New term brings new horizon

THE former head of education at County Hall will be taking over the reins of 12 schools in north Essex.
Lyn Wright joined the Sigma Trust last year as director of standards, having worked in secondary schools and pupil referral units for more than 20 years.
She is set to replace founding chief executive and former Clacton County High School principal, Jeff Brindle, as he retires from the role after a 40-year career in teaching.
They will continue to work closely together after September, when Mr Brindle takes on a part-time role within the organisation which looks after 12 primary and secondary schools in north Essex.
The Sigma Trust is responsible for Clacton County High School, Colne Community School and College in Brightlingsea, Alton Park Junior School in Clacton and Holland Park Primary School.

'You have kept NHS strong in tough times'

Heartfelt thanks to *Gazette* readers for backing campaign

By Rebecca Creed
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IT IS no understatement to say this year has been an unprecedented time in our nation's history.

The last four months has seen all our lives turned upside down as our country has been fighting an invisible enemy that has devastatingly claimed lives of so many.

At a time of national peril, the *Gazette* asked our readers to help support those on the NHS's frontline.

And our warm-hearted readers did not let us down.

Thousands of you have donated our newspaper group Newsquest's Support Our Guardian Angels appeal.

Donations flooded in thick and fast.

Across the country, readers pledged cash to back individual hospital trusts, charities and NHS Charities Together.

All funds have been a much-needed boost to the health service in their hour of need.

GUARDIAN ANGELS - help donate cash to the NHS. Inset: Health Secretary Matt Hancock

In total, more than £503,990 has been raised.

It was used for wellbeing packs and gifts for NHS staff, food deliveries and refreshments, covering the cost of travel and accommodation.

As the nation takes small steps out of lockdown and hopefully towards a new normal, we want to take the time to say thank you to our lovely readers who have supported our NHS in this pandemic.

Now Matt Hancock, the Health Secretary, has issued a message of thanks to our readers.

He said: "I am incredibly grateful to all the readers for their generosity toward the Support Our NHS Guardian Angels during the colossal national effort to tackle coronavirus.

"For nearly 72 years, the NHS has always been there for us, and this global pandemic has been its toughest challenge yet. Across the whole country, the bonds between our heroic NHS staff and local communities have been further strengthened by the support of your readers."

Editor of the *Gazette*, Gary Pearson, said: "This appeal has been a huge success and we are thankful to everyone who has donated for these incredibly worthy causes.

"The generosity of our readers up and down the country has been second to none."

Help for indy businesses

INDEPENDENT traders in Tendring hit by coronavirus are being offered the chance to take a place on a top course aimed at getting businesses up and running again.

Fifty places on the customer service training course are up for grabs for local firms as part of Tendring Council's bid to support traders.

The course is recommended by the Association of Town and City Management and tackles topics including PPE, greeting customers and taking payments.

Mary Newton, councillor responsible for business, said: "This training aims to get businesses, and their front-facing staff, to think about going above and beyond when it comes to customer service, not just how they deal with Covid-19," she said.

"We've bought these places to help our businesses to get back on their feet – it not only helps them, but if shoppers and visitors have a good experience they are more likely to stay in or come back to our district to spend money, which is good for the whole economy."

Places purchased by the council will be given on a first-come first-served basis.

To register, email business.

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NEW 'Chick Charms' have been expertly bred to have a wider range of dazzling colours than ever before. The colours will intensify as winter gets colder – now is the perfect time to plant them to enjoy this winter and for many years to come! Don't miss out on the opportunity to grow these fascinating, low-maintenance perennials and be part of the trendy succulent revolution!

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