

TRUST EDUCATION

THE MAGAZINE FOR BROOKE WESTON TRUST STAFF

NEW IDEAS

LAUNCH OF THE
TRUST'S NEW
CADET FORCE

COLLABORATION

OUR PRIMARY HEADS JOIN FORCES

GOOD CAUSES

THOUSANDS RAISED
BY OUR SCHOOLS
FOR CHARITY

INNOVATION

TEACHER HAS LANGUAGE
BOOKS PUBLISHED

Brooke Weston
Trust



SIR PETER SIMPSON RETIRES - READ ABOUT HIS LIFE IN EDUCATION



DR ANDREW CAMPBELL
CEO, BROOKE WESTON TRUST

A PROUD HISTORY AND A BRIGHT FUTURE

“In the last month I have been fortunate to visit and speak to staff in every school in our Trust. What has impressed me most is the enthusiasm to continue to make a difference that is shared by so many.”



Welcome to this first edition of *Trust Education*. It is my privilege to be writing this column as the newly-appointed Executive Principal and Chief Executive Officer of the Trust.

Under the leadership of Sir Peter Simpson the Trust has had a proud history of growth and has laid strong foundations for future success across its academies. During Sir Peter's tenure the Trust has remained true to its policy of embracing schools that require support or who have approached us voluntarily with something to offer to the greater good.

The future in education is, as always, uncertain and as the current plethora of changes continue to unfold before us it is more important than ever that relationships between all staff and students remain positive and warm. We are in this together. In the last month I have been fortunate to visit and speak to staff in every academy in our Trust. What has impressed me most is the enthusiasm to continue to make a

difference that is shared by so many. I feel confident that in your hands the future is bright for the Brooke Weston Trust as together we will move forward with confidence and a strong sense of mission to deliver improved life chances for young people of all ages. No job is more important to do or, indeed, to do very well.

The idea behind this new magazine is to share the knowledge, practice, personal successes and interesting news about academies, staff and governors working across our Trust.

The Trust has grown from three schools in 2011 to eight in July 2013. Even within that relatively small number we are a diverse group ranging from a small village primary school to two large urban primaries, an all-through 3-19 academy, and several large comprehensive academies each with unique features such as a large Sixth Form, an integral special school or a particularly strong multicultural mix.

I suggest this gives all of us both a great opportunity and serious challenge to maximise the impact of our collective experiences in providing education and support for all our students. Key to doing this as individuals is knowing enough about other academies to seek out colleagues facing similar challenges to you, or who have well-developed approaches to issues you may be facing for the first time.

Trust Education will be a forum where much of this work can be celebrated and acknowledged and I look forward to seeing these pages filled with content celebrating the innovation, creativity and energy of our excellent staff.



Best wishes

Andrew Campbell

WELCOME TO THE NEW BWT MAGAZINE

Welcome to the first ever edition of the Brooke Weston Trust magazine. The magazine is an initiative intended to update all members of staff on anything happening within the Trust. The magazine's purpose is not to solely focus on what the Trust schools have achieved but also to acknowledge staff accomplishments both in and outside of work.

So, if you have developed good practice within your school, raised money for charity or recently climbed a mountain, let us know because we would love for it to be shared!

This is a magazine for BWT staff, therefore we would value any feedback or suggestions you may have about future editions – please get in touch by emailing your feedback to editor Heather Lindley at HLindley@brookeweston.org



From L-R: Ann Walker (from KSA), Jane Dooley (Gretton), Jo Fallowell (KSA) and Sarah Conant (Peckover)



TRUST CENTRAL TEAM MOVES INTO NEW OFFICE

On Monday 1st July members of the Trust central team moved into new office space at Corby Enterprise Centre. The office, situated on London Road, Corby will provide a central hub for the Trust and it is hoped it will bring a more efficient way of working.

Matt Robbins, Trust IT Director said: "Having the central office with its excellent communications facilities and good road links will ease the coordination of the Trust's activities and allow for planned regular visits to its schools and Academies."

Those now based at Corby Enterprise Centre are: Matt Isherwood (Estates & Facilities Director), Matt Robbins (IT Director), James Hennessy (Deputy IT Director) and Martine Boyd (Education Welfare Officer). Debbie Tysoe, Finance Director for the Trust, will also be situated at Corby Enterprise Centre in September along with the new Trust Administration and Operations Manager. Dr Andrew Campbell will continue to be based in the CEO office at Brooke Weston Academy.

PRIMARY PRINCIPALS COLLABORATION

Since joining the Trust, the Principals of KSA Primary, Beanfield Primary, Gretton Primary and more recently Peckover Primary have formed a partnership in which they meet every Thursday to discuss current issues. Much like the secondary Principals, who meet every Friday, the Primary Principals share current practice in their schools and discuss ways to move forward. The Principals also arrange Trust wide Primary school events such as the Primary Big Book Quiz which took place on 2nd July. Jane Dooley, Principal of Gretton Primary School and Trust Director of Primary School Improvement said:

"All of the Principals are dedicated to working together to ensure that the primary children throughout the Trust get the best education available. We have built some strong working relationships since September and are currently planning lots of Trust wide primary events for the coming year including maths, technology and sports activities."

INTRODUCING THE TRUST'S ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS MANAGER

Following a highly competitive interview process which took place at the end of June, Sarah Mills has been appointed as the Trust Administration and Operations Manager. Sarah brings with her a wealth of experience having worked as Administration and Personnel Manager at Campion School and more recently as Admissions and School Place Planning Manager at Northamptonshire County Council.

Sarah said: "In my present work across the county, I have admired Brooke Weston's professional and dedicated approach to the delivery of quality education. I am delighted to have been given the opportunity of working with colleagues at the Brooke Weston Trust and being able to contribute to that."





KETTERING SCIENCE ACADEMY

www.ketteringscienceacademy.org

SECONDARY PHASE

In September the secondary phase moved into its new £26m building, which incorporates features from the Trust's other Academies – glass-fronted classrooms, smaller class sizes and a swipe card/turnstile system. Around £2m has been invested in IT infrastructure, including interactive white boards and iPads which teaching staff will use with Apple TV to present from anywhere in the room.

The building recently attracted international interest as a model of excellence, with a visit from a group of senior educationalists from Italy.

New Principal Paul Davies was appointed at Easter. In his last role as Senior Vice Principal at North Birmingham Academy, he helped to improve the school's Ofsted rating to 'Good with Outstanding Leadership'.

KSA is now in its second year of the international Comenius programme, a British Council scheme designed to develop students' awareness of European cultures and languages. It has seen KSA link up with partner schools in France and Germany, hosting students from both schools and meeting up with them again in France. Students have, in their own time, been working on projects such as the development of a website and a tourism documentary.



NEWS IN BRIEF

- In English and maths, staff ran intervention sessions for KS3 students as well as KS4. Lead teachers in maths and English have also had a positive impact.
- In October, the Academy raised more than £13,000 for Cransley Hospice when all students, including primary pupils, took part in a sponsored walk. Other major events included a Sixth Form performance showcase, an art exhibition and a talent show.



The Building

PRIMARY PHASE

The primary phase has also undergone major refurbishments including making the library the central hub of the school in order to raise the profile of reading. Staff now join pupils in the restaurant for lunch. The IT systems have been planned and built from scratch, with primary staff liaising with the IT department to ensure the technology meets the requirements of different year groups. The early years and Year 1 classrooms have been made open plan to support a more 'child initiated' approach to teaching and learning.

The primary phase has developed apps to allow staff to collate monitoring and evaluating information in one central area. The apps, which can be used on iPads during lesson observations and lesson drop-ins, can track behaviour, lesson judgements, work scrutiny and other trends. Reports can be produced for instant analysis of data, reducing paperwork and helping staff to identify success and areas for concerns. The primary phase has been working closely with the secondary phase to help roll out the system there.

Primary pupils have also enjoyed the continued support from secondary teachers who have been sharing their specialist knowledge in subjects including French, science, PE, music and design and technology.





GRETTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.grettonprimary.org.uk

GRETTON PRIMARY SCHOOL JOINED THE BROOKE WESTON TRUST THIS YEAR.

It has been a great year for Gretton as Principal Jane Dooley received a letter from the Minister of State for Schools, David Laws MP, congratulating her on the school being one of the top 100 primary schools in the country.

Mrs Dooley said: "It is something the whole village can be proud of, having such a good school at the heart of its community."

The school took part in the National Gallery's 'Take One Picture' scheme this year and work by the pupils is currently on display at the gallery.

The school received the Primary Science Quality Mark. This is an award scheme which allows primary schools to evaluate, strengthen and celebrate their science provision.

This year the primary once again entered the competitive Oundle Festival of Music and Drama, where it won one of its classes and was runner up in the other.



NEWS IN BRIEF

- The school had a number of sporting achievements to celebrate this year - the combined Year 5 and 6 cricket team got the chance to play at Edgbaston after they won the county cricket competition and also qualified for the county swimming finals.

PECKOVER PRIMARY SCHOOL BECAME A BROOKE WESTON TRUST SCHOOL IN APRIL.

A highlight of the school year was when the Year 2 Purple class won the Primary Term Times magazine's 'Design a garden competition'.

The school's Young Translators scheme continues to grow, with eight young translators in Key Stage 2, and eight more training in Key Stage 1.

The young translators wear purple sashes to show their role and help with non-

confidential translation, such as on the playground or if a student has hurt themselves.

The parent ambassadors scheme was launched with four parents helping the school to communicate and work with other parents.

The scheme has been set up to give parents who are new to the country or have limited English the option to speak to the parent ambassadors for assistance.

EAL co-ordinator Carrie Norman said: "Our four parent ambassadors speak Polish, Russian and Lithuanian. Parents can find the parent ambassadors on the playground at the beginning or end of the day."



PECKOVER PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.peckover.ik.org



NEWS IN BRIEF

- Pupils took part in mock job interviews as part of the school's third annual careers day.
- The school hosted an international singing concert following funding from the LEA's Cultural Fund. It was congratulated on its efforts by the Lithuanian Embassy.



BEANFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.beanfieldprimary.com

BEANFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL IS ALSO A NEW MEMBER OF THE BROOKE WESTON TRUST.

It has been another busy year for the Corby primary, which culminated in the honour of winning the Best Dressed Junior Float at the Corby Carnival.

Other highlights have been the Science and Engineering Week, during which students learned about sempahore, code breaking and even invented their own class computer with binary code.

The school has taken part in Project Ability Sports (for pupils in the unit provision) and the year was rounded off with a KS2 version of Pirates of the Curry Bean.



NEWS IN BRIEF

- Trips included visits to Harry Potter World and the National Space Centre in Leicester.
- The school took part in Project Ability Sports (for pupils in the unit provision).

TEACHER'S BOOKS PUBLISHED

A teacher at Peckover Primary School has created her own dual language books after being unable to find suitable books for her Lithuanian pupils.

Carrie Norman put together the eight titles with her cousin Kate Woods, a photographer and graphic designer, and sought the help of Peckover teaching assistant Asta Siskiene with the translations. Four of the books are based around basic vocabulary, such as the words for various food, colours and numbers, and feature a fictional story.

The other four are non-fiction titles which look at topics including living in the UK, families, hobbies and schools.

The books are written in Lithuanian and English and include a phonetic version of the English text.

Mrs Norman said: "We like to send dual language books home with the children so parents can be involved with their reading. I was searching for resources and found there was very little out there for languages like Lithuanian, Latvian and Russian."

The books were published in April and have already been extremely popular – copies have been bought by other schools in the Wisbech area and are being stocked in a number of libraries. They are also available to buy through Waterstones.



Carrie Norman with her published titles

RESEARCH PUBLISHED IN NATIONAL JOURNAL

Claudia Hibberd, Head of German at Brooke Weston Academy, has experimented with boosting boys' language skills by classroom interventions and the results have been published in a professional journal.

She investigated how boys' language use and grammar can be improved by adjusting where and with whom they sat in the classroom. She placed students in mixed ability and gender pairings and assessed the results after eight lessons.

Mrs Hibberd said: "I mixed the students up, seating the more able students next to the less able and mixing up the genders. The attainment of one helped the other to raise their level. It started out as a personal experiment and curiosity. One of the foci of the school is boys' underachievement. I targeted that group because it was showing a significant gender gap and I thought it could make the most difference to them. The focus is on communication and extending their language skills."

Mrs Hibberd's investigation, *Improving boys' writing skills at Key Stage 3* is the first report featured in *The Quiet Revolution: transformational languages research* by Teaching School Alliances' that was published by educational charity CfBT.



The KSA Tough Mudder Team



STAFF TAKE ON ULTIMATE OBSTACLE COURSE FOR HELP FOR HEROES

Four members of Kettering Science Academy staff ran through fire, dodged electricity cables and braved icy water at the notorious Tough Mudder challenge.

Stephen Ready, Andy Howell, Patrick Mackie and Daniel Healey took on the extreme assault course which is designed by Special Forces for the ultimate test of strength and endurance. The 12-mile run at Boughton House, which raised money for Help for Heroes, included obstacles with names like Electric Shock Therapy, Boa Constrictor, Mud Mile and Fire Walker.

While the group admitted it was the most challenging assault course they have faced, it was the camaraderie that kept them going.

Maths teacher Stephen Ready said: "It was certainly a unique experience.

We passed through ice cold water, jumped a 15-foot plank into deep water, crawled under electric wires - which was like being punched in the back - and crawled through miles of mud.

"I was broken, beat and scarred at the end. I had a huge gash on my head, my knees were chopped up and I was shivering beyond belief. It was certainly an outstanding experience which I will never forget."

Science teacher Patrick Mackie, who received an electric shock to the ear during the course, added: "It started hailing as we were about to start and we thought, 'what have we done?' But the highlight was crossing the finishing line together as a team. There was great camaraderie between all the competitors."

PSO Andy Howell described the buzz of nerves and excitement at the starting line. He said: "You really felt part of something amazing, from the starting motivational speech to conquering Everest (huge half pipe wall) at the end. It was hugely satisfying with a real sense of achievement."

RETIREMENTS

WE WANTED TO SAY GOODBYE TO THE FOLLOWING STAFF WHO ARE RETIRING.

Thomas Clarkson Academy said goodbye to three members of staff who retired at the end of the school year after clocking up 87 years of service between them.

Stuart Arnold retired after 34 years. Stuart was formerly Head of PE.





GERWYN WILLIAMS

Progress Leader for the Pankhurst Learning Community at Thomas Clarkson Academy

Describe what a typical working day is like for you.

"Hectic. No two days are the same. There are highs and lows – you sometimes have students that come to you wanting help with a problem and it's as simple as opening a locker, and other times it may be something more serious that takes a lot of investigation and rolls on throughout the day and into the evening."

What three things have you learnt from being in your current role?

"The most important thing is to listen to all sides before you make a decision. Also be calm and try to be supportive when required but show strength, determination and a bit of leadership when required."

What aspect of your job do you enjoy the most?

"What I enjoy most is taking an assembly with Pankhurst and seeing how proud the students are to be a unit within the school. When I deliver messages and they're looking back, you can see that pride in their eyes."

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

"To New Zealand, because of its tradition of playing rugby. It's such a long way I would have to stop off at Hong Kong, Singapore and Thailand too."

If you could invite four famous people to a dinner party, who would you invite and why?

"Raymond Blanc, to do the cooking, and Nelson Mandela, because I would really like to meet him and he is part of our TCA community heritage. Catherine Zeta Jones, because she is from Swansea, and President Putin."

If you won the lottery, how would you spend your winnings?

"I would pay off my mortgage and sit down with a travel agent and decide how I would see the world. I'd also make sure family and friends tasted a bit of the action."

What is your greatest accomplishment?

"Playing rugby for the Wales Schoolboys in 1979 – I can still see my Dad, he was very, very proud."

What is your secret ambition?

"To make Thomas Clarkson the most successful school in Cambridgeshire."

What word(s) describes you best?

"Calm, loyal and jovial."

Alastair Dunnet retired after 20 years. Mr Dunnet was Head of the Science department for 14 years and joined in 1993 after teaching in Singapore and Bavaria.

He said: "I think the greatest pleasure for me is having students who have gone all the way through the school and gone on to do physics and related subjects at university. We have had two students

who have studied physics at university – one is about to graduate and the other has one more year.

"I shall miss the whole school, the Sixth Form in particular.

Pam Williams, who was Head of the Madiba Learning Community this year, retired after 33 years. She taught Maths and has held various roles.



LEXI ADAMS

Librarian at Brooke Weston Academy

Describe what a typical working day is like for you.

"I arrive at 9.15 and catch up with Jamie, the assistant librarian, on any issues of the day so far. There are at least 1500 library users each day with differing needs; resources, information, inspiration, or a quiet environment for independent study. At 10.05 students come in for one of my reading groups or special interest clubs, and at 11.35 I have tutor time with a Year 7 group. Although I am based in the Library no two days are the same. I could be with an English class giving a book talk or information literacy lesson, or with students on a reading trip, or hosting an author event."

What three things have you learnt from being in your current role?

"Firstly, to be adaptable; to move smoothly from helping one overawed Year 7 student on their first day, to speaking to a theatre full of Sixth Formers for example. Secondly, I've learnt to find the very book which will inspire even the most reluctant reader. And finally, that every day is an opportunity to support the students in making the very best of themselves."

What aspect of your job do you enjoy the most?

"This is a tie between everything I do with the students in the Library clubs and everything I do with the tutor group."

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

"I would love to go to Japan as I've learnt a lot about Japanese culture with the Manga Clubs. This term we have had our own mini tea ceremonies, and so to experience life in the country first-hand would be fantastic. I would particularly like to be there in Golden Week in the cherry blossom season, as there is a real party atmosphere with people celebrating the end of winter and the beginning of spring."

If you could invite four famous people to a dinner party, who would you invite and why?

"Emmeline Pankhurst for her sheer determination in putting a wrong to right. JK Rowling so I could spend an evening as a muggle in her world. I've seen James Corden on the stage, but I would want him to be Smithy from Gavin and Stacey at my dinner party. And Roger Federer as he's the greatest tennis player ever, and being half-Swiss I'm biased."

If you won the lottery, how would you spend your winnings?

"I would buy a house by the beach in North Devon where I grew up. A small flat in London would be nice too!"

What is your greatest accomplishment?

"Bringing up my children."

What is your secret ambition?

"To travel the world in a camper van."

What word describes you best?

"Enthusiastic."





CORBY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

www.corbytechnicalschool.org

CORBY TECHNICAL SCHOOL WELCOMED ITS FIRST EVER GROUP OF STUDENTS IN 2012.

Throughout the year the students have taken part in a number of technology themed initiatives, such as the Rotary Club's Technology Tournament, the Toyota STEM challenge and the UKMT Maths challenge.

Every Wednesday all students come off timetable for a STEM afternoon, a unique feature.

During these sessions students have been focusing on a variety of practical sessions and a number of experts from technical fields have come in to talk to and teach students.

Engineers from Triumph, Olympic sport scientists, geologists and experts from the Institute of Structural Engineers have been to visit.

Students also learned more about each other during an activity packed residential to Fairthorne Manor and they were introduced to a number of new sports during National Sports Week.

The school will move into a brand new state-of-the-art building before the end of 2013.



Sir Peter Simpson with CTS Principal Angela Reynolds and students, digging the first sod on the new school site.



NEWS IN BRIEF

- The majority of students gained their CREST award.
- The first ever CTS's Got Talent was won by a student who used a Raspberry Pi to develop a monopoly game.
- The BBC visited to report on the use of iPads within lessons.



Thomas Clarkson Academy

THOMAS CLARKSON ACADEMY

www.thomasclarksonacademy.org

THIS YEAR THOMAS CLARKSON ACADEMY MOVED INTO ITS NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART BUILDING. TO CREATE THE NEW BUILDING, PART OF THE FORMER SCHOOL BUILDING WAS RETAINED AND RENOVATED TO FORM ONE OF FIVE 'FINGERS' – THE THREE LEARNING COMMUNITIES, A SPORTS AND THEATRE BLOCK AND AN ADMINISTRATION BLOCK.

Another new addition for the new year was the introduction of school uniforms. The new uniform has received a lot of positive feedback from the community, with many comments being made about how smart students look when they are on their way

to and from school.

The school recently moved to a new academy day and embarked on its new academic year on July 1st. This is to encourage greater rates of student progress and to keep up momentum into the summer months. Students leaving Key Stage 4 but joining the Sixth Form at TCA took part in a post-16 taster week at the start of July to familiarise themselves with their new courses so they could be sure that they had chosen the right ones.

Students have visited Newnham College at the University of Cambridge and the University of East Anglia. Drama and art students spent three days visiting London's West End theatres. A football trip to Lake Garda was run, students visited the Harry Potter studios and another trip was run to Stratford upon Avon.



NEWS IN BRIEF

- TCA had a float in the Wisbech Rose Fair in July which was 'highly commended'.
- Year 9 rugby captain walked out in front of 80,000 sports fans at Twickenham wearing the new TCA rugby kit that he helped design.
- The school officially opened The Act Theatre – a theatre within the school complex that will stage professional shows.



BROOKE WESTON

www.brookeweston.org

BROOKE WESTON'S YEAR BEGAN WITH EXCELLENT GCSE AND A LEVEL RESULTS THAT WERE CELEBRATED AT PRIZE-GIVING ATTENDED BY OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST AMY WILLIAMS MBE.

Year 13s trained as Reading Leaders to mentor younger students in literacy and Sixth Formers chose their Brooke Weston Diploma projects which included community work, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme or setting up their own business with Young Enterprise.

Entrepreneur Sean Spooner, from Year 12, beat off competition from 16,000 other hopefuls to appear on BBC's 'Young Apprentice.' Another television appearance followed when some of our younger students were introduced to goalball by GB Paralympian Niall Graham. They were filmed for CBBC's Newsround for a report that focused on sports in schools for those with disabilities.

Trips have included visits to the Holocaust Museum and Galleries of Justice, BTEC Sports students saw behind the scenes at Corby pool, Leicester Tigers' and Northampton Saints' grounds.

DT students visited the Nissan Technical Centre at Cranfield and the Graduate Fashion Show as well as taking part in a residential at Loughborough University with the Engineering Education Scheme.



NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Year 7s enjoyed their first residential at Fairthorne Manor while Spanish students visited Cuba for the first time in October.
- The academy welcomed Phil Harris-Bridge as its Chair of Governors.
- Two students won a place at Oxford's summer school.



CORBY BUSINESS ACADEMY

www.corbybusinessacademy.org

THIS YEAR WAS CORBY BUSINESS ACADEMY'S FIFTH YEAR AND A HUGE HIGHLIGHT WAS BEING RATED 'GOOD' BY OFSTED. THE TEAM OF INSPECTORS FOUND 84% OF LESSONS TO BE GOOD OR BETTER AND SAID IT WAS CLEAR THAT TEACHERS HAD "HIGH EXPECTATIONS" OF STUDENTS.

One of the academy's big student successes was the Sixth Form Young Enterprise company Kraftees. The company was set up in September and has gone on to be named best company in the area and runner up best company in the county. The company also reached the final six in the finals of the

national Skills Factor competition run by the Young Chamber.

Students achieved a number of sporting successes – particularly Jonathan Freeman, who was selected to play county cricket for Northamptonshire. Jack Rosborough, Andrew Langan, Jordan Spence and Andre Cousins were selected to represent the District at a County Athletics event.

The Senate ran a campaign to get a bus shelter at the stop outside of the CBA gates. It reached fruition when Northamptonshire County Council offered to match their funding efforts.

One of the most successful activities outside of the classroom was the Great CBA Bake-Off competition. It was run after school and was extremely popular with students of all ages.



NEWS IN BRIEF

- The CBA librarian Amy McKay once again joined the judging panel for the Carnegie Medal.
- A group of Gifted and Talented students were chosen to make a film for the Imperial War Museum
- The musical groups impressed in a number of competitions, including the National Festival of Music for Youth, the Oundle Festival of Music and Drama and the National Concert Band Festival.
- A team of students won the Northamptonshire Big Book Quiz – beating 14 other schools.



SIR PETER SIMPSON RETIRES

“What I’m most pleased with is, that as a Trust, we have given opportunities to students.”



Sir Peter Simpson, who has been the figurehead of the Brooke Weston Trust since its formation in 2007, is retiring after a 40-year career in education.

It started in 1971 when he took up the position of science teacher at an all boys’ school in Leytonstone. This provided a good grounding for Sir Peter, who credits the head of department for influencing him during those early days.

Sir Peter said: “Your entry into teaching was much less considered than it is now. There was no induction, no monitoring – you turned up and were given a room, a timetable and a class and you got on with it. My head of department was a very effective teacher so he was an ideal mentor.

“I was working in a comparatively difficult London school and it gave me a good starting point. Whenever I’m taking a decision now that will affect the lives of teachers, I remember my most difficult class in that first school and remind myself of how difficult it can be.

“I think the biggest change in education is the degree of care that we extend to individual students. When I started out, it was very much a question of teaching a class: now it’s a question of trying to teach an individual. Children are treated much more like people than they were 40 years ago, when we still had the cane.”

Sir Peter also taught in Bedfordshire and Wales and was a local authority inspector before he decided on a return to working in schools. He was appointed as Vice Principal

at what is now Brooke Weston Academy before taking on the role of Principal in 1999. His contribution to education was recognised with an OBE and five years later in 2011, a knighthood.

His personal highlights from the last 40 years range from the realisation in the early days that teaching was something he could do well, to the day Corby Business Academy opened its doors for the first time. Sir Peter also enjoyed his role in curriculum development in Wales, as part of the Technical and Vocational Educational Initiative.

He said: “First and foremost, what I’m most proud of is the achievement of Brooke Weston Academy. It’s an outstanding school in the town and it’s a tremendous achievement for everyone who has contributed. It got off to a very good start with the first Principal, Gareth Newman, who was quite radical.

“My proudest achievement as an individual is Corby Business Academy. It’s a good school that has replaced a difficult and troubled school.

“The opening day of CBA was a culmination of a five-year project.

“I’m also pleased that I managed to bring £66m of capital investment to this little corner of Northamptonshire and the development of any new school is something to be proud of.

“But what I’m most pleased with is, that as a Trust, we have given opportunities to students. Corby is a good example of different people and different organisations

working together to make the town a better place to live.”

Looking back on the last 40 years, Sir Peter paid tribute to the people he has worked alongside. He said: “The key factor of my life at work is that I have never not wanted to go into work. I have been extraordinarily fortunate with the people I have worked with, as a senior leader and in my junior days.

“Andrew Campbell will be a highly effective leader for the Trust and the schools within the Trust will get better and better. My last message to staff would be about expectations and aspirations. Students should have high aspirations for themselves and teachers should have high expectations and aspirations for their students. To some extent, I think you get what you expect.”



Sir Peter Simpson's contribution to education was recognised with an OBE and five years later in 2011, a knighthood.

FUNDRAISING TOTALISER FIGURE = £30,645

Since September the schools within our Trust have raised this staggering figure.

Thanks to the hard work of students and staff for organising the events and to the parents, community and friends of the schools who have supported the fundraisers.

The biggest single event was Kettering Science Academy's sponsored walk which raised an incredible £13,146 (including Gift Aid) for Kettering's Cransley Hospice.

The range of fundraising drives has been impressive and creative. Gretton Primary students raised funds for Save the Children by sporting Christmas jumpers; Corby Technical School students took part in a sponsored readathon to collect for various nominated charities; Thomas Clarkson Academy hosted an afternoon tea to raise money for Breast Cancer Care; Corby Business Academy organised a charity cake sale for the charity WellChild; Brooke Weston Academy held a mufti day for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust and Headway; some Peckover Primary staff sky-dived in memory of teacher Penny Slater and Beanfield Primary School organized a mad hair day for Comic Relief.

Charities who have benefitted from the Trust's schools efforts include:

Children in Need, Corby Food Bank, Operation Christmas Child, Cancer Research, Wessex Cardiac Centre, Help for Heroes, Save the Children, RNIB, Action Medical Research, Comic Relief, Wishes for Kidz, Breast Cancer Care, Salvation Army's Families in Need appeal.



*Thomas Clarkson Academy
Assistant Principal Jonathan Holmes
involved with the fundraising efforts*

*KSA pupils present a cheque to
Cransley Hospice.*



COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF)

This is an exciting time as we begin the establishment of a CCF (Army) unit for the Trust in partnership with Oundle School. We are extremely fortunate to have a partner such as Oundle School, who provide a well-balanced contingent with a decorated history going back over 100 years. They have responsibility for the training and development of some 400+ cadets across Army, Navy (RM) & RAF sections.

Our affiliation with Oundle School & 49 Brigade will enable us to access and provide resources, facilities and, above all, expertise to all levels of cadets, potential staff officers and adult volunteers.

Membership of the CCF both for staff and students will seek to develop qualities of teamwork, leadership, self-reliance, resourcefulness and responsibility. We will initially be taking 2013/14 to train and resource our staff officers and adult volunteers. Following this, in September 2014 we will be working with a select group of Year 10 students who will participate fully in the Oundle School CCF experience, which I am sure you will agree, is a phenomenal opportunity and a privilege for all involved. Across that inaugural

year, the cadets will look to complete basic courses to Corporal level, with additional opportunities such as entry to the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme also available.

Our CCF will parade on Wednesday afternoons with Oundle School using their purpose-built HQ. There will be 'Field Training Weekends' taking place typically once per month for staff and once per term for cadets and in the first three weeks of July cadets attend a week-long camp. Throughout the year, cadets take up places offered by the military in a wide range of activities and skills, often for the simple price of accommodation and messing.

This is an exciting venture for the Trust and we look forward to keeping you up to date as to our progress over the year.

If you have any queries about the proposed CCF unit for BWT or would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me through the Trust website.

Matt Isherwood BWT
'Officer in Charge'



COLLABORATIONS



PRIMARY BIG BOOK QUIZ

The first of our inter primary schools events took place in June, with the Big Book Quiz.

Organised and hosted by Kettering Science Academy, four students from each of our primary schools (Peckover, Beanfield, Gretton and Kettering Science Academy) battled it out in a series of book related questions.

Pupils competed over two rounds – one in the style of Mastermind and another 'on the buzzer' style general knowledge quiz.

After a closely fought contest Peckover Primary School was crowned the winner and will retain the trophy until next year.



BROOKE WESTON STUDENTS SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE

Sixth Form students from Brooke Weston Academy gave Year 7 students from Corby Technical School an insight into their future studies.

Demonstrating how the students within the Trust schools can learn from each other and work together, the Sixth Form students, who were working towards their Gold CREST award, held an assembly for the younger students who were working towards their Bronze award.

As part of Brooke Weston Academy's Engineering Education Scheme each student has to devote 100 hours to the project and the Sixth Formers showed that they have come up with some innovative ideas.

One team's project was to devise a method of data transfer using a Raspberry Pi (programming system) with a touch screen for the production process at a Corby based car manufacturer.

CTS Principal Angela Reynolds said: "Our students have just completed the CREST Bronze award so it was good to see the high levels that they can aspire to when they reach the Gold level."



CONQUERING KILIMANJARO

BROOKE WESTON ACADEMY IT TEACHER KETAN PATEL WAS PART OF A GROUP THAT RAISED MORE THAN £12,500 FOR CHARITY BY CLIMBING KILIMANJARO WITH MORE THAN £2,400 BEING EARMARKED FOR THE LOCAL AIR AMBULANCE.

Mr Patel, along with 13 of his friends and family, travelled to Tanzania to conquer the 5,895m peak, which is the highest point in Africa.

He wanted to raise money for the Northamptonshire Air Ambulance after they treated him when he was involved in a serious accident three years ago.

They took six days to complete the climb, ascending during the day and descending to camp at night to allow their bodies to safely acclimatise to the altitude. The final climb began at 11pm on the last night when they walked in temperatures of minus 20 degrees.

Mr Patel said: 'The highlight was just getting to the top. As we were going up I was literally bent backwards. All of a sudden we all got a burst of energy and all of us danced at the top! We had photos in front of the plaque to prove we had made it. The views at the top were beautiful. We said now we have conquered this we are doing Everest base-camp in two years' time and hopefully in five years' time we will do Everest itself.'

The group had undergone rigorous training on mountains in Britain to prepare for the trip.