

Valuing Achievement
Encouraging Independence



Annual Report
2022—2023

Introduction from Jenny Baker

Headteacher

Dear Carers and Parents

As another academic year draws to a close, it has been lovely to reflect on some of the key events which have taken place, examples of which are included within this report. We have all been immensely proud of all of our learners' achievements this year, their TALENTS have really shone through!

Some of my personal highlights this year have included the Christmas fayre and productions, meetings with the School Council, and the numerous events and activities which focused on our learners' Personal Development during Enrichment Week.

At the end of the Summer Term, we had our Local Authority Safeguarding review and I'm pleased to report that the team found many examples of strong practice within the school, for example;

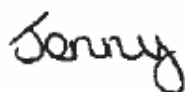
- ◆ The safeguarding team operation, their teamwork and clear individual responsibilities and caseloads
- ◆ The nurturing ethos of the school which was further supported by developments with behaviour, attendance and the introduction of PRICE
- ◆ Colleagues voiced passionately their accountability in ensuring safeguarding is effective in the school
- ◆ The approach of the safeguarding governor in gaining assurances and working closely with the DSL
- ◆ Learner Safeguarding Policy
- ◆ Mobile Phone Policy
- ◆ Use of different coloured lanyards
- ◆ Medical needs plans and head injury process
- ◆ Good colleague to learner ratios

With the consultation period complete we now embark on the next stage of our journey to join The Corvus Learning Trust. I'd like to thank all the carers and parents who took the time to come into school to share their views and opinions. I hope you feel we responded in the way you expected us to, and that you feel reassured. Our application has been submitted to the Department for Education and we are hoping that it will go to their Advisory Board at the end of September – as soon as we have any further information, we will update you.

I must also take this opportunity to thank the whole team at Kennel Lane School for their continued hard work and dedication in supporting your children and young people to achieve their best possible outcomes.

I hope you all have a happy and safe summer break. We look forward to welcoming many of you back on 5th September 2023 and to our leavers, we wish you the very best on the next stage of your journey.

Best wishes,



Letter from Bev Mitchell-Wright

Chair of Governors

After more than 2½ years of disruption due to Covid 19, I am delighted to say that as a governing body we have been able to get back to a more normal way of working this year. This has meant that we have had many more opportunities to get into school and witness first-hand the learning that is taking place. We have had members of the governing body visiting EYFS, meeting with the School Council, observing World of Work Days, attending school productions and special assemblies, being interviewed by students as part of their Preparation for Working Life studies and observing key areas of the curriculum. We have also had the opportunity to meet with key colleagues to explore in detail areas such as Safeguarding, Pupil Premium activities, Employability and SEND support.

It is part of the governor's role to ensure that the school has a clear strategic direction which means not only looking at the present situation but also looking forward to the future. As part of our aim to provide the best education for our learners, the governors have been working with the Senior Leadership Team over the last couple of years to review and consider the option of academisation of KLS. The education landscape is changing, and we wanted to ensure that we were in the best possible position to ensure the long-term success of Kennel Lane School and its learners. We spent a long time researching our options, including remaining as a Local Authority maintained school. As a result, at a meeting of the Full Governing Body, on 4th May 2023, the Governors passed a resolution to begin the process of Kennel Lane School converting from a maintained school to academy status as part of the Corvus Learning Trust. We have been actively engaging with all our key stakeholders, including colleagues and carers and parents and we have been delighted with the attendance at events held during the Summer Term for both groups so that they could ask us questions and raise any concerns. There is still a long way to go in this process and there is a lot more work to do but we will always be guided by our aim of protecting the unique and special values and ethos that we have at Kennel Lane and wanting to provide the very best learning experience for all our young people. We will continue to keep you informed and involved in the process over the coming months and we encourage you to continue to bring forward any questions you might have.

Governance is focused on 3 key areas:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and the performance management of colleagues
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

We meet monthly during term time and in addition to regular topics covered at each meeting we also have a particular focus on at least one of the 3 areas below at each of our meetings:

- **Quality of Education**
- **Site and Finance**
- **Staffing/Human Resources**

Quality of Education

Quality of Education is hugely important for the school as well as being one of the main focus areas for OFSTED. The senior leaders have worked hard to develop a detailed assessment system which reflects the specific needs of our learners and governors are regularly updated on the progress and attainment across the school. We receive detailed termly updates on the monitoring of the Quality of Education which clearly show what is going well as well as suggestions of how we can do even better.

The TALENTS curriculum forms the focus of individual learner targets which are linked to the outcomes in their EHCPs. This year we have recruited a new Associate Assistant Headteacher to lead the Nurture part of the curriculum so that we are able to give this vital area sufficient focus.



From the Academic standpoint, governors have received detailed presentations from subject leaders in Maths and Phonics so that we can understand more about how these important topics are taught across the school. We have been able to follow that up with some governors coming into school to observe some of these lessons being delivered. We have also received updates on our approach to the Employability part of the curriculum, which covers the whole school and which is a vital part of our offering to enable our learners to play an active role in society once they have left KLS.

This year, governors have further developed their understanding of the process and approach which is used to prepare our learners to make the important transition from the Primary to the Secondary department and were very impressed by the detailed planning and preparation which goes into this key transition.

Site and Finance

After the sad death of one of our long-standing governors last year, who had a wealth of school financial knowledge, we decided this year to revert to having a dedicated Finance and Site committee. This committee consists of four governors, including new governors who have been able to add a fresh perspective and expertise to the team. The Chair of the Committee reports back regularly to the wider governing body so that all governors are kept fully updated on the financial performance of the school.

Like most organisations, the school has come under increased financial pressure this year with costs increasing in many areas and this has been a significant factor in this year's budgeting and month on month focus. Costs have been kept under tight control and the Extended Leadership Team has ensured that we spend our money wisely so that we can continue to deliver a high level of support for all of our learners. We continue to support the School Development Plan, with projects aimed at improving outcomes for our learners.



Our main expenditure is on colleagues across the school - teachers and assistants, administration and site including the costs of training and recruitment. As a committee we have reviewed all expenditure to understand the immediate and longer-term benefits to the school and its learners.

Staffing/Human Resources

Recruitment continues to be a challenge across the whole education sector and the cost of living crisis has exacerbated the situation, especially when it comes to recruiting Learning Support Assistants. The school have been working hard to provide colleagues with as much support as possible during these challenging financial times whilst also continuing their efforts to recruit. We look forward to welcoming new teaching and support colleagues in September.



The continued professional development of our colleagues remains a vital focus area for the school both in terms of time and resources. Training is closely linked to the priorities identified in the School Development Plan along with more specialist training for specific colleagues and in addition, new colleagues receive a wide-ranging Induction Programme which allows them to get up to speed as quickly as possible when they join us.

And finally Have you Ever Considered Being a Carer/Parent Governor?

Being a School Governor is a voluntary position which can be both challenging and rewarding. I would like to thank my fellow governors for all their hard work and dedication this year and for giving so freely of their time to ensure that our learners get the very best education. One of our ongoing challenges is to ensure that we understand the views of our carers and parents. We have two places on the governing board for carers/parents, one of which is currently vacant. We would love to hear from you if you think that could be of interest to you and would be happy to have an informal chat to explain the role in more detail without any commitment being required at this stage. Please contact the Clerk to Governors at clerk@kennellaneschool.com to find out more.

Our TALENTS Curriculum

Total Communication

Academic

Life Skills

Employability

Nurture

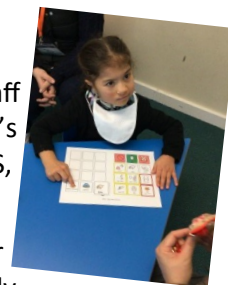
Therapies

Social

Total Communication

This year, supported by the Communication Team and CYPIT Speech and Language Therapists, staff have continued to deliver a Total Communication curriculum to develop each young person's receptive and expressive language skills using appropriate multisensory strategies including PECS, Makaton signing, communication boards, eye gaze technology and verbal speech.

We have been able to offer communication support to young people in their home setting either through home visits or meetings in school to discuss and model relevant approaches. The monthly newsletter "Buzzword" has also been created in video format which is sent out to parents and carers.



We have been very fortunate to have three learners assessed and approved for individual mid tech and high tech AAC devices. This equipment has supported each young person with their communication at the appropriate level.

We have also held termly "Let's Communicate" days when the emphasis is on highlighting and celebrating Total Communication across the school. Activities captured include a sensory story in Key Stage 2, an art session in Key Stage 3 with communication boards for the learners to request resources and a "Guess who?" quiz in Key Stage 5.

Academic

This academic year we have continued to see our curriculum grow. Learners have accessed a broad and balanced curriculum across the school through the TALENTS model (Total Communication, Academic, Life Skills, Employability, Nurture, Therapies and Social) and yet again have participated in many memorable experiences.



We have had 3 fabulous multicultural days, with learners focusing on South African and Chinese culture. During these days young people have been immersed in these cultures learning all about Art, Food, Architecture, Music, Dance, Festivals, Key people and Geography. Secondary even held their very own Chinese New Year party!



There have also been 3 STEM days this year.

Forensic day – "The case of the missing cake". Learners dressed up as crime scene officers and carried out a number of scientific investigations throughout the day to see if they had enough evidence to find out which of the teacher suspects had stolen the cake from the main hall! Video footage at the end revealed the perpetrator!



Academic cont'd...

The Ocean concentrated on all of the creatures found in the deep seas, our learners dissected fish to see what the structures looked like inside, looked at a range of other sea creatures including flat fish and squid before looking at the increasing problem of plastic in the ocean. To raise the profile of the problem of plastic pollution learners made costumes out of old plastic items and had a “trashion show” at the end of the day!



In June, learners investigated light, making mirror mazes and glow in the dark art. They made and used a hologram viewer as well as making images on sun sensitive paper—the recent sunny weather was perfect for this!



Learners have had many memorable experiences through Topic. As part of the Misty Mountain Sierra topic learners donned VR headsets for a virtual climb up Mount Everest stopping at base camp and then up to the summit! For the Princes, Peasants and Pestilence learners enjoyed a medieval day when they learnt to use medieval weapons and went on to try to defend their castles from attack! Other activities have included heart dissections and learning how to restart a heart using the resuscitation dummies for ‘Blood Heart’ and a purifying water activity for ‘Alchemy Island’.

This year we also had the opportunity for all learners to join in the Coronation celebrations. Learners made crowns, flags, bunting, produced their very own commemorative art work to mark the occasion and had some great garden parties, which were even attended by the new King himself (aka Angus!).

Sports Day was a great success this year and it was lovely to see all learners across the school participate. Learners took part in various sporting activities, we saw learners throwing bean bags, javelins, running in races and manoeuvring through obstacle courses. We even saw the competitive side of some of our colleagues in the adults race!



This academic year we have continued working with Berkshire Maestros. Learners in EYFS and KS2 have had the opportunity to access weekly music sessions, learning all about rhythm and exploring different percussion sounds.

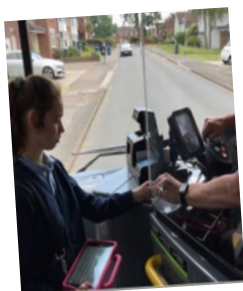
A small group of Key Stage 2/3 learners have also taken part in the Junior Music Festival led by Berkshire Maestros, this was an opportunity for learners to perform on stage at the Hexagon Theatre with other local schools. We also participated in the ‘Listen up’ week with Berkshire Maestros, Key Stage 3 welcomed a variety of musicians and singers visit to perform.

Make Sense Theatre for learners in the Woodlands Hub has continued this year and we have been lucky enough to offer some sessions to KS2 and KS3. These sessions are immersive and are linked to the topic theme.

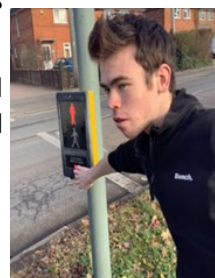
Life Skills

Community Links and Independent Travel Training

Travel Training equips learners with the necessary skills and knowledge to pre-plan journeys, navigate public transportation securely, practise purchasing tickets, getting on and off at the correct locations, problem solving and map reading as well as safely using the road.



During Community Links, learners have established connections and relationships within the local community such as shop assistants.



Life Skills cont'd...

Bracknell and Wokingham College

During the weekly college visits, our young people had the opportunity to practically explore a range of subjects. These included: Art, Computing, Cooking and Physical Education as well as the core Maths and English.



Independent Living Area

Learners develop skills for effectively managing a household, including cleaning, organising, and maintaining living spaces. They learn about laundry care, basic home repairs and maintaining a safe and healthy living environment. Additionally, learners have had the opportunity to role play contacting the Emergency Services. These skills contribute to personal growth, self-reliance and the ability to lead a fulfilling and successful life.



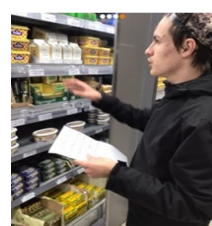
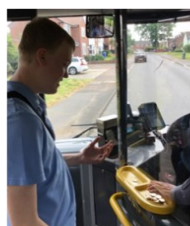
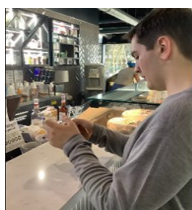
Cookery Room

During cookery lessons, learners have developed their practical skills such as basic kitchen hygiene, meal preparation and time management as well as transferrable skills such as problem-solving and collaboration. Learners have learnt how to select and handle a wide range of ingredients, use kitchen tools and equipment, follow recipes and create delicious and nutritious meals.



Money Sense/Management

Creating shopping lists, and managing a budget are essential skills. Our young people are developing an understanding of the cost of ingredients, comparing prices, and making informed purchasing decisions. Learners experienced how different shops have different prices for similar items. Learners ordered their products, paid for their items with minimal support, checked their change and asked for a receipt.



Employability

It has been a busy year for the whole school working on our employability skills, with lots of opportunities and collaborations with local businesses.

World Of Work Days



In the Autumn Term, every Key Stage worked towards making an item to sell at the Kennel Lane School Christmas Fayre. This was a great success and learners not only made items but also thought about pricing. Some were able to take part in the selling side and working out change.



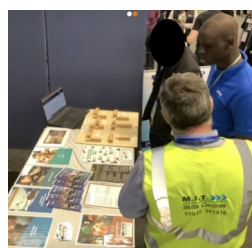
In the Spring Term the World of Work Day focus was Careers within science. All learners across the school took part in fun Science activities as well as learning about how science can support in all types of careers. KS2 were able to visit the

local Science Museum, and The Look Out Discovery Centre, whilst KS4 travelled further afield to Winchester Science Museum.



In the Summer Term we worked on our team building skills, with Years 9—14 being lucky enough to take part in a team building day run by WiseUp Team Building.

Year 9 Experiences



This year, our Year 9 group have had the opportunity to visit lots of different businesses linked to our 14-19 vocational pathways. These have included visits to Waitrose, South Hill Park and Places Leisure Centre. Not only has this meant they have been able to see different jobs they could do, but it has also supported them in making decisions about their option choices whilst at school.

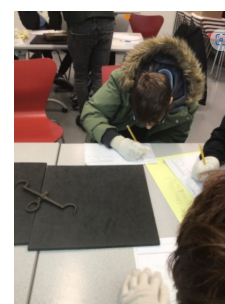
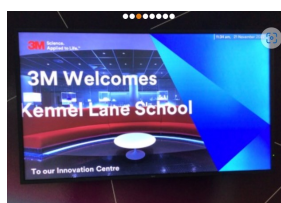
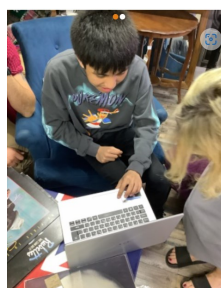
Our 14-19 BTEC Construction group had an amazing time visiting local construction employers at SATRO 'ConstructionFest'.

Work Experience

This year, groups from across the school have been able to partake in working experiences within our Role Play Room (linked with Nurture) and Year 11 and Year 13 have taken part in external working experiences. Placements and visits have taken place to 3M, Forget-Me-Knot in Wildridings, The Look Inn Café, Panasonic, Easthampstead Park Hotel, The Look Out, Camberley Theatre and the Museum of Rural Life in Reading.

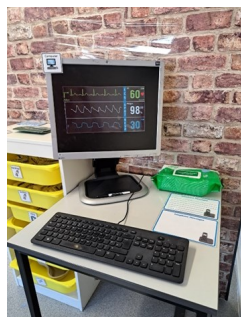


We continue to work with all young people in Secondary to produce a vocational profile with them, which will support them to identify where they would like to work, what that might look like, support they might need and skills they need to work towards.



Nurture

This year has been an exciting year for the Nurture Team with our first Primary aged Nurture Group, new colleagues and new provision!



In the Autumn Term, we worked hard to create a space where learners from across the school can access role play activities and throughout the remainder of the year young people have benefitted from play themes including; The Café, The Construction Site and Emergency Services rooms. The role play resource has given our young people a space to practice the skills needed in everyday life and we can't wait to see how it continues to grow their social skills, creativity, resilience, new vocabulary and communication skills during the next school year.



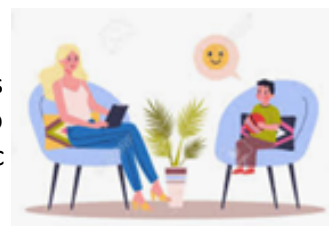
This year saw the running of our third Nurture Group at Kennel Lane, this time for the first time, with 6 young people from Primary. By using active collaborative projects including board games, creating diversity robots, games in the MUGA and use of the role play resource, we worked on developing our social communication skills and readiness for moving to Secondary. We are delighted that all 6 learners completed Nurture Group and celebrated with a trip offsite.

Throughout the year, we have expanded the Nurture Team and welcomed 2 new colleagues. Sharon is a long standing KLS colleague and joined the team in October as a Nurture Practitioner. In January, Jemma joined KLS and is our Associate Assistant Headteacher for Nurture. We have seen great benefits in meeting our young learners' emotional needs this year and are looking forward to seeing how this develops!

Therapies

ELSA (Emotional Learning Support Assistant)

The ELSA room is a dedicated space for our young people to have their sessions. It is set up with resources and comfortable seating so that our young people feel safe to talk. ELSAs continue to work with learners supporting emotional needs – specific direct work and more general ongoing support.



This year we have continued to have the support of the Mental Health in Schools Team. They have been working alongside the Support and Intervention team, delivering lessons on emotions and how to deal them. We have continued our link with Youth Line, with a play therapist providing support for a small number of learners.

Social



Many 'social' activities and experiences have taken place across this academic year, through timetabled events or our extra-curricular clubs. Extra-curricular clubs at lunchtimes have included Sports Club with coach Dan, Dance with Sarah and Science Club with Alison.

In addition, there have been lots of offsite visits which have involved learners using their social skills out in the community as part of the 'Life Skills' strand of our curriculum.

Our Secondary aged learners have benefitted from our football matches with The Rise and our chess competition with New Barn School where they have met learners from other settings. In addition, our choir have sung on a number of occasions at Clement House and taken part in the Addington Superstar Singing Concert and The Junior Music Festival at the Hexagon theatre in Reading.



Next year we will continue to broaden our learners' social experiences to support their confidence when outside of the school environment.

Woodlands Hub

The Woodlands Hub have had another busy year, with a great deal of fun and learning along the way. We are proud of our young people who continue to be engaged and communicative learners, with developing independence.

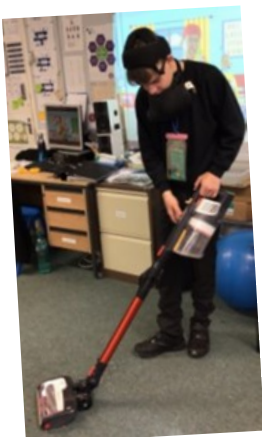
Our learners have taken part in engaging experiences and activities, both in class and during Additional Provisions sessions, through each of the six curriculum areas: My Explorations, My Interactions, My Independence, My Emotions, My Movements and My Senses. These six areas align with the wider school TALENTS curriculum.

During our Autumn Term topic, 'Journeys', each class explored a book where a character goes on a journey. Fir looked at 'The Everywhere Bear' and took the bear to different locations across the school. This gave them opportunities to explore the environment outside of the Woodlands Hub.

They also explored different forms of transport and enjoyed reading 'The Train Ride.' Pine Class based their activities around 'The Noon Balloon' and particularly enjoyed releasing balloons and seeing where they would land. Chestnut class looked at the topic through a slightly different lens and took the learners on journeys to different locations around the world: space, jungle and safari. Community Links trips took place for some classes in which they took journeys to and around Bracknell.



Our Spring Term Topic was 'In My Home' which provided learners with a brilliant opportunity to work on the 'My Independence' area of our curriculum. Learners thought about their own house and who lives in their house. Some of the classes used junk modelling materials to create houses; this was a brilliant opportunity to work on numbers, colours, shapes and positional language. Chestnut Class extended this further and thought about homes for animals too, later making them using natural materials. Pine and Chestnut Class had access to the Independent Living area and practised household chores such as vacuuming, making a bed, using the washing machine and dishwasher.



Woodlands Hub cont'd...

Our topic in the Summer Term was 'Our community.' Learners have learnt about their immediate community (family), their school and local community, and beyond. Fir Class read 'One mole digging a hole' and explored the Forest School area. Pine Class planned and enacted birthday parties. They also explored people who can help them within the school community and in the local community such as doctors, police etc. They role played interactions with these individuals. Chestnut also explored communities around the world and were immersed in this by listening to the language and music, exploring the food and drink and taking part in arts and craft.



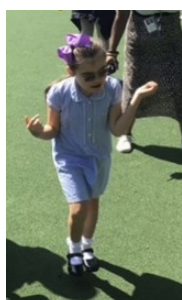
The role play room, which was set up as a 'People who can help us' theme was also used by our learners.

We are looking forward to our upcoming trip to TVAP next term where our learners will have an opportunity to be part of their local community.



There have been many exciting events throughout the course of the academic year. Some of these we have celebrated as a Woodlands Hub and others we have joined in with our respective departments (Primary or Secondary.) Some of these events are listed below:

- Community Links - Pine and Chestnut learners have headed offsite to access places of interest in the local community. Fir are working on preparation skills to access the community
- Whole school celebrations such as World Book Day, Children in Need and the Kings Coronation
- Weekly sensory theatre sessions have continued led by Make Sense Theatre
- WOW (World of Work) days
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) days
- Sports Day



Support and Intervention Team (SIT)

Family Support

Our Family Support Team have had a very busy year, already supporting 58 families from last year and a further 27 new referrals over this year.

The team have helped families with a whole range of issues, including managing behaviour at home, sleep, routines, filling in forms for DLA, communication, toilet training and many other concerns that our families face.

With the rise in cost of living, supporting families with financial challenges through food bank vouchers, signposting for benefits, grants and debt management has been key. This has been especially important this year, supporting carers and parents with their own emotional wellbeing following the impact of COVID and the cost-of-living crisis on families.



This year the Chatty Café scheme was set up in collaboration with Waitrose. This is a regular opportunity for carers and parents to meet others from Kennel Lane School.

Finally, workshops were run by the FSW team during the school holidays for targeted areas such as sleep and drop-in clinics to offer support to carers and parents.

PRICE



The Support and Intervention Team expanded in September, with Jolene joining to support with positive behaviour approaches. Following on from the PRICE tutor training last year, the majority of school staff underwent their initial PRICE 2 day training through the Autumn and Spring terms.

The tutors completed their refresher courses recently and are looking forward to the whole school refreshers in the Autumn Term. We are embedding the PRICE culture into our everyday practice. What used to be called the PSPs (Personal Strategy Plans) are now called PBSs (Positive Behaviour Strategy Plans) and include self and co-regulation strategies, as we focus more on the *function* of behaviour. The Behaviour Policy has been remodelled as the 'Regulation/Co-Regulation' policy in line with PRICE principles.

We were pleased to welcome carers and parents to a coffee morning where we introduced the PRICE Principles and talked about Functions of Behaviour.

Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Team continued to work closely with our learners, carers and parents, school teams, social care and other agencies to keep our learners safe.



The Designated Safeguarding Lead attended half termly update meetings with other DSLs from across Bracknell Forest led by the 'Safeguarding Our Schools' team. These meetings are really informative and help us keep up to date with issues affecting young people in Bracknell.

All school colleagues updated their training in areas of safeguarding throughout the year in line with 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022'.

Finally, in February, we took part in 'Safer Internet Day', with the whole school engaging in activities to support keeping safe online.

