

Name and Title.

Mike Busby, NET Trustee

How long have you worked at NET?

"Almost 36 years."

What do you enjoy about your work?

"Helping to give the young people of our community the best opportunities that we possibly can... it is about making a difference."

What do you like to do outside of work?

"I like dog walking. My wife Jane and I have always had dogs and last year our daughter brought us a pup, a sproker a springer/cocker cross. She is beautiful and is now 20 months old, she is a little darling."



Her official name is Saffron but we all call her Saffy and she's keeping me active, which as I'm 79 now is a good thing. I also like gardening and I enjoy reading."

Favourite city/ destination?

"Rome."



Favourite book?

"Lord of the Rings."

Favourite food?

"Fish and chips."



Do you play/follow any sports?

"I enjoy watching sports including motor racing, Formula One, motorcross and football."

For my sins I'm a Man United supporter and I have been ever since the air crash when, as a boy, I learnt that Sir Matt Busby, who was the manager of Man United at that time, was a cousin to my Dad! I have been to Old Trafford many times."

Favourite saying or quote?

"It is not a saying as such, however I don't think anything is impossible so I always see the upside of things... when things go wrong you have to look for the positives out of something."

Positive

Fears?

"I love flying but I'm afraid of heights, I am terrible on ladders!"

Manor School welcomes new principal

Manor School have recently welcomed Dr. Louise Newman as their new principal. Her appointment comes as the Raunds-based secondary school aim to increase their already high standards, deepen their ties to the local community and continue to fulfil their mission of 'success for all.'

The school was described as having "established a collaborative and inclusive culture" by Ofsted in their most recent report and Dr. Newman's ethics-focussed approach to education is suited to this existing ethos, forming partnerships with the local community and ensuring consistency of approach among the staff.

Nene Education Trust CEO Chris Hill celebrated the appointment: "Dr. Newman's extensive experience and focus on children's happiness made her the perfect fit for this role. Her acknowledgement that every decision we make can ultimately impact a child's life shows an awareness of the importance of her role and a desire to always make the right decision."

Dr. Newman added: "I am so pleased to take on the role of Principal at Manor School. There has to be a natural fit between your own values and those of the Trust and the school that you work within, and I believe that Nene Education Trust and Manor School's values align with my own deeply. I look forward to continuing the excellent work Manor does and to take on the challenges that it is facing head on."

Dr. Newman is an experienced educator and former chemist, achieving her PhD from Loughborough University, before training to become a teacher and achieving her PGCE at the University of Cambridge. She taught science for over ten years at various schools before entering leadership positions at schools across the Midlands, including Principal and Head Teacher roles at Nicholas Chamberlaine School, Hartshill School and, most recently, Vice-Principal at Malcolm Arnold Academy.



"I look forward to continuing the excellent work Manor does and to take on the challenges that it is facing head on"



Maths Professional Learning and Development Community Collaboration

Mathematics Leads from each Nene Education Trust school attended our latest Professional Development and Learning Community (PLDC) last week – the first of three for this academic year.

Lee Coates, Trust Maths Lead said; "It was a great opportunity to meet as a collaborative group to investigate the recent Ofsted Mathematics Subject Report: Coordinating Mathematical Success (July 2023).

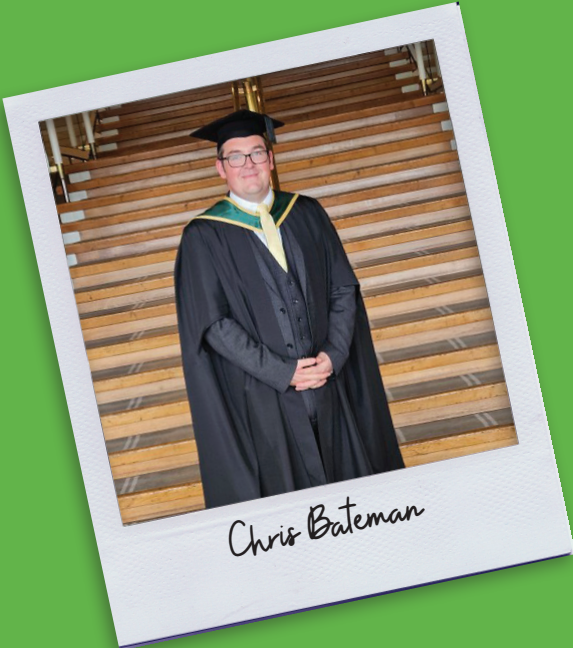
"During the session, we were able to discuss and celebrate what our schools already do well for our students and young people in developing their mathematical understanding, but also consider the challenges and development points so that mathematics leads can continue to improve the mathematics curriculum and provision in our schools.

"These sessions are always a great way to meet together and reflect on our practice within our family of schools – celebrating our successes and considering how best to improve and drive forward."

One of the schools' subject leads for maths added; "The session was really useful. I could see so many things we are doing well at our school.

The session made me understand that we are in a good place, but of course, there is still more work to do."

Another added; "I like the fact we got to see an overview of the journey of mathematics from primary to secondary school. It was helpful to analyse our school's successes and challenges – to unpick them and share these ideas together. It is comforting to be around."



Chris celebrates!

Congratulations to Chris Bateman who has graduated with a MSc in Educational Leadership and Management (Merit) through the National College of Education and University of Roehampton.

Funded, with thanks to NET through apprenticeship levy alongside a Level 7 Senior Leadership Apprenticeship (Distinction).



GET IN TOUCH

Contact Us

Tel: 01933 627081
enquiries@neneeducationtrust.org.uk
neneeducationtrust.org.uk

Our Location

Nene Business Centre, Waterside House,
Station Road, Irthlingborough
Northamptonshire NN9 5QF