

CONNECT NEWSLETTER

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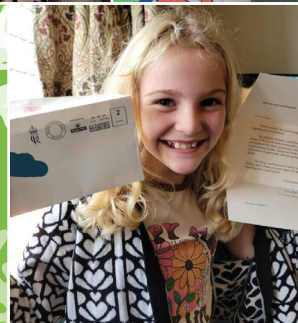
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Leading the Way

Famous footballer and inspirational speaker Russell Martin helped to kick off the launch of the Trust's Step Into Leadership programme.

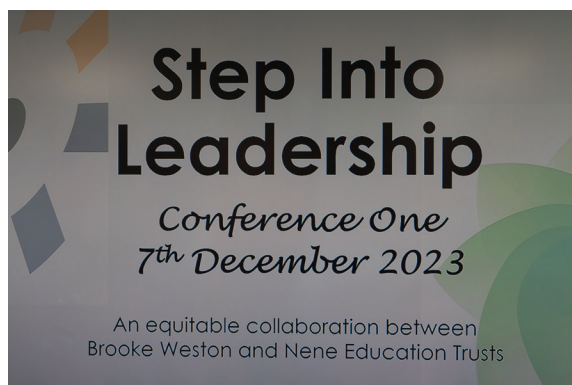
Aimed at engaging the leaders of tomorrow, the opening conference welcomed the sporting start who has led his team, Southampton Football Club, to numerous victories.

The former defender shared his insights into successful leadership with aspirant leaders at the launch via a video link, held at Nene Education Trust's head office. The programme has been created in collaboration with Brooke Weston Trust.

Nene Education Trust's Deputy CEO, Matt Coleman said: 'It was a privilege to work alongside Andy Burns and Jayne McCallum from Brooke Weston Trust to deliver our bespoke programme for up and coming leaders.

We were very grateful to Russell for giving us his time and expertise. What a man and what a leader! I love the collaboration between local trusts - it is great that we can work together to benefit our people which will in turn benefit our children.'

CEO, Chris Hill, added: **"Values, leadership, education, football and a great group of people! What a great session! Well done Matt!"**



CEO Update

This month I'd like to highlight the excellent work that happens at Nene Education Trust headquarters at Waterside House in Irthlingborough and offer a glimpse into what these central teams do on a daily basis. With that, I'll pass over to some of the brilliant team members who do the important work that allows the Trust to function:

Victoria Brennan, Business Support Manager

'Part of my role, is to support the School Improvement Team and coordinate the Trust's training and development offer - 5 Wells Development Centre. The centre provides whole school training, covering every aspect of their training needs as well as facilitating school to school improvement.

I really enjoy being able to interact with all sorts of different people, from new teachers to the CEO's of other Trusts. Every day is different, and it's great to work with the central and school improvement teams.

Ansa Herring, Payroll & Pensions Officer

My colleague, Natalie and I, collate payroll across the Trust, ensuring everyone is on the right pay scale and that things like sick pay, tax codes, student loans, pensions and national insurance have all been calculated correctly.

I like to get involved with other projects too, working with the whole central team to make sure everyone is getting the best outcomes."

Malcolm Johnston, Director of Operations

'As Director of Operations, I look after the school estates, IT, catering and other income generating projects. It is my job to ensure that all of the facilities and buildings are in the best possible condition so that our young people can learn and thrive.

Allison Woodward, Governance Manager

'My role is to be conduit between the Trust's central office and Board and other governance structures. I make sure that we're remaining compliant with the Department for Education and ESFA guidance and regulations. Some may find it boring, but it is an essential art of ensuring the Trust is compliant and up to standard. I find it interesting and enjoy using my legal and governance knowledge day to day.

Hannah Turvey, Head of Finance

I really enjoy my role as Head of Finance and the challenges education finance brings, especially across multiple schools. It's always a challenge, which I thrive on and I know my team enjoy too. It's always satisfying to work within my team and with others both in the central team and in the schools to get the best results for Trust and for our young people."



Victoria Brennan,
Business Support
Manager



Ansa Herring,
Payroll &
Pensions Officer



Malcolm
Johnston,
Director of
Operations



Allison
Woodward,
Governance
Manager



Hannah Turvey,
Head of Finance

Does your school have some incredible news?

Staff successes? School events?

Contact vbrennan@neneeducationtrust.org.uk to be featured in the next NET Connect Newsletter



Trustee talk with Rob Agnew

Rob Agnew is a serving Army Officer and joined the Board of Trustees in July 23. Following career experiences across Africa and the Middle East, Rob now works at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom delivering professional military education in partnership with King's College London.

We spoke to him about his career in the military and his role as a Trustee.

Could you tell me a little bit about your career in the military?

I am a British Army officer and commissioned from Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 2003, serving in the Royal Corps of Signals before transferring into the Mercian Regiment. Across my career, I have specialised in training design and delivery, as well as leadership and management both in the UK and overseas, including training forces in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kenya and Uganda.

What was it about you and your experience that is suited to being a Trustee?

My experience of planning and risk management help me with my specific role on the Board, looking at risk across the Trust. Working in the military helps you to develop a clarity of thought and an ability to see problems objectively, which are very useful when assessing risk.

Furthermore, my links to education, albeit in a military training environment, provides some synergy, for example the military and the Trust are both subject to Ofsted regulations.

What was it about being a Trustee that appealed to you on a personal level?

Fundamentally, I wanted to use my skillset to give back to society. One of the greatest things about the military is that it is the biggest catalyst of social mobility in this country, which I am very proud of. It helps to train and educate people from any background, allowing them to reach their potential, even those who might have had a bad experience with traditional education.

This role hopefully allows me to help more young people reach that potential, even if that's just through donating my time.



You're also working with King's College London in your current role, is this involvement with further education informing your work as a Trustee in any way?

Our partnership with King's College London is to deliver professional military education to some of the top officers in the country and internationally. It's designed to train the next generation of leaders both within our military and those of our allies.

Training programmes like these help to deepen our common understanding and cultural appreciation of each other which enhances the collective ability to work together more effectively. Teamwork is central to any organisation and a diverse team makes for stronger collaborative working.

"Fundamentally I wanted use my skillset to give back to society. I think the greatest thing about the military is that it is the biggest driver of social mobility in this country, which is important to me."

Rob Agnew



5 Wells Development Centre



Redwell Pupil receives a reply from the King

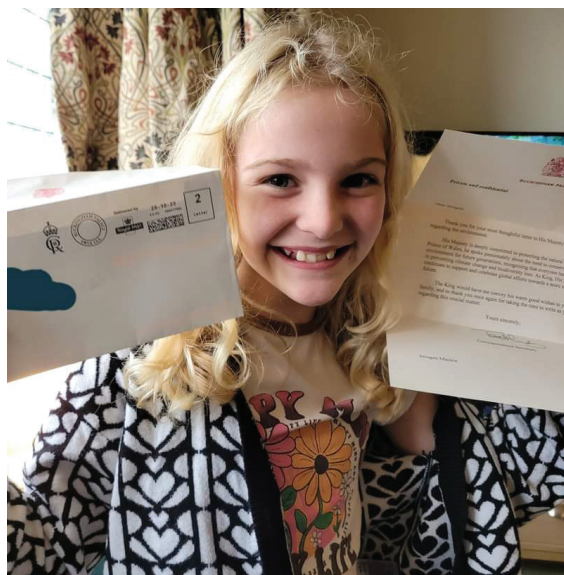
Year 6 Redwell Primary School pupil, Imogen, decided to put pen to paper in April to write to the King about her concerns for the environment. She identified three areas that concern her - the use of palm oil, litter and global warming.

She asked His Majesty to take the issues seriously and was delighted to receive a letter from him during half term.

The King thanked her for her letter and reassured her that these were issues he also felt passionately about.

Imogen's mum said that she was very proud of her taking the initiative and writing the letter herself, researching how to address the King and where to send it.

Well done Imogen.



Trust Schools Engage with Gymnastics Festival

The Primary Gymnastic Festival saw over 40 primary students come together from 4 different schools across the Trust.

All students tried a range of gymnastics skills which included different balances, springboard jumps and tumbling. This was all lead by our fantastic leaders from Manor School.



5 Wells Development Centre



St Peter's C.E. Academy



Manor Sports & Leisure Ltd

Charity Champions!

A special event was held at Manor School to officially present monies raised by children across our eight Trust schools for suicide prevention charity, Kelly's Heroes.

Sherry Adams, CEO of Kelly's Heroes, was presented with a cheque for £2120.27 by staff and children from Manor School.

The donations were raised at a recent Mufti Day, held on World Mental Health Awareness Day in October in memory of Manor School student Callum Woodcroft, whose death by suicide in 2022 led to the introduction of specialist suicide training across all schools in the Trust this year.

Callum's former Head Teacher and Trust Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Matt Coleman has been spearheading the campaign for greater awareness and specialist training to be implemented across the county and beyond. The Trust has collaborated with Kelly's Heroes to help introduce the pioneering programme focused on suicide awareness in a bid to help save lives, protect pupils and staff.

Matt said: "We were delighted as a trust of schools to raise funds for Kelly's Heroes, a charity that is so worthwhile and adds such huge value. The generosity of our families is appreciated - thank you!" Children wore pink on the fundraising day in a nod to the colour used in the charity's branding and logo, making donations in aid of the charity.



Redwell Children's Voices Shine at Rotary Event

Just to say how incredible our choir was tonight in the rotary event, they sang beautifully, performed so confidently on stage as well as narrating and singing solo pieces. We were very very proud. In addition, Zoe was amazing. Everyone should celebrate and be proud that we have a member of staff who is so dedicated to these performances with such talent, orchestrating the whole show with 4 schools.

Finally our biggest compliment was from one of our grandparents who stated not only were the Redwell children incredible but they were the only school to praise the other schools and thanked and praised each other when individuals from our school narrated or sang a solo - showing true Redwell values.

*Signing off my email, as one, very proud Principal xx
Claire*



5 Wells Development Centre





10 minutes with...

Name and Title

Amy Bradshaw,
Trust Lead for Mental
Health and Wellbeing

Who are you and what do you do – what are some of your day-to-day duties/key responsibilities?

I'm Amy Bradshaw, and as Trust Lead, I support our schools and school leaders with their approach to mental health and wellbeing. I work closely with the Senior Mental Health Leads in each school to look at how we promote positive mental health through our curriculum, values and culture and also support schools with their offer for when children are struggling, whether this is through support in school, or working with outside agencies like MHST or Service 6. I also help develop schools' approaches to staff wellbeing. Its a great privilege to do the work I do.

How long have you worked at NET?

I have been in this role, in various guises since 2019. Prior to that I was a class teacher and senior leader at Stanwick Primary so I've been part of NET since it was established.

What do you enjoy about your work?

I love the fact that my job is about helping people be the best version of themselves

and supporting our schools to create the best environments so everyone can thrive, whether that's staff or pupils. I feel very lucky to work for a Trust where this role exists and with leaders who value it. I'm a real people person so to get to work in a role which is all about connection and care is a dream.

What do you like to do outside of work?

Spending time with family and friends is very important to me. I have 3 children, who all attend schools in our Trust, so I love to hang out with them...when they let me! Shopping with my daughter Belle is always fun. I also love music and live music especially so go to gigs when I can. Not sure anyone is going to top Harry Styles, who I saw this summer though!

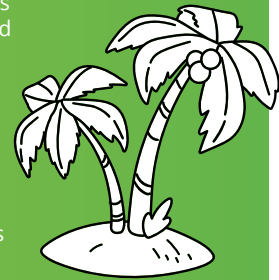


Do you play/follow any sports?

I do yoga to help manage my back pain. It's also great for my wellbeing. I love Spurs and watch them whenever they're on TV. Me and my middle son Charlie went to our first match in October. It was so great to share that experience with him...and they won! COYS! In our family of 5, 4 different teams are supported so there's always some rivalry and banter when games are on. My husband supports Sheffield Wednesday so he often gets the most teasing.

Favourite city/destination?

I have a few, but top of the list is Bermuda. We went there this summer to stay with family and it was amazing. The scenery is stunning and the apartment we stayed in looked out over the ocean. Waking up to that view every day was incredible. Cliff jumping and swimming in the crystal caves were real highlights. But anywhere hot is somewhere I am happiest.



Favourite food?

Again, I have a few but my favourite has to be steak (rare) and chips with a rocket salad and balsamic dressing.



I also love a really great burger.

Favourite book?

I'm currently reading The Thursday Murder Club books and really enjoying them. Over the summer I read How To Kill Your Family by Bella Mackie which was very good. My family did look a little concerned and Stanley, my youngest, asked if it was fiction or non-fiction!

Favourite saying or quote?

Progress not perfection and perfectly imperfect are two I remind myself of every day.

Fears?

Failing! Though I have realised, failure is part of the journey and that if a fear of failing means you don't try, you've already failed anyway so to just keep trying is the key.



5 Wells Development Centre



All Aboard the Good Ship Newton Road School



St Peters Diwali Lanterns



Redwell pottery making session

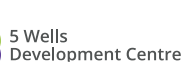


Raunds Christmas Lights Switch On

All 4 Raunds based school performed at the annual Raunds Christmas Lights Switch On.



Inaugural Trust Carol Concert



Christmas Jumper Day

Pupils got into the festive spirit when they took part in this year's Christmas Jumper Day. [Here are a selection of images from our schools.](#)





*Seasons Greetings
to everyone!*

**GET IN
TOUCH**

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