

# TRUST

## SPRING TERM 2021

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**Welcome to your spring term 2021 edition of Trust newsletter.**

The 3rd national lockdown has meant that school and learning for staff and students this term has been different but we've continued to see some great stories coming out of our schools. We've got a few good news stories to share with you this term and we'd like to thank schools for sharing them with us.

This term we're also featuring information on opportunities for staff, including our new and exclusive webinar series, and we launch the NTLT Virtual Star Awards 2021!



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# Trust News

## Star Awards are back... and this year they're virtual!



After what has been a challenging year for many of us, we're very excited to launch the NTLT Virtual Star Awards 2021! This year's Star Awards will still have all of the glitz and sparkle of previous award ceremonies but this year we'll be coming direct to your home via the magic of Zoom.

The NTLT Star Awards recognise and celebrate the exceptional achievements of children and young people from Trust Partner Schools. This year we have 10 award categories:

- Achievement Award - recognising personal achievement
- Breakthrough Award - recognising hard work and significant improvement in attitude, behaviour or commitment to studies
- Can Do Award - recognising those who demonstrate a positive attitude in everything they do
- Fundraising Award - recognising fundraising achievements, big or small
- Inclusion Award - recognising understanding and acceptance of others
- Inspiration Award - recognising those who inspire and enhance the lives of others
- Leadership Award - recognising leadership qualities
- Local Lockdown Hero Award - recognising those who have improved the lives of others in their community during lockdown
- Resilience Award - recognising courage and determination to overcome adversity
- Useful and Kind Award - recognising those who strive to be useful and kind everyday

The awards are once again being sponsored and we would like to thank everybody for their continued support.

### Main Sponsor



### Award sponsors



Turn to the next page to find out how to nominate somebody for an award...



# Trust News



Anybody can nominate a child or young person for a Star Award, that includes:

- teachers and school staff
- parents
- members of the local community
- children and young people

Please head to our website and complete a nomination form. The closing date for nominations is 30th April 2021

[www.ntlearningtrust.org.uk/opportunities/ntlt-star-awards/](http://www.ntlearningtrust.org.uk/opportunities/ntlt-star-awards/)

## Prizes

Every child and young person nominated will receive a certificate recognising their outstanding achievement.

The finalists and their families will be invited to attend an exclusive online award ceremony on Thursday 1st July where the winners will be announced. Finalists will also receive a goodie bag to help celebrate the evening which will include:

- decorations
- sweets
- prizes





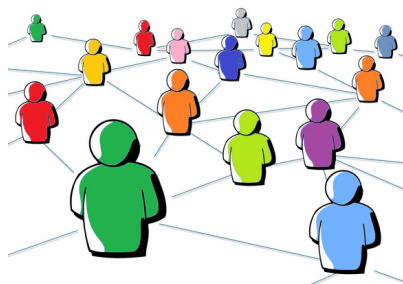
# Trust News

## New series of governor workshops



This term we were excited to launch a series of governor workshops delivered by the National Governance Association. With only twenty places per workshop the training is interactive and offers engaging learning delivered virtually via Zoom.

In February governors focused on effective question and challenge and had the opportunity to evaluate their current approach, develop the skills and confidence to ask suitable probing questions and to know when and how to hold a courageous conversation. One of our participants said: "I particularly enjoyed the breakout groups and follow up discussion around courageous and potentially contentious conversations!"



In March governors will look at the effective governance of SEND and will gain a thorough understanding of SEND and how they can ensure that those with SEND have their needs met and make the best progress in their school. In April governors will focus on the governance role in financial oversight and have the opportunity to develop a sound understanding of how to fulfil their compliance and strategic functions to ensure funding is used as effectively as possible to improve outcomes for pupils in line with school priorities.

In June our final workshop will look at how schools can generate income, developing a realistic and practical approach to working with senior leaders to generate additional funding which is suitable for their school and which stands a good chance of success.

## NTLT Teacher Webinar Series



The Trust are always looking for new and innovative ways to support our partner schools and our new teacher webinar series does just that. Starting on Wednesday 17th March we launched a series of weekly webinars to inspire leaders, share good practice and highlight digital solutions. The webinars will cover one of three key themes:

- Digital – The effective use of software – Aimed at headteachers and senior leaders.
- Curriculum – The use of technology to support learning – Aimed at senior leaders and teachers.
- Inspiring Creativity – Sessions inspiring leaders and teachers for the future – Aimed at headteachers and senior leaders.





# Trust News

## NTLT Partners with Children North East to support childrens' mental health



North Tyneside Learning Trust is pleased to be working with Children North East in providing all Trust Partner Schools with free access to a 4 week online BU course for children and young people supporting mental health

The BU course is an early intervention, delivered to small groups in schools or online, to support children and young people in building resilience and developing the foundations for positive mental health and emotional wellbeing. The course supports pupils, aged 7-17, who may be struggling to manage their emotions, becoming withdrawn or who are at risk of developing more severe mental health difficulties in the future.



BU is an informal and fun course based on creative activities which encourages the children and young people to communicate their feelings. This is especially important at this uncertain time and we have adapted our BU course to incorporate more time for the sharing of feelings and strategies to cope with the current pandemic.

In addition to accessing the programme, schools will also receive a 12 month licence allowing staff to deliver the programme themselves in school thereby reaching more children and young people. We have already had a number of schools sign up for the course but schools can still sign up for a course to take place during the summer term. Please contact [katrina.moffat@ntlearningtrust.org.uk](mailto:katrina.moffat@ntlearningtrust.org.uk) to find out more or to book your course.

## NTLT members area

At the start of this term we launched our exclusive members area on the Trust website. Staff and governors from Trust Partner Schools can register to access a range of resources from our World of Work Project Leads, eLearning Lead Practitioner and MFL Teaching Assistant. We will regularly update resources, adding new contents but if there is anything specific that you would like to see, please let us know.

[You can register for the members area by clicking this link](#)



# Trust News

## TICE Programme



The recent lockdown and home schooling hasn't stopped our secondary schools gearing up to take part in this year's TICE Programme. The TICE Programme is designed to provide young people with the information, tools and networks they need to make informed decisions about their future and the Trust has been supporting partner schools to access the programme for 6 years.

Despite a very challenging time last academic year, students from NTLT Partner Schools still managed to complete their 'TICE-olated' projects as the work swiftly moved online. Having taken part in the programme, these are some of the comments from the students:

This experience has shown me what it would be like to work from home, which is becoming more common through this pandemic. It's good experience for the future.

If you're thinking about joining TICE, do it. TICE will shape your future in ways you can't imagine. You might even end up in a better university, a better job, because of this course. Not everything is about tests, some is about creativity, and that creativity is what influenced me to join TICE.

**ANON - Whitley Bay High School (Avatar, Animation)**

I think it would of been great to physically do the TICE project but overall the remote learning was amazing and handled so well considering the circumstances of covid. I think it made me more persistent to get the work submitted by the deadline and hard working to produce a final piece I was happy with.

Yes, the project was very beneficial as it opened my eye to new career paths that I hadn't even thought of and I learned my skills and attributes along the way.

**Gabrielle - Churchill Community College (Bella Freud - Fashion)**

What was the most interesting was finding out different sustainable materials like I didn't know there was that many, and how we can make clothing out of like plastic and a lot of recycled materials, also how it can be clothing made from recycling materials and still look good!

**ANON - John Spence High School (Surfers Against Sewage - Fashion)**

We can't wait to see what our students produce this year!



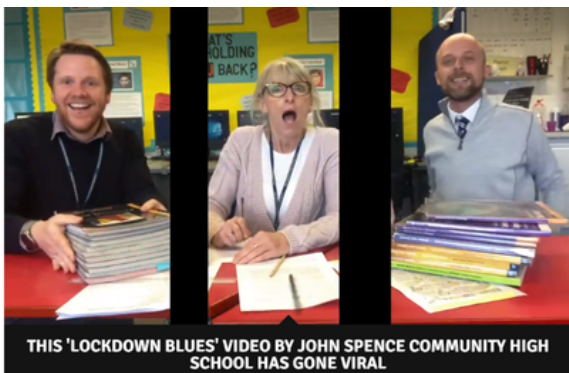
# School News

## John Spence Community High School



### Lockdown Blues

Once again we have found ourselves in the difficult position of home learning. This is a situation that we have all had to adapt to very quickly. Although we have all embraced the various platforms we have available to us to, it does not take away from the fact that we have all missed the daily interaction that we have with our students, colleagues and our wider community. The Lockdown Blues was a direct response to this feeling of isolation and with it, it carries an important message to stick together in order to beat the lockdown blues.



The creation of the song was the work of a peripatetic music teacher, Mike Watson. After making a list of all the keywords that we now associate with education and lockdown, Mike wrote lyrics that have a good sense of humour as well as a very profound message. Elements such as: keep in touch calls, no extra-curricular, lessons on Zoom, were combined to share an awareness of the difficulties that have been encountered throughout this pandemic.

Once Mike had written the song, it was just sitting on a shelf but with the third national lockdown being put in place, the staff at John Spence Community High School decided to take on the challenge of performing and starring in a video recording of the song. Our aim was to release it on the last day of the half term, and spread a little bit of happiness to our students, parents and wider community.

Staff were tasked with singing one line each, as well as a full chorus and recording a video to go with their section of song. This was then emailed to Mike who edited the finished product. Within a few hours of the video going 'live', there were messages from as far afield as Australia, praising the school for raising a smile. We had hoped that it would bring some happiness within the local community but to the other side of the world, that was incredible. The video was at almost 8,000 views by the end of the half term holidays and had received interest from the Evening Chronicle and Nova Radio. Various social media helped the video go viral with plenty of positive comments: "A fantastic production from a North Shields school to cheer us all up," was just one of the comments that highlighted how much that had raised community spirit.

[Watch the video on Youtube:](#)





# School News

## Greenfields Primary School



### Staying active in lockdown

Children from Greenfields Primary School who have been working from home have been delighted with a half term full of 'extra' curricular opportunities to enhance their home-learning experience. Every Monday, children have had the chance to join in with additional football sessions led by local football coaches, and North Tyneside PGCE students.

In addition to this they had a half term of outdoor learning delivered virtually by High Tide Adventure Company, followed by live Science lessons where the children got to take part in scientific experiments. We wanted to make the children's experience of home learning exciting and full of opportunity.



### Bringing the community together

Children who were working from home and at school, continued to work together to lift community spirit during our recent lockdown. They wrote positive messages to each other and to the community on luggage labels which were then tied to our school fence along the wagon way for all to enjoy!

We continued on this theme when our children created rock faces of themselves which are displayed along the entrance of our school, for all to see.



The positive messages don't stop there. Over Easter, visitors to Weetslade Country Park will get to enjoy our 'flags of joy' which will be displayed there. The children wanted to spread positive messages to our local community, particularly at a time where we all need to feel uplifted.







# School News

George Stephenson High School



## Photography Competition

Miss Stewart ran a photography competition over February half term after seeing a similar competition on social media:

"I thought it would be a great way to give our students a purpose to exercise and explore their local community during their half term break, and I hoped that it would be a little bit of light relief given the circumstances. We opened the competition to all year groups (7-13) with prizes to be won for the winners. We had over 50 students enter which I was so pleased to see. All entries were fantastic, and it was a difficult decision to choose only 3 winners. The winners captured the purpose of the competition perfectly "to explore their local community". I am amazed at the quality and attention to detail of the photographs, you could easily mistake them for professional photos and would look brilliant on a postcard. They show that there is light at the end of the tunnel, and better days are coming! I hope to run something similar during the Easter holidays."

WINNER



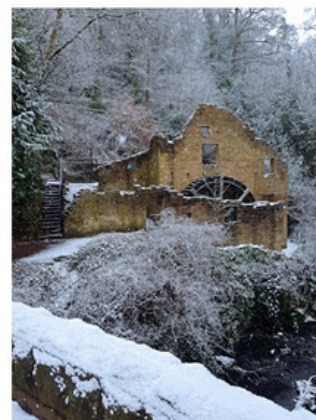
Harry Colquhoun (Yr9)

2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE



Joshua Banks (Yr9)

3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE



Tamsin Chambers (Yr7)



# School News

## Wallsend Jubilee Primary School



### New library for pupils

After several years of fundraising, WJPS is delighted to announce that we are approaching the completion of our school's library project. "The Reading Nest" is our newly created library space for the enjoyment of our pupils and their families. We have been so fortunate that we were able to enlist local artists, Chris Fielder and his creative business partner, Nicola Rose, who have built the most sensational library we could ever have dreamed of. It is our aim to use the space to "nurture fledgling readers", and give our children both literary skills and an enjoyment of reading, which they can carry into their futures.



Working on a woodland theme, our 2 artists have realised their vision and brought the outdoors, indoors. Every item has been intricately hand carved from naturally sourced raw materials and crafted to bring out their natural beauty. From intricate carving and woodwork, to hand stitched silk bunting with embroidered leaves, to hand painted murals and origami birds, all surrounding the central feature of "The Story Telling Chair", the overall effect of our new library is just stunning.

Other individuals have added their own creative designs to the project and now we have knitted leaves, acorns and conkers, 2 themed toadstool houses, and we also have a family of hedgehogs, a fox, a squirrel and a badger nestled in the shelving



We currently have our library stocked with the help of the Schools' Library Service from North Tyneside Council however we will be continuing to fundraise in order to fill the library further still and provide a cataloguing system.



At times it felt like this project would never come to fruition, but here it is. We are so proud of it and so grateful to each and every one of our families and members of our school's community who have supported our fundraising efforts and helped us to make this dream a reality.



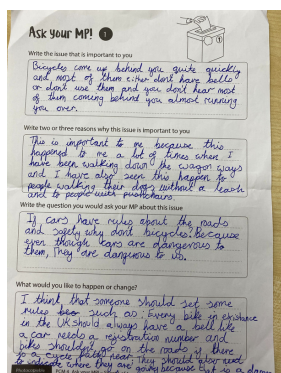


# School News

## Valley Gardens Middle School



### A letter from an MP and a Secretary of State



Isabel wrote to her local MP, Alan Campbell and got a response from Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Transport.

"When I received a reply from Alan Campbell I was too astounded to reply so I had to ask my teacher Miss McElderry to reply for me. She had before asked me if this could be shared in the school newsletter and I answered "Yes, Of course". When I found out also that this was going to be put forward to the Transport Minister I was even more shocked. I never thought that I could get this far! I am very pleased that the problem could possibly be made into a law.



Dear Alan,  
Thank you for your email of 8 February, enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Isabel Lopez of Year 6, Valley Gardens Middle School about mandatory bells and dedicated cycle for cycles.  
Cyclists, like all road users, have a duty to behave in a safe and responsible manner, but I appreciate that a small number of cyclists do not. The legislation that applies to cycling is summarised in rules 58-62 of the Highway Code which can be viewed at: [www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code-rules-for-cyclists-58-to-62](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code-rules-for-cyclists-58-to-62).  
Rule 66 of the Highway Code recommends that bells are fitted and used as necessary, and all bicycles are required at point of sale to be "fitted with a bell which is of a category intended for use on bicycles". The current regulations do not compel cyclists to keep a bell fitted to the bicycle after purchase. However, a consultation on changes to Highway Code to improve safety for walking, cycling and horse-riding closed in October 2020. The Government is considering the evidence presented and will respond in due course.  
The Government has announced ambitious plans for cycling and walking, and has committed an unprecedented £2 billion of funding for active travel over the next 5 years. The details are set out in the Prime Minister's Green Paper, published in July 2020 and can be viewed at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycling-and-walking-plan-for-england](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycling-and-walking-plan-for-england).

The Plan includes a number of commitments including the roll-out of segregated cycle lanes in towns and cities and an expanded cycle training programme.

Yours ever,

*Grant Shapps*

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT

Then when I found that letter was going to come to the North Tyneside Learning Trust I was still surprised because I didn't expect many more things to happen. I am looking forward to seeing the response that I get from the transport minister and how the journey is going to continue."

## Benton Dene School

### Staff and pupils take to the yoga mat



Staff and students at Benton Dene School have each received a yoga mat. The mats are for daily yoga and mindfulness sessions to help with physical health and well-being





# School News

## Whitehouse Primary School



### Helping the school and local community

Whitehouse Primary School has made great efforts to support pupils and their families, staff and the wider local community during this challenging time. As well as providing pupils with access to IT equipment by providing and delivering laptops, Netbooks, 4G routers and BT Wi-fi hotspot codes, the school has also helped with everyday items.

Over the Christmas period the school issued 44 Christmas stockings through the Cedarwood Trust and 88 Christmas hampers to families. With the support of Greggs foundation, they held a free 'Whitehouse supermarket' which provided families with access to tinned and dried goods, cleaning products and toiletries.

[Take a look at the supermarket here](#)

Whitehouse Primary School are also proud to have provided 'white goods' if needed for our families and this includes washing machines and cookers so far.





# School News

## Preston Grange Primary School



### Singing for memories

The children from Preston Grange Primary School have been involved in a wonderful virtual project with the lovely residents from Redesdale Court. This heart-warming event was called 'Singing for Memories' and was expertly organised by Neil at the Newcastle Eagles Community Foundation.

Two songs were chosen, 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary' and 'When You're Smiling'. All of the children worked hard to practice the songs both at home and at school. On the day of the event, there was a real buzz around school and lots of excited children. After a couple of technical hitches, Preston Grange, Redesdale and Neil were able to see and hear each other. When everyone began to sing, the hall came alive and it was clear to see how much everyone enjoyed singing together; it was such a beautiful moment.

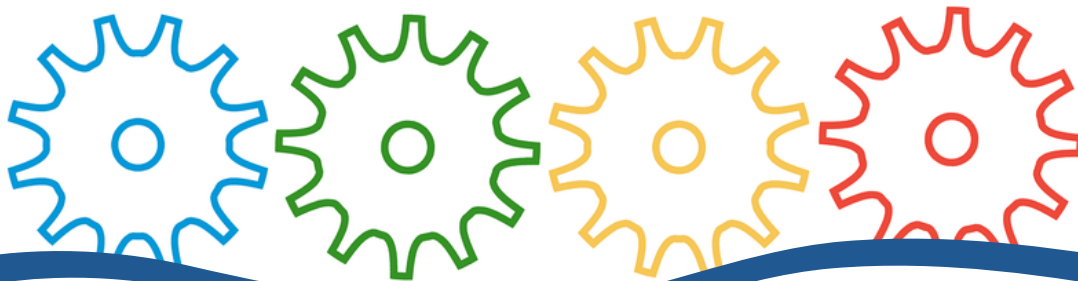
Between the songs, there was time for questions. The children learnt that one of the residents, Alfie, used to be a professional footballer and another was an opera singer. One of the questions was about favourite singers and it was clear to see that Nat King Cole was a popular choice.

#### What did everyone think about the event?

- "I liked how the elderly people were so joyful and were always laughing." Abbie Y3
- "It was so enjoyable when everyone sang together." Jessica Y2
- "It has been a lovely opportunity to participate in an inter-generational project, which brought so much joy to everyone." Mrs Taylor (Headteacher)
- "It was lovely to join in with this project and it was heart-warming to see how happy the children were when they were practising." Miss Wright (music coordinator)

By Josh D, Sophie & William





# World of Work

## NTLT Careers Live 2021

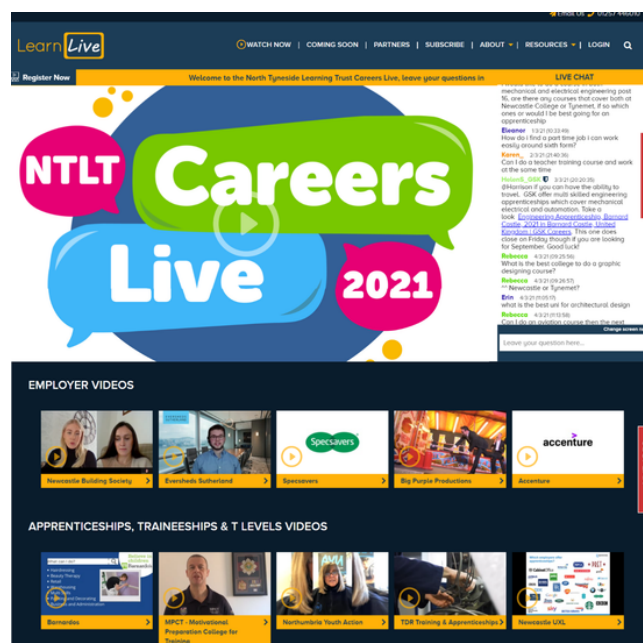


During this year's National Careers Week, NTLT hosted their first virtual careers fair - NTLT Careers Live 2021. The purpose of this event was to provide our young people with as much information as possible to help them make informed decisions about their career choices and their next steps. The event was facilitated using LearnLive and consisted of an interactive broadcast, on demand videos and live chat support from 48 organisations including employers, apprenticeship and training providers, colleges and universities and careers guidance from Connexions advisors. This replicated a real careers fair as much as possible as it allowed viewers to not only find out about the huge range of opportunities available to them but to also speak directly to people to gain information and advice. The event was open to all 14-18 year olds and parents from Trust Partner Schools and over 1300 people watched the broadcast during the three hours.

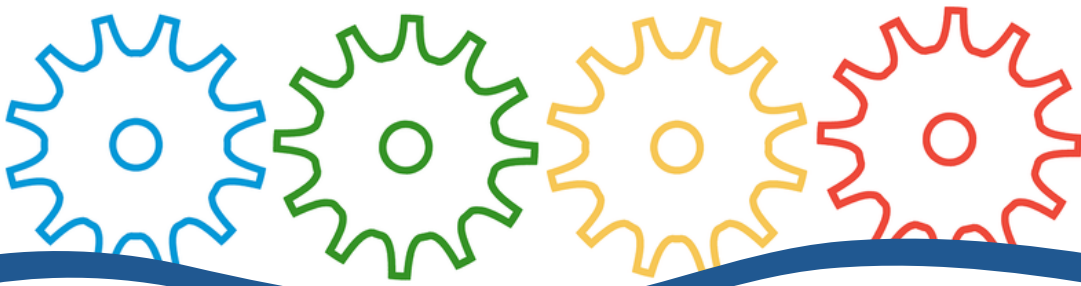
The resource bank of videos will be available for the next 12 months and schools can make use of this in careers lessons, activities and as part of home learning by clicking on the link below. It is also possible to still contact organisations with questions via the chat function and more information will be sent out Careers Leads in due course.

If anyone has any questions or would like to find out more about this resource, they can contact [angie.patterson@ntlearningtrust.org.uk](mailto:angie.patterson@ntlearningtrust.org.uk)

<https://learnliveuk.com/ntlt-careers-live-2021/>







# World of Work

## Launch of the first NTLT Virtual Internship



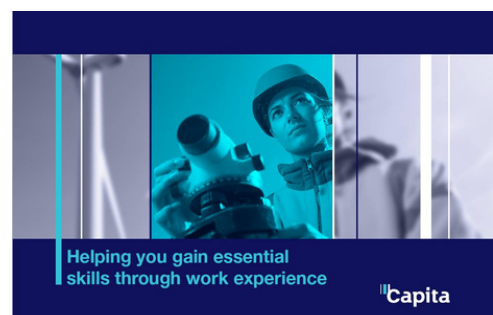
This month saw the launch of a brand new initiative from the Trust aimed at opening up new work experience opportunities to sixth form students. The NTLT Virtual Internship Programme will eventually be offered across a range of sectors, some of which would never have been a realistic consideration for our young people. They will embark upon a virtual journey that will include a full application and interview process, a company induction and the undertaking of a business project that will culminate in a presentation. The previously unobtainable experience that they will gain will be invaluable as they take their next steps in their lives and into paid employment.

Working with us on our first programme is Capita. Jen Chamley, Responsible Business Lead at Capita, explains a bit more about the role and why Capita are supporting this exciting opportunity:

"Capita thrives on helping people unlock their value and potential, giving them access to a huge range of unique and diverse opportunities, which offer real career progression. We are excited to work with NTLT to offer students in North Tyneside an opportunity to work with our Major Projects Team in Construction with a focus on Quantity Surveying as part of a new internship programme. A Quantity Surveyor is a construction industry professional with expert knowledge on construction costs and contracts. Students will have the opportunity to work on, and make meaningful contributions to, a range of exciting and diverse projects over 6 weeks.

In addition to the opportunity of the internship programme, successful students will also have the benefit of some relevant experience should they decide to apply for an apprenticeship opportunity within the Quantity Surveying team as a Quantity Surveying Apprentice which is currently open for applications on [www.capita.com/careers](http://www.capita.com/careers)."

More information is available by contacting [angie.patterson@ntlearningtrust.org.uk](mailto:angie.patterson@ntlearningtrust.org.uk)





# Opportunities

If you are interested in any of these opportunities please contact [katrina.moffat@ntlearningtrust.org.uk](mailto:katrina.moffat@ntlearningtrust.org.uk)



## Science Training Bursary

NLT Partner Schools can take advantage of a £100 bursary when booking training courses delivered by the Science Learning Partnership.

Contact [nicola.comrie@ntlearningtrust.org.uk](mailto:nicola.comrie@ntlearningtrust.org.uk) for more information and to get a list of available courses



## Calling all primary maths leads!

Do you want to explore how to prioritise the most important areas of the maths curriculum in the summer term and next academic year? Join our network sessions to explore how we can best assess where children are after remote learning and then plan to meet their needs. New and existing NCETM materials will be shared and explored together.

Monday 26th April 4-5pm  
Dates: Monday 24th May 4-5pm  
Monday 21st June 4-5pm

Email [katrina.moffat@ntlearningtrust.org.uk](mailto:katrina.moffat@ntlearningtrust.org.uk) to book your place

## NLT Teacher Webinars

NLT is providing a set of webinars to inspire leaders, share the good practice we have across the Trust and highlight digital solutions.

Join us every Wednesday from 17 March

Contact [katrina.moffat@ntlearningtrust.org.uk](mailto:katrina.moffat@ntlearningtrust.org.uk) for more information  
Follow us on Twitter @NTLearningTrust



The Trust is working in partnership with Children North East to extend the BU: Skills for Social and Emotional Wellbeing programme across schools. The BU programme is designed to support children and young people to build resilience and develop foundations for positive mental health and emotional well-being.

Each school will be offered free access to the 4 week online BU course which is delivered to small groups of up to 10 children and young people. A 12 month License Agreement will also be made available enabling school staff to shadow the BU worker for the duration of the course and then deliver the programme directly to other cohorts of students.

Contact [katrina.moffat@ntlearningtrust.org.uk](mailto:katrina.moffat@ntlearningtrust.org.uk) for more information

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