

Wellspring Newsletter

September 2020

Mark Wilson's Message

Mark Wilson, CEO



WELLSPRING
ACADEMY TRUST

We Make A Difference



Welcome to the September Newsletter.

I am sure that, like me, you are inspired by the brilliant stuff contained within these pages; brilliant learning, brilliant work, brilliant environments, brilliant energy, imagination, excitement and passion. My sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed in one way or another to the newsletter this month.

Your work is important. Your work influences lives and futures. Your work makes a crucial contribution to the present and to the future of our country and your work is more important than ever as the nation seeks to manage the challenges of COVID-19. Typically, you have managed brilliantly and are doing a magnificent job of keeping our schools open through these difficult times. I know just what that takes.

I have had the privilege of visiting quite a number of our schools already this term. COVID-19 of course limits these opportunities at this time. However, what I see everywhere are brilliant teams of people doing a phenomenal job for their young people and communities. My sincere thanks and enjoy our brilliant newsletter.

**Your work is important.
Your work influences lives and futures.**

Back to School

Our Academies have made an amazing start to the first few weeks of the new school term. We are so happy to see many happy faces, engaged in learning and excited to be back. So many positive stories.



Back to School

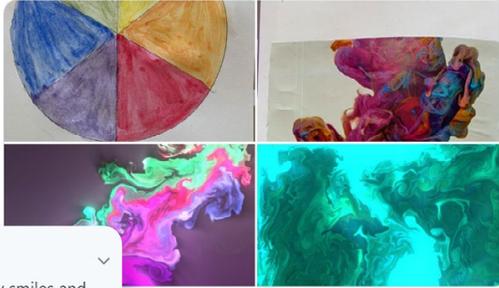
...continued



 **Springwell** @springwellLC · 20h
Hard work, cooperation, effort and loads of smiles on show at Springwell this afternoon! Just how we like it! ❤️ #ProudThursday



 Springwell Learning Community Lincolnshire Retweeted
Springwell Lincoln @SAA_Lincoln · 15 Sep
KS3 have enjoyed an art inspired afternoon looking at some of the work of Alberto Seveso. We learned about the colour wheel and then used the Fluid Simulation app to create our own art work! #WeMakeADifference #ThisisAP



 Springwell Leeds Academy Retweeted
Mary Ruggles @MrsRuggsLeeds · 10 Sep
Our hard working school dogs on a well deserved break in the office. These two have loved welcoming back all the students this week and helped make the transition back to school easier for many. @CChipolata @JosieNORTH11 @Springwell_Lds #SEMH



 Springwell Learning Community Lincolnshire Retweeted
Springwell Leeds South Green @leeds_green · 9 Sep
We are back! Amazing first day spent with the pupils! So many smiles and laughs. One highlight was our socially distanced therapy session which we all loved! #backtoschool #therapy #therapy #weloveschool #catch #teamwork

 Springwell Learning Community Lincolnshire Retweeted
Springwell Mablethorpe (S.A.A.M) @SpringwellMabl2 · 9 Sep
Primary have launched their topic Gods and Mortals. They made their own olive wreaths, completed the oracy Parthenon building challenge, made Claypole and tasted lots of Greek foods! #thisisAP #wemakeadifference



 **Springwell Leeds Academy** @Springwell_Lds · 4 Sep
70 goody bags packed and ready to welcome staff back to our North site on Monday morning!



 Springwell Learning Community Lincolnshire Retweeted
Springwell Grantham @SAA_Grantham · 4 Sep
Ready, steady and GO!!! @SAA_Grantham #excitedtobeback 🙌



 Springwell Retweeted
SpringwellBarnsleyPrimary4 @PrimaryAa · 15 Sep
When children feel confident they will take risks and feel empowered to learn collaboratively and independently. #proudtteacher #buildingresilience



 **The Forest Academy** @ForestAcademy_ · 4 Sep
This afternoon KS1 harvested their very own onions- how amazing is that?! 😊😊



'Home grown' Butterflies at the Forest School

By Jess Hall



The Forest School
Every Child, Every Chance



Since coming back to school, the children at The Forest School have been engaging in a therapeutic, nurturing curriculum, and as part of this we have been spending a lot of time outdoors, getting to know the nature that lives all around us.

We are so lucky in our school to have a 'Forest School' program on site, where our resident outdoor leader, Mrs Hall, teaches the children (and staff) all sorts of wonderful and exciting things about the world beyond our doorsteps.

This term, one class in particular have become local wildlife experts and have spent hours out on the field, surveying the minibeasts and building micro-habitats for our natural neighbours.

One morning on their bug hunt, they noticed that the nettles in our wildlife meadow were turning black, which was very strange, so we decided to investigate! On closer inspection they found that the leaves were moving and were covered in beautiful black, spiky caterpillars.

The children were absolutely fascinated to see hundreds of them living and thriving so close to our classroom, so we decided to watch them grow! We set up a butterfly habitat in our classroom and very carefully (so as not to get stung) collected some nettles and their caterpillar inhabitants to keep and grow in our classroom! We very quickly discovered that our timing could not have been better, as within two short days, the prickly black caterpillars began to transform! By the end of the weekend, we had twenty shiny green chrysalises and all that was left to do was wait.

Twelve days passed and the excitement was just too much! Eventually we began to see splits in the chrysalises and beautiful butterflies emerged! In just two weeks, our tiny caterpillars had amazingly metamorphosed into stunning Peacock butterflies! As budding naturalists, the children knew that we had



to release them back into their natural habitats – our school field – and that is exactly what we did.

Our great British butterfly release was such a special occasion that we invited our Head Teacher, Miss Farr to join us! Each of us chose our very own butterfly and we held them in the open air until the wind caught their wings and they flew free! The children gained so much from this experience and some have already asked if we can do the same again next year, so we are keeping our fingers (and toes) crossed and are hoping our butterflies like our school field enough to stay and lay their own eggs next year! We cannot wait.

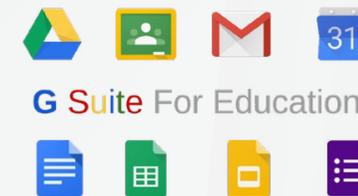
Being in the outdoors has been an invaluable healing experience for our children at The Forest School.

They have been able to forget their worries from the past few challenging months and develop a renewed sense of trust in the great outdoors. It has been lovely to see them relaxed and engaged, immersing themselves into the nature that surrounds us. We are all so excited to learn more about the natural world and we can't wait to for all of the adventures that our 'Forest School' program will take us on next year.



Utilising Google Tools to Enhance Digital Inclusion

By Jonny Wathen & Lauren Powell (an article from Inside Government)



Lauren Powell of Inside Government (IG) recently spoke to Jonny Wathen, CIO of the Wellspring Academy Trust about effectively engaging with pupils online, and successfully utilising technology to deliver an inclusive education experience, in the classroom and beyond.

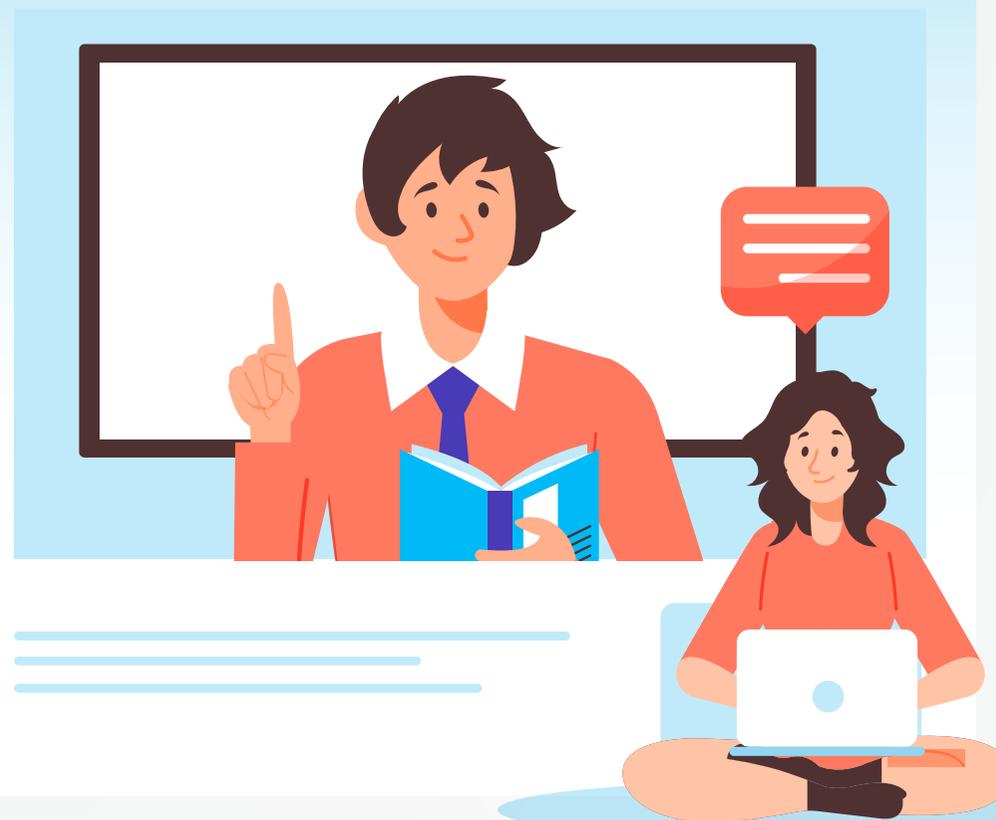
You can watch or listen to the full session on-demand by

[clicking here.](#)



Jonny discussed some of the key challenges the Trust has faced due to COVID-19, and how these have been overcome by using a range of Google tools.

In this workshop style session, Jonny outlines how your school can use a vast array of these tools to help staff deliver a better remote teaching and learning offer and engage more effectively with pupils.



Jonny has also written an accompanying blog which you can find by clicking <https://blog.insidegovernment.co.uk/schools/google-tools-digital-inclusion-takeaways>

Academy Transformations

As the school doors close for the summer, our wonderful Estates Teams across the Trust start the summer works to make our school environments even more amazing.

So much hard work and planning goes on through the year so they are ready to start the transformations. A sincere thank you to everyone involved!!

Take a peek inside our Academies ...



Academy Transformations

...continued



Wellspring_Eastlincs_Estates @WellspringEast1 · 24 Jul
Some great painting working going on @LPAcademy16 by the estates team getting the rooms ready for September

Oakhill Primary Academy Retweeted
Sam Bailey @thesambailey · 2 Sep
Oakhill transformed. Loving your work, team Oakhill!



Wellspring_Eastlincs_Estates @WellspringEast1 · 1 Sep
The Muga @Sevenhills_ refurbishment project now all completed and looking amazing in the sun ready for the students.



Oakhill Primary Academy Retweeted
Sam Bailey @thesambailey · 2 Sep
Beautiful, bright, clean and intricate learning spaces - ready for our little Oakhill people to explore!

Wellspring_Eastlincs_Estates @WellspringEast1 · 2 Sep
Now breathe what a summer with just hours to go we finally completed our last and largest summer project the @Sevenhills_ refurbishment it's been a massive turn around and the school looks amazing ready for the students.

Wellspring Leeds Estates Team @estates_leeds · 20 Aug
Great teamwork at Victoria. Our summer2020 full school refurbishment programme is looking fabulous. New office space, new windows, fully refurbished classrooms, new toilets and lots more#summerwork2020 #greatteamwork #onewellspring



Wellspring_Eastlincs_Estates @WellspringEast1 · 29 Aug
Can't wait for the students @PhoenixHousePRU to see the new climbing frame. Another project completed by my amazing team it's been a busy summer but it will be well worth the effort when the student and staff see all the hard work. #amazingteam

Wellspring Leeds Estates Team @estates_leeds · 15 Aug
Summer work progressing well @springwell_Lds north site. Great work Leeds estates team #summerwork2020 #wemakeadifference



Wellspring Leeds Estates Team @estates_leeds
Newly painted sports hall & wall arts looks fabulous at Springwell Leeds Academy.



Wellspring Leeds Estates Team Retweeted
Carol Wathen @WathenCarol · 21 Aug
Another fantastic transformation by our Estates Team. Thank you for all your hard work the school looks amazing. @VPALeeds @estates_leeds #wemakeadifference #multiskilledteam

Wellspring_Eastlincs_Estates @WellspringEast1 · 4 Sep
Well we survived summer projects 2020 and what a summer it's been nice to see the team relax for a few hours before we get back to the day to day estates life. Super proud Manger of an amazing team bring the next challenge #initttogether.

Julian's Great North Solo Run

By Julian Kennett, Co Vice-Chair



In lieu of the Great North Run half-marathon which was cancelled due to COVID-19, Julian Kennett who is a Governor at Joseph Norton Academy, has been taking part in the Great North Run Solo to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the event.

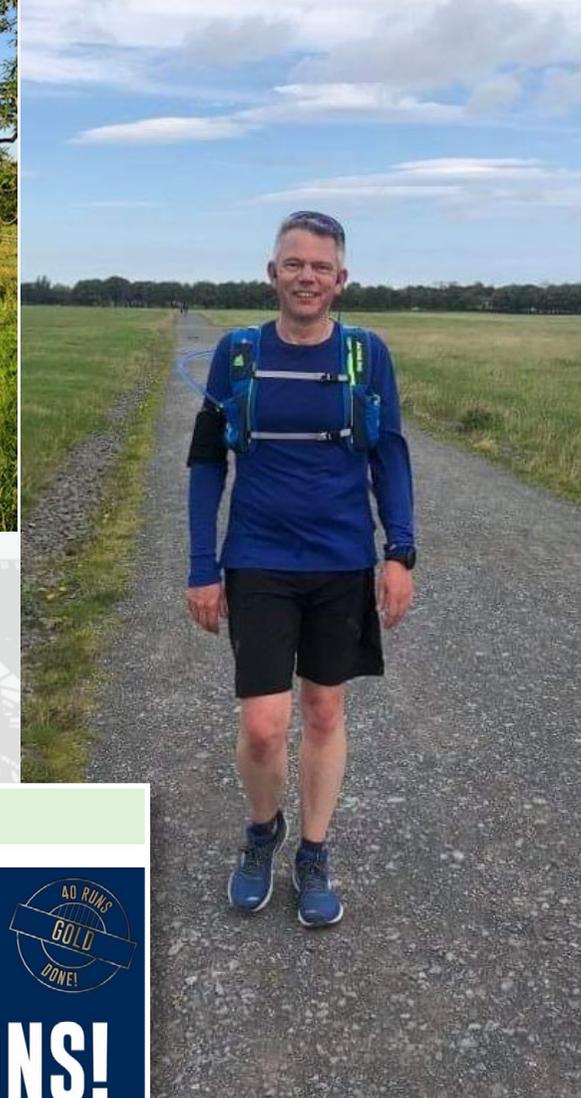
The challenge was to complete 40 runs and a total of 250 miles between Sunday 28 June (the date of the first Great North Run) and Sunday 13 September (the date this year's event was scheduled to take place). Julian hit the 250 mile target with 33 out of 40 runs completed and finished the event by competing in the virtual Great North Run on 13 September.

He finished 5324th out of 16000. There were runners from 57 countries and every UK postcode taking part.

Julian's final total was **305 miles, earning him a gold medal.**

Julian has been running to raise money for Get Kids Going, a charity who provide access to sport for disabled children and young people through the provision of specialist wheelchairs and equipment. The charity also provides funding support for UK Paralympians and sponsors the England Wheelchair Rugby Team.

Many thanks to everyone who has already donated and if you would like to contribute the link to Julian's Just Giving page can be found here.



Well done on completing your #GreatNorthRunSolo challenge.

CONGRATULATIONS!

JULIAN KENNETT 305.3 MILES

OVER £250,000 RAISED FOR THE NHS
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT #GNRREIMAGINED



The challenge was to complete 40 runs and a total of 250 miles.

Phoenix Park and Sevenhills Academies reveal their new mobile classroom!

By Phil Burns



Making a Difference

Phoenix Park Academy



The Home Office-backed scheme, sponsored by energy giant Phillips 66, was officially launched at Phoenix Park Academy in March.

Assistant Principal Phil Burns says it is adopting a new approach for a group of vulnerable students. "The priority for these students is to improve attendance, engagement and to ensure they are visible and safe. This new approach involves us taking school to our students and educating them offsite through a range of activities including fishing, orienteering and Forest Schools with a view to weave English and Maths into the offer."

"Attendance for this group, with complex needs and historical patterns of engrained non-attendance in the academic year 18/19 was 23%, (as of March 2020 they were at 71%) with one student going from 0.8% to 83%. Our new offer is allowing education to be accessible for these learners and we are seeing high levels of engagement.

"The mobile classroom has been converted from a mini-bus to include screens, tables and chairs where teachers can deliver an education package to these

learners that is suitable to their needs."

Executive Principal Phil Hutchinson said Phoenix Park Academy was delighted to work in partnership with the Home Office and Phillips 66 to improve life chances for its most vulnerable students.

"This resource enables us to deliver high quality interventions and education in the community to those students who find it challenging to attend school. It further confirms Wellspring Academy Trust's commitment to reach out to those young people and families who need our support."

The project has attracted £15,000 Home Office funding. Inspector Steve Peck, Serious and Organised Crime Community Coordinator, a role sponsored by the Home Office, said: "I am very pleased to be able to support this outreach project. Children schooled within Pupil Referral Units often have complex needs and can be particularly vulnerable to exploitation from organised crime groups.

"This proactive project seeks to actively engage with pupils to boost their attendance and engagement. The mobile classroom coupled with the motivated staff delivering the sessions will hopefully raise aspirations and prevent the children being exposed to exploitation if they would normally be on the streets during school hours."

Phillips 66, which runs the Humber Refinery at South Killingholme, has contributed £10,000 to the project. Its UK director Darren Cunningham, given a tour of the Academy as well as helping launch the vehicle, said: "Phillips 66 is proud to support this amazing initiative with Phoenix Park Academy. It is education that gives us all the tools that help form the foundations of our future life decisions. **Education isn't black and white, and this innovative approach is helping to ensure everyone has the chance of an education, no matter what other difficulties they may be dealing with.**"



"To work with a school whose fundamental values and Mission are so aligned with ours is an honour. They truly are making a difference to these students' lives."

New Year at Springwell Lincoln

By Cara Ambler



We have had an exciting start in our Primary classes and the children have appeared to settle in extremely well after such a long time away.

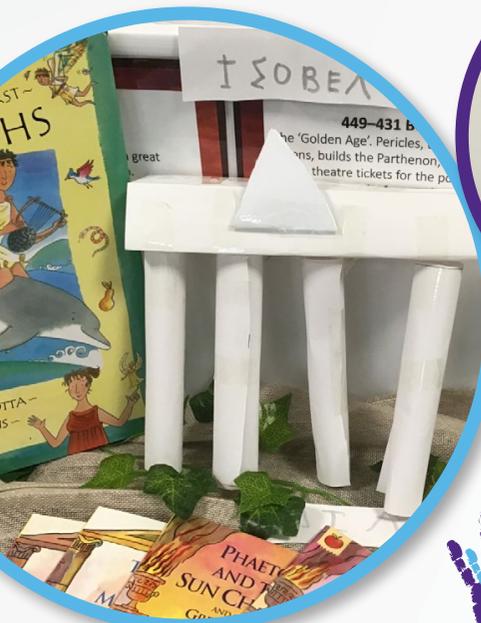


Our younger children have begun their topic of 'Superheroes' and have enjoyed doing many of their activities dressed in masks and capes. We have taken the learning outside as much as we can and the children particularly enjoyed their maths treasure hunt, where they had to find a selection of objects outside to count, including creepy crawlies! Making an 'Incredible Punch' out of green fruit and vegetables was also a favourite, alongside the Spider-Man and Batman hand print paintings!

We had a go at making models of the Parthenon using cylinders for the columns and added our names using the Greek alphabet. Our Spartan warrior helmets will make a lovely cover for our Personal Development books.

The children also enjoyed their enrichment time where they could have a bit of a pamper with their feet in bubbles and their own personal head massagers to enjoy a bit of a 'chill out' after such a busy week.

In P2 and P3 we launched our new topic 'Gods and Mortals'. We enjoyed tasting a range of Greek food and all agreed that the anchovies tasted nicer than they looked and the pomegranate was delicious!



A Brand New School for South Leeds

Featured in Yorkshire Evening Post 08/09/20



Elements Primary School
Creative · Unique · Innovative



After almost four years in development, Elements Primary School in Middleton opens its doors to pupils in its brand-new building next week. Built by the Department for Education with its partner the Wellspring Academy Trust, Elements occupies a 3.7 acre site and cost in the region of £6million to build.

Of the new school, Founding Principal Sarah Horsbrough said:

“Being given the opportunity to create a school from scratch in this community has been such a privilege and I am immensely proud of the whole Trust and school team.

“We wanted our children to be able to learn in a vibrant, engaging and beautiful space and now they can. They deserve nothing less.”

Elements is the fourth new school in Leeds that Wellspring has partnered in. The other three are the iconic Springwell Special Schools in the North, South and East of the city. Wellspring has built a further four new schools around the country and has another three in the pipeline with the Department for Education.

Mark Wilson, Trust Chief Executive, said: “Elements is a wonderful environment for the community, for its children, parents and staff. It is one that we have had to fight incredibly hard for, and testament must be paid to Head teacher Sarah Horsbrough for her dogged determination, vision and sheer willpower. As a local lass, Sarah has created a very special legacy for her community.”

Elements will welcome Reception and Years One and Two through its doors next week after two full school years operating out of portacabins on the same site. The school will also host Wellspring’s Teaching and Learning Innovation Hub which trains new entrants into the teaching profession.



“As a local lass, Sarah has created a very special legacy for her community.”

It Takes a Village...

By Sarah Horsbrough



Elements Primary School
Creative · Unique · Innovative



After 4 years of planning and development, 2 years of existing in portacabins and months of a pandemic we made it! Finally here at Elements we made it into our new building.

After a herculean effort by a dedicated team of people we not only moved in but we unpacked, set up and opened our doors on 7 September to welcome our children to their new home.

We are a small team at Elements and we could not have achieved all we needed to do without the amazing support of other willing teams of people who have joined us on our journey along the way.

The Leeds estates team have been an amazing support not only on moving day but every day since. With their help we moved our school in a day - everything transported and delivered to rooms by 3pm! Amazing!

Our cleaning and kitchen teams then stepped in to get our school prepared for our children returning. Giving us the certainty that when our doors opened it would be to a clean and safe school.

Behind the scenes of course there is always the need for support from the wider community and we have had it in spades.

Our central teams have been instrumental in the development, growth and establishment of Elements and we could not have got where we are without them.

Our Admin team, and in particular Natalie, have been on this journey the longest and got Elements off to the best start possible.

Our constant need for recruitment and procurement as we built our school community has meant the work of the Finance and HR teams has been integral to our success. Small budgets and small teams bring big challenges and we have been lucky to have been supported through them all.

Throughout this 'building a new school' process we have needed the expertise and skill set of our Capital Team. It has not been a smooth process by any means and we must recognise the fantastic support given to us by Josh, Shaun, Steve and Amie who, at times, battled alongside us, but much more often on our behalf, to ensure our children got the building and the environment they deserved.

Our 'Google' journey was initially a venture into the unknown and so to have the guidance and support of Jonny and Primary ICT Support has been crucial.

Who knew this one decision would not only shape our practice but prepare us to continue our children's teaching and learning during lock down with the smoothest of transitions.

To have been given the opportunity by Mark to be creative, innovative and unique has been such a privilege and we strive to deliver this every day for our children and community who deserve nothing less.

Of course our staff team are amazing and the resilience they have shown through many failed handovers and the need to pack and unpack time and again has been nothing short of inspiring. They held on and we got there in the end.

To all our colleagues, central team, school leaders, staff teams, governors and friends, thank you.

We are so lucky to have such a fantastic environment in which our children can grow and develop. We didn't create this on our own. The fingerprints of all those mentioned and many more can be found in every aspect of our school.

When it is safe and you are comfortable please come and see us. You are always welcome. You're part of our village.



Our central teams have been instrumental in the development, growth and establishment of Elements and we could not have got where we are without them.

School springs back with new name and new look

Featured in the Harrogate Informer – 15/09/20



Pupils returning to school in Harrogate this month have been welcomed by a new look school with a brand new name. Springwell Harrogate on Grove Road, previously The Grove Academy, caters for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs.

It joined the Wellspring Academy Trust family in April after being previously operated by Delta Academies Trust.

Despite the many challenges of the lockdown period, Wellspring has substantially upgraded the school's facilities, including renovating the entire ground floor to create four spacious classrooms and a new food technology area. Wellspring is a large multi-academy trust currently comprising 25 primary, secondary, special and alternative academies across Yorkshire and Greater Lincolnshire.

The Trust has built eight new schools around the region and operates a number of non-profit and charitable enterprises all aimed at improving lives and the life chances of young people.



Pictured: John Warren, Principal at Springwell Harrogate, Mark Wilson, Chief Executive at Wellspring Academy Trust and Scott Jacques, Executive Principal at Springwell Harrogate and Springwell Leeds.

Mark Wilson, CEO at Wellspring, said:

We are thrilled to be able to welcome Springwell Harrogate to our trust. It plays an essential role in supporting young people and their families in the Harrogate area and we are proud to have been chosen to ensure that support continues and develops.

The investment we have made in the school will improve the day to day experience for the pupils and demonstrates our commitment to the Harrogate community. The Springwell Harrogate and wider Wellspring team has enjoyed welcoming pupils back after the extended break and getting them settled into their new look school.

Support Centre News

Over the summer we have had some new colleagues join our central team and we are so excited to see our Central Team grow!



Project Manager



Tom Sanders

I am delighted to join the Wellspring team at such an exciting time and to be part of its future growth and development. My professional background is in architectural design and project management. Having studied architecture in Sheffield and subsequently worked in practice, I have designed and managed projects for clients in the commercial, domestic and leisure sectors. My role here at Wellspring Academy Trust is to work with the Estates and wider Wellspring community to ensure that all of our young people, staff and communities benefit from safe, suitable and inspiring buildings that allow them to achieve their aspirations. I look forward to getting to know you all and working alongside you.



PR & Communications Manager



Elizabeth Hudson

After supporting Wellspring on a freelance basis for a while now, I'm thrilled to be able to join the team permanently in the newly created role of PR and Communications Manager as part of the Central Administration Team. It feels like a really exciting time to be joining the Trust.

I've been working in public relations and wider communications for 14 years, and I ran my own PR agency for almost eight years. A trained broadcast journalist, I've also worked in London and regional PR agencies and worked in house for a large national charity. My new role will involve working closely with Natalie Hardman and the executive team to manage Wellspring's reputation and increase awareness of the Trust. If you need any support in dealing with the media, local politicians or sharing your news, I'm your first point of contact.



Teacher Training & Development Lead



Katie Hartshorne

I am thrilled and excited to have joined the Positive Regard team. For the last two years, I worked as an Executive Assistant Principal across two mainstream schools in Leeds. My main focus and passion are developing and supporting early career teachers. Nurturing new teachers and trainees is key to the succession planning and development of any school. They are the role models for our children and I pride myself on the positive role model I have been for many new teachers over the years.

I have over 20 years classroom experience and spent 5 years at Leeds Trinity University as a lecturer on the Primary Education undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. A key part of that role was the development and co-ordination of new school direct partnerships, as well as achieving a Master's in Education. It was a busy 5 years! This is the dream job for me as it brings together my school-based experience as a classroom practitioner together with my training and mentoring skills.



Welcome to Wellspring

Sevenhills Academy 'unrecognisable' after £500,000 refurbishment

Featured in the Grimsby Telegraph – 07/09/20



The school has been transformed since it closed nine months ago. Sevenhills Academy is “unrecognisable” as it reopens after its £500,000 refurbishment.

The Grimsby alternative provision school has undergone a nine-month programme since a major water leak last year, which has delighted staff and students.

The improvements include well equipped, bright classrooms, kitchens, a library, common rooms, a gym and a large, outdoor space.

The academy on Second Avenue will provide an “inspirational environment” for the 60 young people who attend, according to Executive Principal Phil Hutchinson. “The significant investment demonstrates Wellspring’s commitment to these young people, this community and working in North East Lincolnshire.

“They deserve the best: the best opportunities, the best staff and the best facilities. All will help build their self-esteem and confidence and improve their life chances. We are proud to give young people a second chance here.

“It is a special place with an inspirational environment. It means an awful lot to the families who benefit from it and the support from our exceptionally talented staff team.”

When the water leak occurred last November, the decision was made to transfer students to Phoenix Park Academy and resolve all of the building’s issues.

The transformation was sponsored by Wellspring Academy Trust. Chief Executive Officer Mark Wilson, who was impressed by his tour of the academy, said: “It is incredibly powerful to see the outputs when it all comes together.”

“I have been so eager to see what has been achieved here and I’m inspired by those who have worked so hard to make it possible. Every fine detail matters: the paint, the design, the curriculum, the resources.

“When you have a group of people who take that as a principle, something really powerful emerges from it. These young people deserve the absolute best of us. Their challenges are more profound than many. A measure of society is how it provides support for them and gives them a platform. We work collaboratively with others and as a team, inspiring families through our values.”

One of the first to see her new-look school was 15-year-old Abygale, who said it looked “really good”.

Chair of governors John Cottingham, who cut the ribbon to re-open the academy, also said he was very impressed. “I am proud of the way it has all come together,” he said.



Head of centre Jenny Smith with student Abygale in the new, fully resourced library.



Members of staff in the new science laboratory



Head of centre Jenny Smith (centre) shows the transformed outside space to Governance Manager Sam Corbett (left) and Senior Governance Officer Kate Storr.



Chair of Governors John Cottingham (second left) at the new-look Sevenhills Academy with (L – R): Dave Whitaker, Director of Learning (Alternative Provision), Phil Hutchinson, Executive Principal Sevenhills Academy and Mark Wilson, Chief Executive Officer, Wellspring Academy Trust.

Primary Update – Springwell Spalding

By Jayne Sausby-Gallimore

Since we have been back at school, the youngest children have enjoyed exploring the different resources they have in the Daisy room. Children have been sorting, building, doing phonics jobs and enjoying role play. Mrs Bostock and Miss Welbourn have really enjoyed all the food children have cooked and all the cups of tea and coffee!

The other younger children in Primary have been thinking about the emotions involved with returning to school after all this time. They have studied “The Colour Monster,” and made clay pots for him to keep his feelings in, as well as colourful finger puppets so that they can tell the story for themselves. They have also been enjoying our outdoor area!

The older children in Primary have been investigating thousands, hundreds, tens and units in maths. They also found out about Hades and they used clay to make their own version. The children have also cooked Greek meatballs and created Top Trump cards based on Greek Gods and Goddesses as part of their Gods and Mortals topic.

The Primary Team has also begun the process of building our Springwell-being garden, which will be an area for children and staff to enjoy some calm time among sensory plants and to try out their gardening skills by growing our own vegetables.

They have already gained their Level 1 award from the RHS Campaign for School Gardening for their efforts. We look forward to having the area ready for use in the Spring of 2021.



Secondary Update – Springwell Spalding

By Jayne Sausby-Gallimore

KS3 have started their food technology lessons within the theme ‘Tomorrow’s World’.

They discussed how many people are choosing to be vegan as they believe this is beneficial for our planet and environment.

Because of this, all of the recipes used this term are vegan and we started off by making vegan pancakes.

Secondary 3 have started an Art & Design project to create an art gallery within the KS4 hub. The class spent time researching different types of art which they could take inspiration from, before having a go themselves on drafts before starting on large canvases. KS4 students are hoping to unveil the new KS4 art gallery in the next couple of weeks.



Springwell
Lincolnshire

Introducing Natalie Myers and The Difference Leaders Programme

By Natalie Myers

Springwell Lincoln welcomed a new Assistant Principal, Natalie Myers to the team this September.



I joined Springwell after a 13 year career in Mainstream education. In that time I was a Head of Department, Lead Teacher and then had leadership responsibilities for Teaching & Learning and later Curriculum and Outcomes.

I always shied away from an inclusion role as I felt it wasn't my area of strength but circumstances meant that I had to lead on that area. My first challenge was to visit our students who were accessing Alternative Provision. I was shocked at the varying quality out there and met an inspirational leader at Doncaster Council who was raising standards of AP. With her help we successfully placed a vulnerable student who had been persistently absent and had complex needs. My interest in high quality AP and how they re-engaged the most hard to reach students had been piqued.

That same year I was involved in the Permanent Exclusion of a pupil. This process affected me deeply and I began to question whether the mainstream education system I was part of was meeting the needs of its most vulnerable students. I felt I was letting them down because of my

lack of expertise in leading inclusion. It was then that I came across the Difference Leaders Programme.

After two weeks of intensive Summer Training with the Difference, I arrived at Springwell Lincoln with a mix of excitement and trepidation. My fellow Difference Leaders had gone some way to assuaging any fears. Wellspring Trust is held in high regard, many had accessed training, had read blogs and articles and asked if they could visit! My new Leadership Team had also been fantastic in preparing me for the first day, even down to my questions about what to wear and whether I should bring food. My first days were spent in Team Teach Training. The key message of 95% of the work we do being de-escalation made some of my niggling fears disappear.

Having this training delivered by the Care Team who work within the centres made me realise just how high the level of expertise in dealing with challenging behaviour was. By the end of the first week I was astounded at the amount of useful information shared and how quickly I was made to feel part of the team.

The first few weeks have flown by and some key differences have stood out for me. Firstly, the whole school is one team. There is no division of labour like mainstream, no 'that's his job', everyone works together in the best interests of the students. Secondly the culture of unconditional positive regard permeates all interactions, not just with students but with families, staff and other professionals. It is easy to see why some of the most hard to reach young people flourish here. Thirdly, the relentless focus on the importance of learning. In mainstream, if a student is removed from class you can expect them to be elsewhere for a prolonged period. Here, the focus is on getting that individual back into the learning environment as quickly as possible because, at the heart of it, that's what we are here for. That has made me question the attitudes I held in my previous role, punishing students by removing them from learning now seems counter intuitive.

I am incredibly excited to be part of Springwell Lincoln and look forward to learning from my colleagues, whilst also bringing my own expertise to contribute to their journey to becoming an outstanding provider.



Beacon GCSE results

By Jason Thurley



Happy students and teachers celebrated “best ever” GCSE results at Beacon Academy in Cleethorpes.

Head teacher Jason Thurley was “delighted” after a turbulent week led to students awarded their qualifications based on centre-assessed grades with Beacon students not disadvantaged by the algorithm.

“We have our best ever set of results that reflect the hard work put in by students and staff,” Mr Thurley said.

Subject leaders carefully moderated with their teachers to ensure students can be confident the grades they received are fair and honest.

We have teachers who are AQA examiners and we were able to utilise this expertise in our assessments and ensure against grade inflation.”

Ruby achieved the top 9-7 grades in eight subjects including grade 9s in English Language, English Literature, Art, Photography and a grade 8 in History.

She said: “I feel overwhelmed. I was worried about how the grading would go but I’m so pleased with my results.

It’s been a really good journey at this school. The sudden end was sad.”

Ruby is going to study double Health and Social Care and Fine Art at Franklin Sixth Form College.

Jessica was awarded 9-7 grades in English Language, English Literature, Geography, Sports Science and Performing Arts.

“I feel relieved,” she said. I was just doubting the results with everything that has been going on.

I’ve got what I wanted and am going to study English Language, English Literature and a level 3 BTEC in Sport at Franklin.

It’s a bitter-sweet moment as I’ve had such a good time at this school. I appreciate everything it has done for me. I don’t want to leave, as it has shaped me into who I am today.”

Nicholas was rewarded with 9-7 grades in 10 subjects including grade 9s in Maths, Further Maths, Science and Business Studies. He was “pleased”.

“I’ve enjoyed my time at Beacon and am going on to study Maths, Further Maths and Politics and Government at Franklin,” he said.

Formal vocational results will be released next Tuesday, the Department for Education has announced.

Mr Thurley said: “For those in option subjects who have studied for Cambridge Nationals, we are letting them know their teacher-assessed grades until they are

formally released, we consistently achieve outstanding results in our option subjects.

We are told some may see their grades increase next week when they will be calculated by the Department for Education’s algorithm. Students can be confident their grades will either stay the same or will go up.”

The improved year-on-year performance reflected the school’s overall performance since joining Wellspring Academy Trust and becoming Beacon Academy in September, 2017. It was graded ‘good’ by Ofsted in the rigorous new framework as recently as March 2020.

“Staff and students, supported by parents, have worked incredibly hard and I want to thank them all for their efforts,” said Mr Thurley.

The improvements to teaching and learning at Beacon have been recognised in the community, we are over-subscribed for September’s Year 7 intake and we are full in Years 8 and 9 too.

We are looking forward to welcoming back all students next month with an expanded curriculum and additional teachers.

We are also pleased that a planned open evening and morning for those transferring to secondary education in 2021 will take place on Wednesday, 9th and Saturday, 19th September respectively, more information will be posted on the academy website.”



Mr Thurley with (left to right) Ruby, Jessica and Nicholas.

“Subject leaders carefully moderated with their teachers to ensure students can be confident the grades they received are fair and honest.”

Every little helps

By Nigel Lowther (on behalf of Littlecoates, Nigel Lowther Associates)



Low-cost food is available to residents on Grimsby's West Marsh after a link up between Littlecoates Primary Academy and a major charity.

Littlecoates Larder takes place every Friday during term time from 2.30pm until 3.30pm.

Principal Neville Wilkinson said the venture was in conjunction with FareShare, the UK's longest running food redistribution charity.

"Typically, it will stock dry goods at lower prices than you pay at the supermarket," he said. "We are planning to expand the range of foods on offer in the future, including fresh, chilled and frozen items. **It is not-for-profit so that we pass all the savings on to residents.**



Deputy Day Care Manager Claire Smith, responsible for the low-cost food project, with Principal Neville Wilkinson (right) and his deputy Phil Lenthall-Green.

"The Larder can be used by anyone in the Littlecoates community, including those who do not have children at the school. We have given away free breakfast items for some time now to families in our school community. This link up with FareShare builds on that. We believe the venture is needed and will prove popular."

FareShare was born 25 years ago out of the belief no good food should go to waste, especially when people are going hungry. More details from www.fareshare.org.uk

Littlecoates Primary Academy has been awarded Music Mark status from the UK Association of Music Education.

Littlecoates Primary Academy has been awarded Music Mark status from the UK Association of Music Education.

The school's been given a certificate and can use the Music Mark logo on letters and publicity.

Principal Neville Wilkinson said: "We are really proud of this achievement.

"Our partnership with the North East Lincolnshire Music and Performing Arts Service enables so many of our pupils to learn instruments, who would not have been able to do so otherwise."



The power of networks - why a team beats heroic individuals.

By Chris Jessup

As a headteacher, I once conducted an experiment. How many decisions was I asked to make in a single day? These included formal requests via forms, meetings and emails along with informal conversations across the site. I counted a total of 45.

The overwhelming majority of them were quick, short, obvious (to me) and dealt with there and then. But it was the ones that I made, often in haste and without either checking or consulting, that would keep me awake at night - and come back to haunt me at a later stage. I realised very quickly that to be an effective decision maker, I needed to find another way.



There is a myth of the 'heroic leader'. That the person in charge knows the most. That s/he has the answers to everything. What I have learned is that people who make the best decisions most consistently have a team they can draw upon for advice and guidance. My SLT was great for this. I also had other colleagues who I went to who I knew would give me their opinions - whether I liked them or not.

It happens in the classroom too. The very best planning sessions are the collaborative ones. Where ideas spark and fizzle. Where energy and creativity fill the air.

The 'heroic teacher' who plans, teaches, marks and assesses in isolation is surely at a disadvantage (and more tired) than one who has access to networks of colleagues - providing solutions, thinking, different approaches and support.

That is why a team beats heroic individuals. At Wellspring we have a team of networks to give support and inspiration to colleagues. A crucial example is that of our Expert Practitioners - colleagues who have been identified as exceptional teachers and leaders and who create magic everyday in their classrooms.

We now have a team of forty Expert Practitioners across the Trust, in all phases and sectors. They tweet out on [@Wellspring Expe1](#) with thoughts and ideas around classroom practice.

If you are unsure who they are in your setting, would like to network or simply ask for some guidance - contact me c.jessup@wellspringacademies.org.uk for more details. Perhaps you are one in waiting yourself? Great. Let's have a conversation.

And let's stay connected as a team.

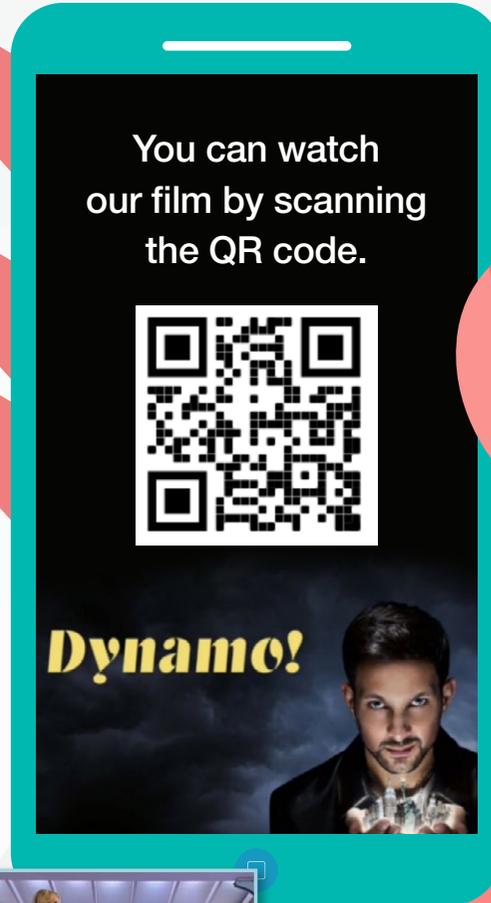
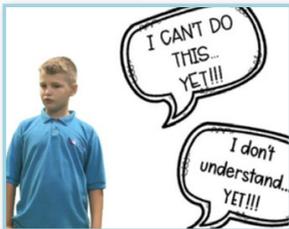
Can we learn to have a mindset of a champion?

By Danny Ross

At Springwell Barnsley the pupils have been taking inspiration from Steven Frayne, more commonly known as Dynamo, who overcame a challenging upbringing to achieve his dreams of being a magician.

Our pupils have been using Dynamo's story to help develop a more positive attitude towards their learning. We want all of our pupils to not be fazed by challenges, to embrace their mistakes as part of the learning process, value the importance of effort, respond carefully to feedback and take inspiration from others.

Our pupils were delighted that Dynamo watched their 'Growth Mindset' film, praising their efforts and reminding them all to 'Work hard and dream big!'



Summer School at Springwell

By Danny Ross

In spite of all the recent challenges, staff at Springwell Barnsley were determined to continue to provide support for their families and young people by running the summer school as normal.

Funding was secured to provide family interventions, a range of exciting activities and additional care in the form of food packages and supermarket vouchers. Activities included arts and crafts, cooking and fun team building games.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our staff to go 'the extra mile' in and out of school and the support of the partnerships we have forged with Anna Freud and The Family School (London) and South Yorkshire Police Violence Reduction Unit.



Back 2 School

By John Noden



When I see 'Back 2 school', I normally think of uniform, pencil cases, totally unnecessary but super cool stationery, and notepads – all of the notepads! This year however was a little bit different. Not Notepads; a new approach.

At LaceyField, our dream is to enable staff, families and children to be the best version of themselves, and we know that in order to do this, we must first be regulated. With support from Positive Regard, our staff were welcomed back this year with training to enhance understanding and resources which enable our children to be regulated and ready for learning so that they can achieve this dream. A huge part of this involves our nurture breakfast. Much more than a chat and a bagel, this invaluable time allows us to ensure the children's basic needs are met, that relationships are built and that children feel a genuine sense of care and belonging so that they are in an optimal state of readiness for learning.

Not rulers; regulated learners

The result of this has been incredible. It has been a genuine pleasure to walk around the academy and see the hunger for learning in every classroom, and the results of this too. Despite the understandable media concern with regards to how well pupils would cope after such an extended period of time away from school, we could not be happier with how they have settled back into our routines, rituals and the rules of our slightly adapted environment.

Not pencil cases; pedagogy

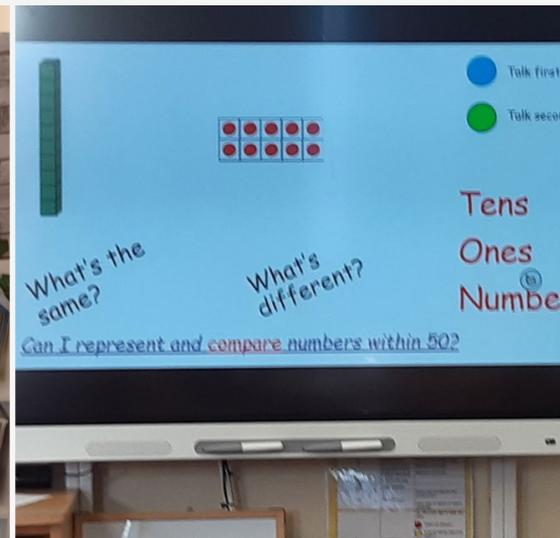
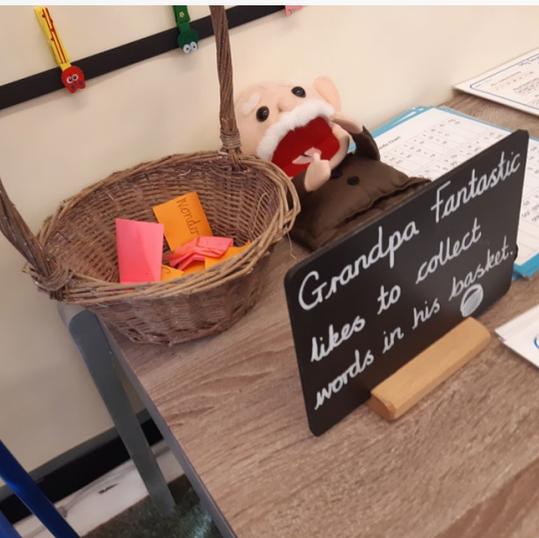
During the Lockdown period, our amazing staff didn't slow down – there was a library of Alexandria style list of online CPD which they chose to work through ready for the time that we would return and could try out some of the amazing things they have been learning. It is wonderful to see these new and revised pedagogies in practise, and to see staff empowered to try out new things when it would be so easy to stick to life as we know it in uncertain times.

Not uniforms; unity

One of the great strengths of Wellspring as a community is our sense of unity and collaboration. Throughout the whole period from March to September, there were colleagues at all levels collaborating, challenging, sharing and supporting as we all strived to ensure the best provision for each of our individual and unique communities.

This sense of collaboration has continued into the new term with staff from key year groups teaming up with colleagues at Bramley Park to look at how best to support some of our younger learners who were out of school during a crucial time in their development, and how our provision can support this development now.

As we approach the end of our first month back, I am proud of how all of our pupils and staff have embraced the current situation, and the excellent foundation we have established. Everyone truly is busy being brilliant.



One of the great strengths of Wellspring as a community is our sense of unity and collaboration.



MindSpace

Our Services

How we can help?

- ❑ **Whole School Review**
 - ❑ **1 day review & report**

- ❑ **Wellbeing Practitioner Services**
 - ❑ **1-2-1 or Group sessions**

- ❑ **Training & Development**
 - ❑ **Online Webinars**
 - ❑ **Mental Health First Aid**
 - ❑ **Adult**
 - ❑ **Young People (8-18)**

- ❑ **MindSpace Helpline Service**
 - ❑ **Counselling Service**
 - ❑ **Wellbeing Helpline**
 - ❑ **Professional Services**

If you have any questions contact Michelle Sault:
01226 444642 or 01226 720757 or email
michelle.s@wearemindspace.com

Training & CPD – Mental Health First Aid Course

The 2 day virtual Adult Mental Health First Aid Course is back, over four afternoons 13:00 until 16:00.

Dates 2nd, 4th, 9th & 11th November.

Cost £250 per person.

If you would like a place ring

01226 720757 or email

michelle.s@wearemindspace.com

before Friday 2nd October.



MindSpace

How will attending an MHFA England course help?

Research and evaluation shows that taking part in an MHFA England course:

- Raises awareness and mental health literacy
- Reduces stigma around mental ill health
- Boosts knowledge and confidence in dealing with mental health issues
- Promotes early intervention which enables recovery

What is Mental Health First Aid?

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is an internationally recognised training course which teaches people how to spot the signs and symptoms of mental ill health and provide help on a first aid basis.

MHFA England training won't teach you to be a therapist, but just like physical first aid, it will teach you to listen, reassure and respond, even in a crisis.

Adult MHFA England courses are for everyone aged 16 upwards. Every MHFA England course is delivered by a quality assured Instructor Member who has attended our Instructor Training programme accredited by the Royal Society for Public Health, and is trained to keep people safe and supported while they learn.

What will I learn?

Learning takes place through a mix of group activities, presentations and discussions. What you learn will depend on the length of course you attend:

Two Day - Mental Health First Aiders

A practical skills and awareness course designed to give you:

- A deeper understanding of mental health and the factors that can affect people's wellbeing, including your own
- Practical skills to spot the triggers and signs of mental health issues
- Confidence to step in, reassure and support a person in distress
- Enhanced interpersonal skills such as non-judgemental listening
- Knowledge to help someone recover their health by guiding them to appropriate support