



Newsletter

Issue Number 407

Friday 2nd May 2025

Two schools join the Trust

This week, I am delighted to share two important and exciting developments in our trust. Firstly, as of yesterday, May 1st, The Lanes Primary School and Arno Vale Junior School are formally part of White Hills Park Trust. The legal agreements between the Trust, the Department of Education and Nottinghamshire County Council have all been signed and confirmed, and we have welcomed the schools into our Trust family. Of course, we have been working closely with both schools for some considerable time now – the conversions were approved by the DfE in December 2023, but for reasons beyond our control, the process is very slow. However, we can now move forward, knowing that this hurdle has been overcome. The only frustration is that we weren't able to bring Arnold Mill into the Trust at the same time, but in line with the timetable set by the County Council, they will join us formally in a month's time.



In our Trust, our schools retain their individual character and identity, and so there are no drastic changes that take place when a school converts. However, it allows us to spend more time supporting the excellent work of both schools and gives greater opportunities for collaboration, and the sharing of good practice. Both schools are successful and popular, and have much to offer the Trust as a whole, and we look forward to developing the relationship in the years to come. I would like to welcome everyone from the school community at The Lanes and Arno Vale – children, staff, governors, parents and carers, and friends of the school – into the White Hills Park family. We're delighted to have you!

The other big news to share with you is that the Trust Board have confirmed the appointment of Claire Shaw as the new Chief Executive Officer, to take over in September at the start of the new school year. Claire currently has a senior role in Affinity Learning Partnership, a mixed Multi Academy Trust in Staffordshire and Derbyshire, as well as carrying out an Executive Headteacher role, and prior to this was Director of Education for the Diocese of Lichfield. She has also been a Headteacher in Bristol and Staffordshire.

I have been in touch with Claire over the Easter break to pass on my congratulations and offer any help she needs to prepare for a smooth handover. She is very excited about the new role and looking forward to visiting all of the schools and getting to know everyone. During the course of the term, I will be working with Claire so that she is as familiar as possible with the Trust and is ready to take over in September. I know you will join me in wishing her every success in the role.



Dr. Paul Heery
Chief Executive Officer



The White Hills Park Trust
Better Together

Careers within the White Hills Park Trust

Are you looking for a workplace that values collaboration, teamwork, and a supportive environment? Then look no further. In the White Hills Park Trust, we pride ourselves on the fact one of the best things about working here is the people. Whether it's our supportive central team, our passionate and dedicated school families, or our amazing diverse pupils, we provide a friendly workplace that promotes collaboration and teamwork, united in our mission to provide the very best for our young people.

We currently have open vacancies in various roles across our schools. Please see our online application portal at whptrust.org/careers/vacancies for more information on the benefits of working with us, to read more about the roles below and begin an application, or to sign up for job alerts.



PPA Teacher

at Arno Vale Junior School, Woodthorpe

£31,650 - £43,607 per year

Closing Date: 12pm, Monday 19th May 2025



Meet the Musician

On Tuesday 22nd April, students who are studying music in Y9, 10 and 11 were treated to a mini performance, careers talk and workshop led by Cat Hanson. Cat, who is originally from Sandiacre, is a professional saxophonist and music industry entrepreneur. Her business, *Saxophonique*, provides live saxophone music for events such as weddings, birthday parties and corporate events both here in the UK, but also all over the world. Her versatility as a saxophonist, music arranger, DJ and businesswoman means her business portfolio and music repertoire is vast, ranging from ambient or classical style background music to party music and Ibiza dance covers.

During the session, Cat talked passionately about how to build a business, what it takes to be successful, and the need to believe in yourself to help your dreams come true. She also walked students through how musicians plan, market, finance, deliver and follow up after an event – all of which will be hugely beneficial when students complete their coursework in Y11.



Cat Hanson

Saxophonique.com

Mrs Franklin

Head of Performing Arts: Music & Drama





Sports News

National State Schools Hockey Finals

Congratulations to the U14 girls hockey team who finished in an outstanding 7th place overall and 3rd place in the plate tournament in the National State Schools hockey finals on 28th March. The team had a strong start, convincingly winning the first game 2-0 with a double score from E Carr. After a narrow and hard fought 1-0 defeat in the next pool game, the team finished second in their group after an inspired team performance to win 2-1. The goals came from a long range strike from I Starr and debutant G Jenkins.



In the semi finals, AW came up against a strong and well organised Derbyshire team, and despite a resilient defence led by M Carlile and outstanding saves from goalkeeper O Hardwicke, Ecclesbourne took the game in the final seconds. In the bronze medal playoff game, a very tired Alderman White team came out fighting and continued to play creative hockey with excellent defensive work and strong running down the wings, which ultimately paid off with a goal from B Kempton to win the game 1-0. Well done to all of the girls who were a credit to their school both on and off the pitch, some of whom this was a first taste of competitive hockey.

Also, a massive thanks to Mrs Hardwicke (one of the girl's mum) who has given up a lot of her time to train and, more importantly, inspire the girls. Mrs Hardwicke took the team to the event and was instrumental in making it happen. Another huge thank you is dedicated to Mr Kempton (one of the girl's dad) who also went along to support and who wrote this article for us. We really appreciate the help and support from parents who make events like this possible.

Well done team Alderman White!



Team GB Rowing visit

Hannah from Team GB rowing paid us a visit on Tuesday to coach some students and give us a lesson in rowing, whilst looking to scout if there are any students who would potentially be able to go to a training camp.

Hannah had the pleasure of coaching some year 9s in the morning and some year 10 and 11s in the afternoon. We also had a drop in session at lunch time where people could come on in and have a row.

The main themes of the day were learning the proper technique, whilst having a go at the 7-stroke power challenge. Everyone loved this. The winning girls were Sophie and Maizey in Y9 with Jayden in year 9 winning the boys with an impressive 600 watts.

We then finished the sessions with a 1000m row relay, with everyone getting stuck in.

Many thanks to Hannah for coming for the day giving her time up and letting us use the many rowers!

Mr Sutton



Ski Trip 2025

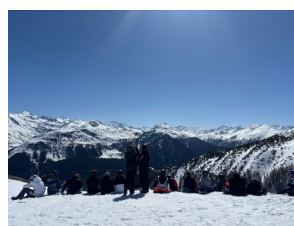
The second Alderman White ski trip took place over the course of the Easter holidays. The trip lasted a total of 8 days including the long 22-hour travel days to and from Davos, Switzerland. Once in Davos, the group spent the rest of the day getting ski equipment for the days to come and exploring the ski town the accommodation was in. The next few days consisted of many hours of skiing within different mountains and runs. The ski instructors that lead the four groups were amazing, helping improve the skiers day by day to the point where by the end of the week every group, beginners through to experienced skiers, had skied a red run with most groups making it to black runs.

As well as skiing, there were many activities in the evenings. These included, a very eventful quiz night, which was won but the group of year 11 boys, two nights were spent at the swimming centre with diving boards, water volleyball, slide and an outdoor pool, and most nights students were allowed free time to explore the local town and shops.

Overall, the ski trip was a huge success and was enjoyed by everyone who attended including teachers, helpers and instructors. A huge thanks to Mr Sutton who organised the trip and was the reason it all took place.



Phoebe Beck Y9 Pupil



Year 9 Boys Nottinghamshire Rugby Finals

On Wednesday evening, the year 9s regrouped for one final time this season after having qualified for the Nottinghamshire rugby finals. They have done incredibly well to make it to the finals for the second year in a row. We travelled to Ashfield rugby club to play against the other finalists in Brunts, who we lost to last year in the final 1-0, alongside Rushcliffe.

The format was slightly different this year, since there were only 3 schools, we did a round robin where all schools played each other. Rushcliffe played Brunts first with Mr. Sutton having to step in as a referee for the night with the organised ref unable to attend.

Brunts won the first game, with both teams looking strong, giving the AW boys time to watch and analyse both teams. The boys then got themselves ready for their first game against Rushcliffe. Some inspiring words of wisdom from captain Boyce gave the boys some motivation right before the off.

We were playing some nice rugby, really seeing the improvement all of the boys have made this season, alongside the new players who have slotted in so easily. However, it was Rushcliffe with the breakthrough in the first few minutes after the found space out wide and the winger was too fast for us to catch. Nicely converted too to make it 7-0.

Before long, David picked up the ball and drove effortlessly through the sleeping Rushcliffe defence after some nice passing play, scoring our first try of the day. Harry took a great effort with the conversion but it was narrowly wide. 7-5.

Rushcliffe replied back with a try almost immediately with a strong run again finding themselves in too much space with too much for the tracking runners to tackle the fast paced winger. No conversion 12-5.

With only seconds left on the clock, AW built up some great pressure and found themselves awarded a penalty 5 yards out. Max picked up the ball and powered his way through the defensive line to score our second try out on the left. This put the game at 12-10 with a really tricky conversion opportunity out wide on the left. Beeson took the kick but despite his best efforts, couldn't tie the game with the conversion. A great effort but we lost 12-10.

This led us to the final game against Brunts whereby if we win, everyone would tie with a win. However, we knew this would be a big ask with Brunts having already taken down Rushcliffe. We started quite strong, looking like we were wanting to pick things up from the previous game. Max was again flying into some huge tackles whilst Will was moving the ball around fantastically, being the true playmaker. Even with the best efforts from Boyce and David powering through, the Brunts defence was very strong, with all of them making big tackles on our strongest players. We continued to hold well, with the best tackle of the day coming from year 8 James who took down the biggest Brunts player amazingly, proving his deserved space in the year 9 squad.

Despite our best efforts, Brunts were too strong and we had to give in to defeat with 3 good tries from Brunts as the game finished 17-0.

Fantastic effort as always from the year 9s against teams who all play for clubs with our team of limited club experience, proving they can fight with the big boys. As explained by vice captain Will in the changing rooms at the end of the game with some heads hanging low, 'Finishing as the 3rd best team in Nottinghamshire is a superb achievement and everyone should be proud of themselves'. I couldn't have put it better myself!

Let's see what these guys can do next year!

Mr Sutton



Nottingham Casuals Rugby X tournament

On a scorching Wednesday afternoon, Alderman White travelled to Nottingham Casuals for the 4th year in a row to play in the annual Rugby X tournament. We took 12 teams of boys and girls ranging across years 7-10 to face all the local schools in a 5 a side rugby tournament.

Despite the warm weather, everyone was getting stuck in. Some teams had to play touch rugby, since the sunshine had made the pitches too hard and unplayable for contact. However, everyone was putting in just as much into the games as usual.

We had at least one team who finished top of the table after their games with every year being the first- or second-best team in the competition.

First up the Admirals (Y7 boys) had to try get past the 4 defenders. Brody took the ball, flew past the blockers with ease, and won the first duel. Next up, Leon from the Destroyers (Y8 boys) dazzled his way in and out to fly to the try line and won the second duel. Moving on, Max BW continued his fine form from the rugby finals last week to boulder his way through the defenders to win the Y9 boys duel for the Eagles. Last up, the combined years girls team were defending on this occasion and despite their best efforts in delaying the attackers and holding them back, the Bramcote and Chilwell combined girls' team, just made it over the try line to win their duel. The girls should be proud of being top of the table after all their games after an impressive win over the Chilwell Bramcote team in the final game.

Fantastic effort from all the duels with the teams winning some equipment for school as a prize!

Thanks as always to Miles, Penny, and the team at Nottingham casuals for putting on another fantastic tournament, even with the weather throwing a few curveballs!

Mr Sutton



Easter Bonnet Parade

We celebrated Easter with a whole-school parade with children showing off their Easter Bonnet's. Well done to all of children and in particular the winners:

Nursery – Isla and Ivy

Star Light – Harper

Star Dust – Blake

Neptune – Axel

Jupiter – Kennedy

Eclipse – Elijah

Shooting Stars –

Aurora – Lawson

Saturn – Niall

Mars – Hunter

Orion - Lilly-Rose

Moon – Lilly-Mae

Meteor - Leela

Nebular – Dexter

Galaxy – Xander



Eastwood and District Cross Country

As usual, Florence had a 24 strong team represented in the Year 3 & 4 and 5 & 6 races. All of our children showed grit and determination to compete in fast races in the hottest day of the year so far. A big well done to Rio from Year 3 who won the bronze medal – one of the youngest competing against year 4's. The boys team were also 5th out of 13 school's which is fantastic.



Year 5 Butterflies

Year 5 have been learning about life cycles in Science and have had caterpillars in the classroom for the last few weeks. They finally emerged from their chrysalises last week and turned into butterflies!



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com. Trigger Warning: This guide contains mention of suicide, which may be distressing for some readers.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

ONLINE GROOMING THREATS

Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police recorded nearly 34,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 9 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.

PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY

Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From abduction to coercion, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Sextortion' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.

LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS

Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 26-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 16, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 12-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.

26 FRIENDS ONLINE NOW

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning, like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with over 30 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings – both in the UK (including at Parliamentary level) and internationally.



The National College

X @wake_up_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 23.04.2025

Upcoming Dates:

Week Beginning 6th May – Y6 SATS Breakfast Club

Tuesday 6th May – Year 1 Class Assemblies – 2.15 2.45

Thursday 8th May – VE Day – Wear Red, White and Blue

Thursday 8th May – F2 Class Assemblies – 2.45pm

Week Beginning 12th May – Year 6 SATS and Mental Health Awareness Week

Tuesday 13th May – Star Dust Class Assembly – 2.45pm

Wednesday 2st May – Diversity Day

Monday 19th May – Open Morning

Monday 19th May – Year 1 Trip to Felly Prior

Thursday 22nd May – Y6 Norfolk Trip – Parents Meeting 3.45pm

Friday 23rd May – School Closes for Half Term