I feel it is the right time to write to you all and to tell you what it means to be in the Ortu Federation. I hope to give you some idea about how we work as a Federation and the significant benefits we can bring to our pupils and staff. It is also an opportunity for us to celebrate the achievement of the schools within the Trust and recognise the efforts of the children and staff, both teaching and support, which makes the Ortu Federation the excellent union it is.

We are a growing family of Academies who work together to ensure that everyone of our pupils receives an outstanding education and is supported in their development towards becoming highly effective and successful member of society. The Academies Programme has proved to be an effective way to rapidly improve all the schools within the Federation. All the schools within the Federation are at different points on the path to outstanding.

Ortu strongly believe that any of the downsides of being part of a Federation are far out weighed by having in place effective leaders; robust governance and sound processes!

This is our first Ortu Federation Newsletter and we could not be more excited about it.

We hope you find it enjoyable and thank you for taking the time to read through it.

Mr Steve Nash - Chair of the Ortu Federation
**Ortu Gable Hall School - Rock of Ages**

Recently, Ortu Gable Hall School put on a show called the ‘Rock of Ages’ over a few nights and it was a huge success! ‘Rock of Ages’ is an American musical featuring songs by Journey, Bon Jovi, Def Leppard as well as many other artists, paired with a tale of big dreams in Hollywood. The story follows a few rising stars and their struggles as they try to climb the ladder to success.

The cast members were so dedicated and hardworking making even the rehearsals enjoyable. Students gave up their own time for rehearsals, lunchtimes and after school, as well as taking time to promote the show and sell tickets.

We are so proud of all students involved in the show, from the set designers to the photographers, the band members to the ‘techies’. The shows would not have happened without each and every one of them. This is a perfect example as to why the Arts are so important within the education system, demonstrating how well-rounded, committed and resilient young people can be.

We would like to thank all the students, staff and the family members who came to support them all in the show. This was our best show yet!

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**Ortu Corringham Primary School - SSTA Educational Award**

We are delighted to announce that Corringham Primary has been selected for yet another award. This time, the Schools, Students and Teachers network (SSAT) have awarded Corringham Primary School with an SSAT Educational Outcomes award in recognition that the progress of pupils of Corringham Primary School is in the top 20% of school’s nationally. The school has enabled pupils to make progress in Reading, Writing and Mathematics which is significantly higher than the national average at Key Stage 2 and is among the top 20% across all schools nationally.

Naturally, all staff at the school and within the Trust is delighted with this award as it is yet further recognition of the hard work of the pupils and staff. Headteacher, Lorna Hamilton, said, “This is a fantastic recognition of the hard work of our children and staff. I am delighted with the progress that pupils make in our school and this award recognises just what is achieved.”

Mrs Hamilton will be attending a celebration event in London in the summer term, where she will receive the award on behalf of the school. We will, of course, share photos of the event on our newsletters and website.
Ortu Hassenbrook has been very successful in receiving CIF (Conditional Improvement Fund) monies to improve our school. The children love the newly refurbished kitchen and the dining room is being extended to almost double its size creating a light and vibrant lunchtime area which is expected to be completed in May. In future the children will benefit by having the opportunity to sit outside the canteen too. Our fantastic new reception is now complete and will provide a bright and welcoming environment for our parents and visitors. The reception includes a meeting room and washroom facilities and a very agreeable seating area. Behind the scenes we have completed phase one of an extensive rewiring which also gave us the opportunity to upgrade the sports hall, music, drama rooms, assembly hall, the canteen and the main corridor along the front of the school. We have completed the carpeting of the corridors and replaced the computer servers and the laptops. Significant investments are also being made with teaching staff.

On July 15th 2018 Ms Heald and Mr Scott will be taking ten Year 10 students for a two week volunteering excursion to Sri Lanka. During this time, students will help renovate local buildings, understanding the importance of what they have done, gaining valuable knowledge and empathy working within a different community. They will spend time at an elephant sanctuary, providing the elephants and their carers some much needed help. We will also be working within a turtle conservation site, helping to protect and rehabilitate at risk sea turtles. After a full week volunteering the students will get to explore and travel Sri Lanka, visiting places of beauty and significance. We cannot wait!

Ortu Hassenbrook Academy students will also be travelling to New York, USA in September for a worth while trip learning all out 9/11.

Ortu Sixth Form Centre - Ruti Wins The Voice for #TeamTom 2018

The Ortu Sixth Form Centre are very proud of Ruth Olajugbagbe who is in year 13 and currently studying A levels in Drama, Music Technology and BTEC Music. This year, she won ITV’s The Voice UK, a national competition for gifted vocalists.

In June 2017 Ruth was selected to participate in the Village Green festival in Chalkwell Park where she sang in front of a crowd of 30,000 people. This prestigious event received thousands of applications from local artists and Ruth’s talent shone through gaining her a place on the Oak Stage, alongside artists such as Kate Nash and Nothing But Thieves. At the recent Thurrock Jack Petchey Awards she wowed audiences with a wonderful performance of ‘Walking on Sunshine’. As well as performing at the ceremony Ruth was also an award winner for her contribution to the Performing Arts and the music department at Gable Hall School.

We are so proud of Ruti, and wish her all the luck and success with her new adventure. Her first single ‘Dreams’ is out now!
Useful Dates

**Ortu Gable Hall School**
Monday, 6pm - 7.15pm

**Ortu Hassenbrook Academy**
Wednesday, 5pm - 6pm

**Monday 7th May - May Bank Holiday**
**Friday 25th May - End of Summer Half Term**
**Monday 4th June - Return to School**

→ **Ortu Corringham Primary** - SATs Week, 14th - 18th May
→ **Ortu Hassenbrook Academy** - Year 9 & 10 Assessment Week, 14th May - 25th May
→ **Ortu Gable Hall School** - Exam Season, 14th May - 25th May
→ **Ortu Corringham Primary** - Reception Intake Meeting, 6th June
→ **Ortu Gable Hall School** - Year 8 Options Evening, 11th June
→ **Ortu Hassenbrook Academy** - Year 7 & 8 Assessment Week, 4th June - 15th June
→ **Ortu Gable Hall School** - Year 6 Intake Evening, 26th June
→ **Ortu Hassenbrook Academy** - New Intake Evening, 28th June
→ **Ortu Corringham Primary** - Whole School Transition Week, 2nd - 6th July

Volunteering

“It takes a village to raise a child”. Would you like to get some experience in the education sector? We are always looking for volunteers to help out across the Federation. And volunteering always looks great on your CV, just come and speak with us. You will be amazed to know what gifts you possess. Get in touch with us if you are interested.

Online Safety

Online safety is incredibly important. There are very many useful websites out there which offer of helpful advice. Make sure you check out some of the sites. The E-Safety Policies for each Ortu Federation school can be found on the school’s websites.

Here are other useful websites:

- [www.safetynetkids.org.uk](http://www.safetynetkids.org.uk)
- [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)
- [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)
- [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)

Social Media

Please follow our the Facebook and Twitter pages for all the schools for the latest updates from classrooms, important information, reminders, achievements and celebrations, so that you are well informed.

Just search for the **Ortu Gable Hall, Ortu Hassenbrook, Ortu Corringham Primary** or **Ortu Sixth Form Centre - Stanford & Corringham**

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