

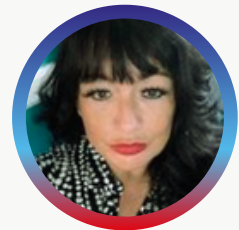


The Island Learning Trust Newsletter

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CEO MESSAGE

A message from our CEO, Debbie Wheeler



OUR TILT FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

Sports Week



PASTORAL NEWS

Latest information from our Pastoral team





MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

SUMMER 2024



I am writing to draw the end of our eighth year as a Trust to a close. Here we are with just a few days left of this 23/24 school year!

I am writing to highlight many wonderful things that our TILT family have experienced and achieved across a very busy year.

Halfway Houses Primary School received a two-day visit from Ofsted in March. This confirmed that Halfway Houses Primary School remains a good school- this is also on a harder framework than the last time they were inspected- so well done to the wonderful children, parents and staff at Halfway Houses- continuous improvement achieved!

Particular highlights from the report were:

- Pupils enjoy learning in this school. They benefit from a thoughtfully designed curriculum and achieve well.
- Pupils know the importance of the school's 'ROAR' values of resilience, optimism, ambition and responsibility. They take pride in demonstrating them and working hard.
- Pupils achieve well at this school. The way that writing is taught is a particular strength. Teachers have strong subject knowledge.
- Reading is a fundamental part of the school's provision. The library, book vending machine and reading corners are stocked with high-quality texts. Pupils love to read and do so often.
- There are high expectations for pupils' behaviour. Pupils behave well, showing courtesy to others. Around the school site, pupils are sensible and walk maturely along corridors, greeting staff and visitors politely.



More recently, just this month in fact, Sunny Bank Primary School, also received a visit from Ofsted, their first since they received an inadequate judgement in June 2019, 9 months before they joined the TILT family.

Currently, we are not able to confirm the outcome, as we have yet to receive a draft of the report but we can say the inspection team fully recognised the incredible transformation that has taken place at Sunny Bank. Watch this space for the outcome judgements and the highlights of the report- I will be able to share all in September.

Of course whilst it is always great to hear external bodies validate the work of our schools- we know we are running three great schools that each and every day strive 'to be the best we can be', it is tangible when you visit our schools that this is the case.

Another external validation is the outcomes of the National SATs tests- here again our children did us proud! All 3 schools data at the end of KS2 is above or well above national!

National combined is 61%

Sunny Bank is 80% 19% higher than national
Halfway Houses is 70% 9% higher than national
Minster Primary is 92% 31% higher than national

Team TILT Rocks and delivers phenomenal outcomes!! A proud CEO indeed!!



**The Island
Learning Trust**

**Thank you to the whole TILT team, including
our children and parents - for ensuring our
youngsters leave us with firm foundations for
secondary school!**

Lots to celebrate in terms of school improvement, the curriculum and data! In terms of our estates we are also celebrating!

We are absolutely delighted to share that Sunny Bank has been added to the School Rebuild Program – this will mean a whole new building to replace the life expired main block! What an exciting time for the whole Sunny Bank community!

In addition the Trust has been successful with all 3 Condition Improvement Funding (CIF) bids!

- Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School – Boiler and heating distribution replacement
- Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School – Roof refurbishment
- Sunny Bank Primary School – New perimeter fence

These projects will see a £2.2m investment into our estate including a significant injection from the Trust's own reserves.

This demonstrates our Trust's commitment to ensuring our children and employees are working in conditions that are "the best they can be". We are looking forward to a busy summer!

Overall a great year for The Island Learning Trust! I am immensely proud of what we continue to achieve together for our children and communities. There are however, some troubling moves on the horizon.

Kent's current Special School Review and Locality based SEN Consultations will mean significant change for young people and families seeking specialist placements in Kent. I will shortly be writing to share with parents the implications of these changes, please look out for my letter and read and respond to the consultation if you can.

I am sure you are all in need of a break and a reset. Please take care and time to enjoy the summer, hopefully some sunshine, your children, family and friends.

I hope you and your loved ones have a wonderful summer.

Debbie Wheeler

CEO

The Island Learning Trust



Our team of Trust representatives had a great time at the MAT Excellence Awards in June.

Although the Trust was not successful on the night - having been shortlisted in the 'Trust Executive Team of the Year' category - a great night was had by all in attendance.

Well done to the winners and everyone else who were shortlisted!



NEWS IN BRIEF



MINSTER HOLD 'EM BLAST

Check out Minster Primary Schools annual whole school dance to Texas Hold Em by Beyonce!

Well done to Miss Ashworth for coordinating 596 children, and countless adults with a wide range of abilities, but huge amounts of effort!!!

Well done everyone, it was a blast, yeee haaa!



Watch the video!



YEAR 6 PROMS BRING JOY AND MEMORIES ACROSS OUR SCHOOLS

Our Year 6 pupils shone bright at their annual prom! It's a bittersweet goodbye as we celebrate their fabulous journey and wish them all the best as they move on to secondary school. Here's to the amazing memories made and the exciting adventure ahead!

A large, ornate white sign on a stand, featuring a heart-shaped crest at the top and a decorative base. The sign is surrounded by a large arrangement of white, silver, and blue balloons. To the left is a large black number '4' with blue lights. In the background is a white building with a colorful fence.

Haltway Houses
CLASS
OF
2024

YOUNG ATHLETES SHINE IN HIGHLY ENERGIZED SPORTS WEEK

What a fantastic and fun week we have had with so many different activities across our schools. Daily miles, Kidz Fit, Creed Outdoor Learning, to name but a few of the energizing activities pupils took part in. And of course our annual Sports Day!

Well done to everyone who took part in Sports Week!



BRIGHTENING UP FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Sunny Bank helped raise awareness for Cystic Fibrosis by taking part in Wear Yellow Day.

PARENT WORKSHOPS

As part of our transition process this term, year leaders across Halfway Houses have held workshops to share information with parents about their child's next year group.

It was a great opportunity for us to share information about class teams, learning environments, curriculum overviews, and daily routines in school.

We also discussed how parents can best support their child through home learning and it allowed parents to have the opportunity to ask questions to the year leaders.

We would like to extend our thanks to those parents who came along to the workshops and we look forward to working with you and supporting your children next year.



INFLATABLE FUN

Thank you to all our wonderful families for coming and joining us at Minster for our Inflatables Afternoon and to our staff who stayed behind to help support. Even the sun came out too!

CELEBRATING WHO WE ARE

Pride



Meet the new FLO at Halfway

As you will already know we have an amazing team of Family Liaison Officers across the Trust, our FLO team go above and beyond to support our school communities. We are pleased to introduce Mrs Musk who is our new FLO at Halfway Houses Primary.



My name is Mrs Musk and I would like to introduce myself as the new Family Liaison Officer for Halfway Houses Primary School.

I have many years of experience in supporting families and their children along with having brought up two of my own. I have previously worked in education and the NHS. I believe in open communication and collaboration and I am eager to work together with you to support your children's growth and success.

I encourage you to reach out to me with any questions, concerns or ideas you may have. My door is always open and I am here to support you, your children and your families in any way that I can. I can normally be found outside the main entrance every morning for drop-off and also for pick-up in the afternoons.

You can contact me via phone

01795 662875

(select Family Liaison Officer option)

or email **zmusk@tiltrust.org**.

I am also available for meetings if you prefer to discuss matters in person.

Thank you for welcoming me into your school community and I really look forward to meeting and working with you all.



**The Island
Learning Trust**



There is lots of pressure to fill every day of the summer holidays with amazing trips out, however the kids usually just want to spend time with you doing the simplest of things.

The summer is a fabulous opportunity to encourage children outside and off devices, spend time going for picnics in the garden or the local park. Even if you don't have a picnic blanket, take a couple of old towels. Take the ball games from the garden with you and if there is a group of you, a good game of rounders is always fun.

Remember – you don't have to fill every minute for the children with something fun. It's okay for them to 'be bored' now and then, this is what can get their creative juices flowing and encourage development of their ability to be okay with their own company and be inventive.

Below is a page of ideas to get you started!

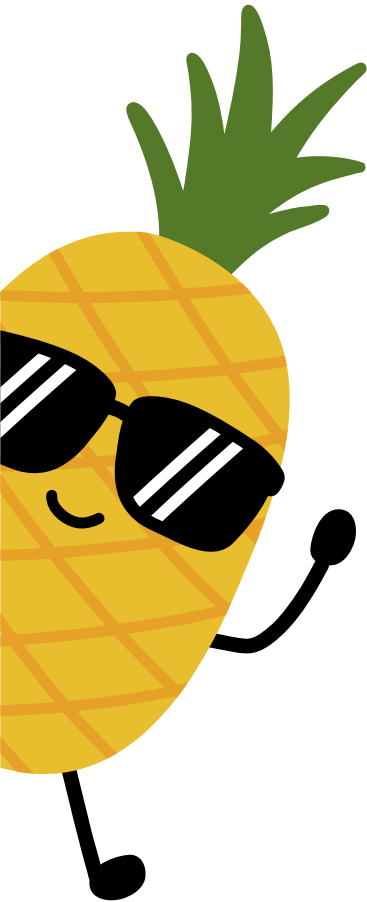


ULTIMATE

SUMMER HOLIDAY Bucket list



- 1 Go for a walk
- 2 Have a picnic
- 3 Have a water fight
- 4 Make a smoothie
- 5 Bake a cake
- 6 Build a den
- 7 Go camping
- 8 Go to the park
- 9 Visit the library
- 10 Movie night
- 11 Play board games
- 12 Have a treasure hunt
- 13 Go swimming
- 14 Read a book
- 15 Make a scrapbook
- 16 Paint your face
- 17 Make ice lollies
- 18 Go to the cinema
- 19 Go on a bug hunt
- 20 Learn to juggle
- 21 Go for bike ride
- 22 Have a playdate
- 23 Grow something
- 24 Junk box modelling
- 25 Go pond dipping
- 26 Make a bug hotel
- 27 Paint outdoors
- 28 Make a nature table
- 29 Be pirates for the day
- 30 Go to the beach
- 31 Make pizza
- 32 Play Frisbee
- 33 Visit a museum
- 34 Take a road trip
- 35 Fly a kite
- 36 Make pet rocks
- 37 Scavenger hunt walk
- 38 Go bowling
- 39 Visit the zoo
- 40 Decorate cupcakes
- 41 Play bubbles
- 42 Make a volcano
- 43 Make a video
- 44 Do rubbings
- 45 Make ice cream sundaes
- 46 Nature art
- 47 Collect sea shells
- 48 Make popcorn
- 49 Grow a cress head
- 50 Print with leaves
- 51 Make puppets
- 52 Make cutlery people
- 53 Have pancakes for breakfast
- 54 Make lemonade
- 55 Make milkshakes
- 56 Feed the ducks
- 57 Eat watermelon
- 58 Unplug for the day
- 59 Bake cookies
- 60 Go to the PYO
- 61 Build something out of lego
- 62 Build a sandcastle
- 63 Go crabbing
- 64 Visit a farm
- 65 Visit a castle
- 66 Junk modelling
- 67 Make sand art
- 68 Have races
- 69 Visit a friend or relative
- 70 Make fruit kebabs
- 71 Write postcards
- 72 Pavement chalking
- 73 Waterbomb painting
- 74 Make an ocean in a bottle
- 75 Make a monster



Over the Summer Holidays it is inevitable that children will spend more time on devices, UK Safer Internet Centre have some good advice for parents on how to talk to children about being online and staying safe.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/staying-safe-online-in-the-summer-holidays>

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

10 Top Tips for Helping Children STAY SAFE ONLINE THIS SUMMER

Over the summer our children will, of course, have significantly more spare time now they are out of school. For many youngsters, it may be that a considerable amount of this extra freedom is spent online, using social media apps, video games, streaming services and other digital tech to have fun. For that reason, it's even more important for trusted adults to focus on online safety during the summer break – ensuring that our children are not only aware of the most common threats but also know what to do if they encounter something in the digital world that upsets or disturbs them.

- 1 ENGAGE WITH THEIR ACTIVITIES**
It might not always be convenient, but try to make time to show interest in what your child's doing online. Ideally, get involved – by joining in with video gaming and discussing the apps they're using. It will make your child more likely to come to you with any future online worries or concerns.
- 2 FOSTER CRITICAL THINKING**
Teach your child to question what they see in the digital world. As fake news increasingly uses AI to create believable audio, video and images, it will become even more important in future years to question the content that we see – and to know how to confirm it as true.
- 3 BE A DIGITAL ROLE MODEL**
Take opportunities to demonstrate your empathy and understanding of others online, giving your child a positive template to follow. Watching you being a good digital citizen will help your child to learn an appropriate level of respect for the feelings, thoughts and privacy of other internet users.
- 4 EMPHASISE THE SAFE ENVIRONMENT**
Among the internet's oceans of content, of course, are things which can be upsetting and concerning for young ones. There's always a chance that your child could stumble across inappropriate material, so it's wise to discuss in advance what they should do if this happens. Underline that they can always come to you if something online has worried them.
- 5 FIND A BALANCE**
Communicating and competing online is fun, but shouldn't replace in-person socialising, exercise or being outdoors. Work with your child to find a healthy balance between their online and offline activities. Take into account what they're actually doing online: researching something or cooperating in a game, for example, is more valuable than simply browsing TikTok.
- 6 STAY AWARE**
Keep an eye on your child's online activity and regularly check in with what they're doing. If you have serious concerns, you could discreetly view their browser history. The extent of monitoring should correspond to your child's age and maturity: younger children are likely to need closer observation.
- 7 TAKE (PARENTAL) CONTROL**
It's wise to capitalise on the parental controls offered by most internet service providers and the devices and software that children use. These controls allow you to manage the kind of content your child is able to access, and they can usually be adjusted to reflect your child's specific age.
- 8 TEACH BASIC SECURITY**
It's important that children learn to keep their personal data safe, and understand how strong passwords can help with that. Explain the basics of digital security (showing them examples, if possible) and when they're a little older you could move on to more advanced methods like multi-factor authentication.
- 9 KEEP DEVICES UPDATED**
Ensuring any devices that your child uses to go online have the most up-to-date firmware and software installed is hugely beneficial. Many people put off downloading these regular updates, but very often they contain vital software patches which help to keep your devices and data secure.
- 10 REMEMBER TO HAVE FUN**
Obviously, the digital world isn't without its dangers – but, when navigated safely, it remains an exciting, engaging and educational place. Be mindful of the many risks, of course, but don't let them discourage you from supporting your child to explore and enjoy themselves in the online space.

Meet Our Expert
A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.

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