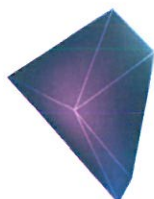




## Message from the Executive Headteacher



Nebula  
where stars are born

Volume 1, Issue 1

December 2015

### THE SCHOOLS IN OUR PARTNERSHIP

**Frettenham Primary**

**Hainford Primary**

**Horsford Primary**

**Old Catton Junior School**

**St. Faiths' Primary**

**White Woman Lane Junior**

#### The Executive:

Miss Anatola - Executive Deputy for EYFS

Mrs Pellatt - Executive Deputy for School Improvement

Mrs Porter - Executive Deputy for SEND

#### Heads of School:

Mr Paul Cross -

Hainford Primary

Mr Gyles Longhurst -

Frettenham Primary

Mrs Tanya Kirton &

Miss Tracy Anderson -

Horsford Primary

Mrs Kate Connelly -

Old Catton Junior

Miss Lesley Rix -

St. Faiths' Primary

Mr Daniel Richmond &

Mr Nick Johnson -

White Woman Lane Junior

## Explore ... Dream ... Discover ...

So – our first term as the new Nebula Partnership of schools is nearly over and Christmas is nearly here. Where has the time gone?

It has flown by as we have begun our journey of formally working together to further improve our schools to ensure collectively a good education for all our children. Something new, like our new partnership, will bring new opportunities; opportunities to take chances and not leave room for regret for things untried or missed. It will also undoubtedly bring change, for colleagues and pupils alike. We know the only constant in Education is 'change' and yet – throughout it all, our daily business of caring for our young people will continue; the challenge and responsibility but also the pleasure and privilege.

We will seek to provide the richest, broadest, most appealing curriculum we can for them; to improve their standards of performance and achievement to help shape their lives and transform their life chances. I hope to give you a flavour of some of the work already taking place in our schools and planned for next term in this newsletter, which we hope will help us to achieve this aim. We have spent the first term of the partnership getting to know each other, the schools, the staff and the children. Every school is different and the Executive Deputies and I are discovering the idiosyncrasies, the peculiarities of each, exploring and celebrating the strengths and understanding areas for development. We have identified any support, challenge or improvement required and lots of good practice which can be acknowledged and shared across the schools now and in the future ... and dreamed what is possible and can be achieved for our children by utilising the talents, skills and knowledge throughout the partnership.

In all of our work, we must remember always that there are young lives, children, at the heart of all we do. *'Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines.'*

*Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover'.* (Mark Twain)

*Sail away from the safe harbour.*

*Catch the trade winds in your sails.*

*Explore.*

*Dream.*

*Discover'.* (Mark Twain)



**Ashley Best-White**  
Executive Headteacher  
The Nebula Partnership

I have enjoyed many Christmas concerts, Carol Services, Christmas plays and Nativities during the last couple of weeks. Unfortunately, I have not been able to make every performance but I have seen at least one event in each school. Thank you to everyone involved!

*May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.*



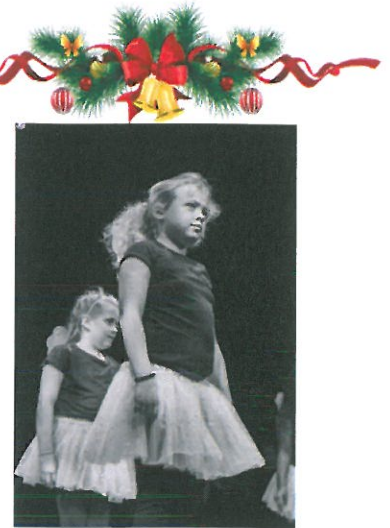
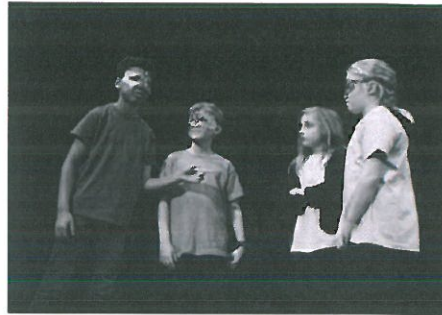


## Richest, broadest, most appealing curriculum ...

Children from the Harnser and Old Catton and White Woman Lane Federations participated in the Shakespeare in Schools Festival at the Norwich Playhouse. This is the largest youth drama festival in the UK, offering children from all backgrounds the opportunity to perform Shakespeare on their local professional stage. The children performed brilliantly, they were confident and rose to the occasion. The audience of over 400 people were suitably impressed. My thanks to all their teachers who directed the plays, sourced the costumes and rehearsed the children so they could do their very best.

I'm sure it was an experience the children (and staff) will never forget.

**Shakespeare**  
SCHOOLS FESTIVAL



## PATHS

### PATHS—Providing Alternative Thinking Strategies

The *PATHS* curriculum is a comprehensive learning programme that promotes emotional and social skills, enhancing the educational process in the classroom. This innovative curriculum is already embedded at White Woman Lane and Old Catton Junior Schools (although staff are also

refreshing their practice through additional training). Now Horsford Primary and the Harnser Federation are joining them in this exciting new way of teaching personal, social and emotional education. The schools which are new to the programme have received their initial training and have new resources in place. Parents are part of this programme and we look

forward to working together to share and celebrate our children's successes.

**".....provides a firm foundation for pupils' excellent academic progress." Ofsted in Norfolk PATHS® School**

**"PATHS® makes you feel more positive about yourself. It helps us understand each other better." Norfolk pupils**

### Early Years in the Nebula Partnership

It has been a busy term for the EYFS team. We have welcomed 88 children, to five different classes, over the four Nebula Primary Schools. All of the children have settled into the routines of school life and are enjoying all the exciting learning opportunities they have been given. It has been a great privilege meeting them and spending time in their classrooms getting to know them all. This is the first year of the newly introduced Baseline assessment, the EYFS teachers have all completed the assessments and data

has been collated. This is especially useful to us as it allows each school to pick out the strengths and areas for development for all the children and tailor their curriculum to ensure the best possible outcomes for everyone. There is a wide range of experience across the Nebula with some of our EYFS teachers being newly trained and full of fresh ideas, and some having over ten years teaching experience. We have met as a team regularly to share ideas and experiences to ensure we are

providing the best for the children. The teachers have also had the opportunity to visit other EYFS classes within the Nebula to see good practise and take back ideas to their own settings. The Nebula is hosting a yearlong professional development course for EYFS. So far the staff have had two days of professional development. Both days have been very successful and it is a pleasure to see the good practice being reflected in the classrooms.







## SkillForce

Unique to SkillForce, the Junior Prince's Award is supported by the Royal Patron HRH The Duke of Cambridge and is open to young people aged 9 to 14 years old. We offer this programme to pupils in Year 5 in all the schools in our partnership.

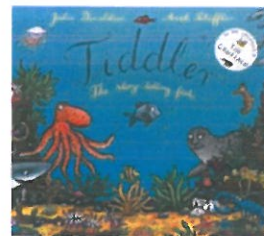
Adopting a practical, project-based approach, this programme focuses on developing character, resilience and problem-solving as well as fostering effective team-working through goal-setting, collaboration and evaluation. It is particularly suitable for supporting children in preparing for their transition to secondary school as well as building team skills and confidence.

Delivered by mentors and role-models, often ex-service personnel, the Junior Prince's Award focuses on **team-building, leadership training and public service** as well as highlighting the core values and life skills that enable young people to reach their potential whilst making a constructive contribution within their communities – **courage, dedication, dependability, discipline, loyalty, resilience, respect and selflessness.**

The Junior Prince's Award incorporates nationally recognised qualifications in **first aid, navigation and sports leadership.**

The feedback from the pupils this term has been extremely positive; they particularly enjoyed roasting

marshmallows at the overnight camp and completing their Remembrance project.



## Reading Project Autumn term - H2O

As part of our Reading Week every child in our partnership was given a copy of a book to keep to study, explore and enjoy and share with his/her family at home. We aim to inspire our children to read more, to encourage them to share their enjoyment

Because everything changes when we read.

of reading and celebrate the difference that reading makes to all our lives. Because everything changes when we read.

Our grateful thanks to all the Friends/PTAs of our schools who gave so generously to enable us to purchase the books for the children.

Parents were also invited into school to work with their child/ren as we recognise parents are their children's first teachers and children's success is hugely dependent on the support children receive from their parents in their education.



## Specialist Support for Physical Education

We have begun a collaboration with the Physical Education Department of Norwich School (Cathedral Close) in the city to provide some specialist physical education teachers to support the teaching staff in all our schools and after school clubs to provide pupils with the opportunity to

experience a range of physical activities, develop physical competence, build self-esteem and to value the benefits of a healthy and active life style through regular exercise. We believe sport provides the opportunity to experience a range of physical activities which will lead to participation in sport for life.

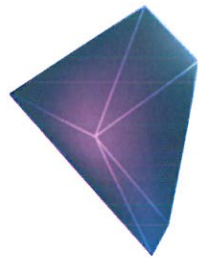


NORWICH SCHOOL





Happy Christmas



Nebula  
where stars are born

**A huge welcome to the following teaching staff who have joined us this term;**

*Frettenham Primary - Gyles Longhurst and Roxy Mason*

*Hainford Primary - Stacey Cunningham*

*Horsford Primary - Lisa Clasper, Caron Turley, Harriet Fuller, Sarah Greenwood, Natasha lee and Shayney Blyth.*

*Old Catton Junior - Andrew Eastwood*

*St. Faiths' Primary - Nikki Burley*

*White Woman Lane Junior - James Savage, Katie Richardson, Emma Peck, Anna Stackwood and Emma Jackson.*

*A warm welcome too, to all the support staff who have joined us.*

*WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS*

*Many thanks for all your help and support this term. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and children at all the schools in the partnership for all their hard work, commitment and enthusiasm.*

**In January 2016 we will welcome;**

*Hainford Primary - Angela Marshall and Abby Brigden*

**We hope you will be very happy with us!**

We say goodbye to David Board, Hainford Primary, and we wish him much happiness and success in his new post.

