

EDUKOS TIMES

Termly newsletter of Edukos Trust

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Welcome!!

I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to the new school year, everyone.

We had high hopes of the new year being a fresh start and one with little or no interruption to children's learning. Unfortunately, this hasn't been the case as we have seen a significant number of children and staff testing positive for COVID-19 in our schools. This has provided significant challenges for the leaders in our schools, which in turn has had an impact upon our children. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to give a heartfelt thank you to all staff in the schools for their tireless support and dedication in ensuring that our children still receive the best education. Once again, I especially thank the Head Teachers in our schools, they are consistently going above and beyond in their work – I feel incredibly proud to call you a part of the team.

Chris Huscroft
CEO

PEN PORTRAIT – Linda Taylor, Trust Clerk and PA to the CEO.

Educated at Kelvin Senior High; I left school at the age of 16 in 1981 to study a full time Diploma in Business Studies at Hull College of Further Education. After leaving college in 1982, I secured employment after just my second interview at Humberside College (now Hull University) as Secretary to the Catering Manager and Estate Manager. After 5 years, I moved on to Hull City Council as Word Processing Supervisor within the Regeneration and Development Dept, then as PA to the I.T. Manager and Senior Leadership Team within the Local Authority. After having my two children in 2004 and 2006, I began working within the LA School Governors' Team as a Governor Support Officer. I have over 15 years' experience in Governance and it was within this role that I began supporting Swanland Education Trust. In June 2020, the role of Trust Clerk/PA to the CEO became available for SET and I had no hesitation in applying. I have been in post for a year now working within the Central Team, along with the CEO, CFO and SENDCo. I have had the pleasure of working with so many professional people throughout the Trust; I provide Governance support to the Trust Heads, Governors, Trustees and Members. I particularly enjoyed supporting Chris and the Trustees throughout the process of rebranding from SET to Edukos Trust. I am very proud to be part of the Central Team and feel excited to see the trust grow in the future.

A little background about myself; I studied Ballet and Modern Jazz from the age of 8–18 years at the Skelton Hooper School of Dance and Theatre, a feeder school for The Royal Ballet. I achieved certificates in International Dance Teachers' Association and Royal Academy of Dance from Primary Grade to Elementary level. At the age of 15 I auditioned for a Ballet Scholarship in York. I had the privilege of dancing on pointe at the Hull New Theatre and performed in a charity show at the Hull City Hall. At the age of 18–21 I attended the Brooklyn School of Dance and continued my love of dance later in life. I can honestly say there is no feeling like waiting in the wings to go on stage, this taught me to face my fears and grow in confidence.



“I am very proud to be part of the Central Team and feel excited to see the trust grow in the future.”

At the age of 36 I had the opportunity to take on the role of Events Organiser for a Charity Show at the Hull City Hall, which raised over £8,200 for Breast Cancer. Ironically, 3 years ago I had my own battle with breast cancer and thankfully, after early diagnosis and an operation I received the “all clear”. This horrendous ordeal really put life into perspective for me, in a positive way.

I am most happy watching live ballet performances and musicals and feel very excited to have tickets to see Chicago and the Rocky Horror Show at the Hull New Theatre in November. I enjoy watching live bands, dining out, long country walks and spending time with friends and family; especially my daughter Lucy (17) and my son Ryan (15). Being Mum to Lucy and Ryan and guiding them through life is the most important and rewarding feeling for me.

Linda Taylor | Trust Clerk & PA to the CEO

PEN PORTRAIT – Lizzy Evans, Trust SENDCo

I have been working within the trust since 2009. Over the years that I have worked in the trust I have been inspired and encouraged to develop professionally and have been able to set new goals for myself. I started working at Swanland Primary School in 2009 as a teaching assistant for SEND pupils. I carried out my teacher training with the school a year later and successfully earned a full time teaching position at Swanland in 2011. In 2013, when we converted to an academy, I became the Deputy SENDCo at Swanland Primary School and was encouraged and supported by the SENDCo at the time to complete my PGCert in SEND coordination.

During my time studying I started to get experience of working with the SENDCo at Dunswell Academy. In 2015 I was given the opportunity to widen my professional development and teach Year 3/4 at Dunswell whilst taking on the role of the Trust SENDCo. This allowed me to continue working within a trust that I love working for whilst allowing me to further develop my teaching skills and area of expertise in SEND. Since 2015 I have remained as the Trust SENDCo and have seen the trust grow bigger and stronger. I have loved working with the SENDCos and headteachers at the schools in our trust to support with elements of their school development plans. I now teach Year 2 at Swanland Primary school 3 days a week, I am the SENDCo for Dunswell Academy and the Trust SENDCo for Edukos. The varied experiences that I am gaining across the different settings continues to provide me with opportunities to continually build on my knowledge and skill set. I have seen the great benefits of working with other schools. Being part of the trust means that I have been able to work with colleagues to build an inclusion team that works collaboratively to provide the best support that we can for our children with SEND. Working with such proactive SENDCos in the trust is a great experience to be part of.



“Being part of the trust means that I have been able to work with colleagues to build an inclusion team that works collaboratively to provide the best support that we can for our children with SEND.”

Out of school I love to spend time with my friends and family. I really enjoy going out for meals in the local area and going for walks, particularly in the Yorkshire Dales. I grew up near Middlesbrough and went to University in Lancashire, so I am lucky that I have friends in different parts of the country to go and visit. I am a supporter of Hull City and love to go to matches with my family ... win or lose, I'm a supporter for life! I love to dance and when I have time, I like to try out different dance classes. My favourite type of dance is tap dancing and I have lots of fun going to an adult tap dancing class every week on a Wednesday.

Lizzy Evans | Trust SENDCo



PEN PORTRAIT

Sarah Crawford, Chief Finance Officer

I began my career in Accountancy in 1997 by working in practice at a local accountancy firm. I qualified in practice (FCCA) before moving into Industry in 2003.

I have over 24 years of experience working in Finance within Practice, Industry and more recently Education at Edukos Trust since early 1998.

In my role at the Trust as Chief Finance Officer (CFO), I head up the Finance and Business side centrally by providing leadership, direction and management of the Finance and accounting functions, helping to both support and develop these functions at School level.

In my free time (what's that?!) I enjoy family life with my two young boys and like to travel where possible, Covid permitting! We like to do lots on a weekend and in the holidays, making the most of our free time together.

I am also a School Governor at my son's primary school so that gives me an insight of school life on the 'other side of the fence' and I also help out with the School's Friends Committee as Treasurer, helping to raise money for vital school purchases.

“I have over 24 years of experience working in Finance within Practice, Industry and more recently Education at Edukos Trust since early 1998.”

SARAH CRAWFORD | CFO

PEN PORTRAIT: Chris Huscroft | Chief Executive Officer.

Growing up and being educated in Goole, I was surrounded by educationalists from a very young age. My mum was a teacher and for the last 26 years of her career was also a head teacher. It was for this reason that education has always been an important part of my life. I attended Hook CE Primary School as a child, moving on to Vermuyden School for my secondary education. My experiences of both schools were very different; however, the constant for me, was the teachers; in both schools they gave me belief in myself and encouraged me to be the person I wanted to be and not to 'worry' about what everyone else was doing. This is something I now hold in very high regard in my own professional life. This 'belief' began when I went to train to be a teacher at St Martin's College, Lancaster, the 2nd largest provider for teacher training at the time.

I now have a strong background in education, having begun my teaching career in September 2003 at Westfield Primary School, Cottingham. After six successful years at the school, I joined Swanland Primary School as Deputy Head Teacher, later becoming Head of School in September 2013. Within a matter of months in post, I began my new role as Chief Executive Officer of Swanland Education Trust.

Since becoming CEO, I have overseen the expansion of the trust to the family of four schools that comprise the MAT, as well as leading the increase in standards across Edukos. The central team and I recently saw the trust rebrand itself to Edukos Trust.

Having taught in East Riding of Yorkshire for nearly two decades, I am highly knowledgeable of the area and am passionate about improving the quality of education across the region and beyond. As CEO I am driven and have ambitious plans for the trust's future and its school improvement offer.



On a personal level, I love spending time outside of work with my partner and our gorgeous dog Luella. I really value the time outside of work to recharge and re-energise.

This is done mainly through spending our time with friends and family. I enjoy cooking and trying out new recipes which I can then try out on said friends and family!

We recently bought a touring caravan and are now enjoying being able to spend time in our own country visiting places that we haven't seen before. However, when restrictions are lifted, we like nothing better than spending time in Marbella at our family holiday home.

“As CEO I am driven and have ambitious plans for the trust’s future and its school improvement offer.”

Chris Huscroft | CEO

Trust-wide Training event:

We are excited to welcome you all to **Swanland Primary School** on **Monday 15th November** (6pm to 7:30pm).

The focus of this training will be on supporting governors to understand their role within the context of an Ofsted Inspection.

We will share with you questions that were asked at our most recent inspection and provide you with the types of answers that you would be expected to give.

We will also help you to know how to find out the information that you will need to be able to answer the questions posed to you, and enable you to understand how you can support and challenge the leaders in your school.

Ofsted: Inspections in the New Academic Year:

As the 2021–2022 academic year begins, Ofsted have resumed their inspections of early years providers, schools, further education and skills providers and non-association independent schools.

Ofsted plan to undertake section 5 and section 8 inspections under the Education Inspection Framework with adaptations to ensure that inspections fairly judge schools and take account of the impact schools may have faced throughout the duration of COVID-19.

Updated handbooks are now available on the [GOV.uk website](https://www.gov.uk)

(You may need to press Ctrl and left click your mouse to access the above link).

Important Dates:

Dunswell LGB: 21 October 2021 at 5.30pm.

Schools Close for half term on 22 October 2021 and re-open on 1 November 2021.

Hook LGB: 2 November 2021 at 6.30pm.

Swanland LGB: 8 November 2021 at 6.00pm.

Airmyn LGB: 11 November 2021 at 5.00pm.

Trust-wide Training: an Ofsted focus 15 November 2021 at 6.00pm–7.30pm.

School Improvement Committee: 17 November 2021 at 9.30am.

Business and Audit Committee: 19 November 2021 at 9.30am.

Finance Committee: 6 December 2021 at 9.30am.

Board of Trustees: 9 December 2021 at 9.30am.

Schools Close: 21 December 2021 and re-open in the spring term on 6 January 2022.

Welcome to New Governors:

We are pleased to welcome Parent Governor, Debbie Kay, elected to Hook LGB for a term of office of 4 years (23.07.21–22.07.25)