

All Through the Year



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Trust Update

Dear parents, students, staff and governors

This has been a short half term with practice tests and exams for many of our students. Alongside this, we have continued with our joint-phase and cross-phase activities which are an important part of our all-through approach.

The term began with the publication of Barrow's inspection report. This was conducted by an Inspector from the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools' (SIAMS) Team. We were delighted that Barrow was graded as 'Outstanding' in all categories, "meeting the needs of all learners and

ensuring their achievement is well above local and national averages." Shortly afterwards, Ofsted published its letter confirming that Westley is still a good school; 'a happy community where pupils are encouraged to excel academically and in a range of sporting and cultural activities.'

The last night of the half term brought together almost two hundred pupils from right across our age range for our annual Trust Evening of Dance. It proved an excellent showcase for our work and ensured everyone went off on holiday in good spirits.



Great musical opportunities

Pupils from the middle phase enjoyed a **rock day** at County led by their senior guitarists and drummers.



The Able and Talented Languages Day

Students in **year seven** of our middle phase were joined by their counterparts at Moreton Hall and South Lee Schools to enhance and broaden their language skills in a special day at County Upper.



The Evening of Dance

The centrepiece of our Sports Trust programme for this half term.

More computing coding success

Across the campuses, the 'hour of code' continues to go really well and pupils are developing their skills on many levels. This term saw another **CoSpace regional competition** day and pupils from Horringer Court and County represented the Trust. **Horringer Court won the event for their age group and the three County teams took the top three spots in their competition.**



We congratulate all who were so successful.

Maths, Maths, Maths!

One hundred and seventy-seven pupils from years four, five and nine across the Trust met at our Horringer Court campus for some challenging problem solving. Pupils worked in teams of six, mixing up those from years four and five and from all the campuses. Year nine students from County acted as mathematics leaders, guiding the younger pupils. The topics chosen were **multiplication, co-ordinates, logic and space and shape**. The level of team work and collaboration to solve the problems was very high and there were some excellent mathematical discussions around all the tables.

We thank **Mrs Crichton** for organising the event and **all the maths staff** who supported her. Well done to all the pupils who took part.



Life on Mars

Year seven pupils enhanced their knowledge of space by looking at life on Mars with the help of an expert. They **got the inside view from aerospace engineer, Adrzej Stewart** who spent a year with five other astronauts in the HI-SEAS dome in Hawaii. This simulated living on the red planet. Pupils emailed Mr Stewart with their questions and had a Skype session with him. Mr Stewart also sent some videos of his experiments and his experience. Like the HI-SEAS team, the **pupils grew plants in a confined environment and compared their results**.

We thank **Mrs Korth** for making this unique experience possible.



The Trust's Astronomy Evening

This has become an annual event organised by County Upper and the University of Hertfordshire. **STEM ambassadors from across the middle and upper phases** ran a series of activities for young families. Year thirteen student, **Billy Riddick**, gave a presentation and there were opportunities to view the night sky through powerful **telescopes**. The University's **pop-up planetarium**

was also extremely popular and was fully booked. In total, **over a hundred visitors** had a fascinating evening and were very complimentary about all the students involved.

Well done to all who took part.



Two great musical opportunities

Pupils from the middle phase enjoyed a **rock day** at County led by their senior **guitarists and drummers**. All the pupils are well aware of County's renowned swing band and were keen to develop their skills in the hope of working up to the upper phase standard. The pupils worked in mixed groups and, having enhanced their techniques, put together compositions which they performed to each other at the end. **All the pieces were recorded to make a permanent record of a very successful day.**



Brass pupils from the middle phase travelled to the **Royal Hospital School** in Ipswich for a special playing day with their pupils and those from South Lee. The day was entitled '**Blast off Day**'. Specialist brass and percussion tutors led the day which was designed to provide an opportunity for talented young instrumentalists to make rapid progress together. At the end of the day, the pupils played their pieces to an audience of parents and friends.



We congratulate all who took part in these events and thank Mr Jermy, our all-through music co-ordinator, for organising them.

The Able and Talented Languages Day

Students in **year seven** of our middle phase were joined by their counterparts at Moreton Hall and South Lee Schools to enhance and broaden their language skills in a special day at County Upper. In mixed groups, pupils improved their **Spanish** and **Latin** as well as learning some basic **Japanese**. They all participated in a range of activities and enjoyed improving their language skills in a fun way.

Our middle and upper phase **Latin classes** have all continued this half term. The joint club for the middle phase has continued to be very well attended and the pupils have just successfully completed their first external test. We look forward to presenting the certificates before Easter.



The Evening of Dance

This has been **the centrepiece of our Sports Trust programme for this half term**. Alongside the work of our PE staff, Mrs Stoten, the Trust's Dance Co-ordinator, once again pulled together an amazingly slick show with pieces from every campus, joint and cross-phase performances and an opening and closing number involving all two hundred pupils. The quality, discipline, variety, visual effect and professionalism were well up to the standard we have come to expect and the audience was left wanting

more, having thoroughly enjoyed the evening from start to finish. We congratulate all who took part and thank the numerous staff who helped.

We especially thank **Mrs Stoten** for putting together such a high-class show.



The Golf Academy

Our **Trust Academy** has had a very successful programme of coaching from Steve Hall and, former County Upper student, Adam Trett who are both based at The Suffolk where they teach professionally. We are very grateful to them for offering a winter training programme to prepare pupils for the summer competitions at both Western Area and Suffolk level. Coaching will continue weekly during the second half of this term.



The Bury St Edmunds STEM Academy for West Suffolk

The Department for Education has approved funding for the construction of the Bury St Edmunds STEM Academy, a new 13-18 free school specialising in science, technology, engineering and maths due to open in September 2019. This will be run by the Bury St Edmunds All-Through Trust on its Westley Campus. The plans include a new sports hall, which will be used by pupils in the Trust's middle phase for 9-13 year olds as well as by students at the new STEM Academy.

The STEM Academy is supported by seventeen international companies with local bases as well as by the University of East Anglia. All its students will be full members of the All-Through Trust able to access the phenomenal extra-curricular programme for which the 'outstanding' County Upper is renowned and share joint curricular activities as appropriate. The vision is hugely exciting and innovative offering:

- a new way of learning whilst still gaining GCSE, A level and equivalent qualifications as a result of the Trust's staff and industry partners collaborating very carefully on the curriculum;
- a very broad range of STEM areas in Year 9 with students increasingly specialising during their five years at the end of which they will move on to university-sponsored places, higher level apprenticeships or other opportunities provided by the partner companies;
- two pathways in one Trust from age 13, with the option to transfer easily between County Upper and County STEM during Year 9, at the end of year 9 or for 6th form if students feel they have made the wrong choice.

The Academy is due to open in 2019. In the intervening period, the Trust will pilot aspects of the provision at its County Upper Campus.

Lead Head of the Trust, Vicky Neale, said, "We are delighted that the STEM Academy will open in a brand new building, specially designed to teach our highly innovative curriculum. This is a very exciting time for the Trust and we are all confident that many students will benefit from having a choice of pathway from age 13."

Nicola Swaney, Education Manager, Rolls-Royce, one of the lead companies, commented,

"We are delighted to hear about the new build to accommodate the Bury St Edmunds All-Through Trust's STEM Academy. Rolls-Royce has maintained links with the Trust following its success as finalists in our Science Prize in 2015 and fully supports this important provision. Congratulations to all involved."



Frequently Asked Questions

How will children know which path to follow at 13?

Most children do have a very strong idea by aged 13, which route they feel will suit them and the beauty of this system is children can move between the traditional County Upper and the new STEM academy. The majority of the children will have been in the Trust for at least four years before moving on to the upper phase. We will know them very well and will be able to offer guidance. However, the STEM Academy is open to any student to apply from the start of year 9. Every student who is considering the STEM route will be offered personalised advice from the companies who are working with us.

Our STEM Academy will enable students to experience all of the following areas: Computing, Energy Supply, Engineering (Aeronautical, Electrical, Electronic, Mechanical, Nuclear), Food Science, Health and Life Sciences (including veterinary science), Media Production, Product Design and Sports Science. This will keep their options broad up until specialisation in the sixth form.

Will any children be made to follow one route or the other?

Definitely not. The beauty of this model is that all the students are members of one Trust. The number across the two upper phase campuses can vary by up to twenty in any year and we are confident that all children can get their route of choice. The admissions criteria for both routes are identical.

What if my child feels they have made the wrong choice?

This is another real advantage of our all-through school. At age 13, 14, 16 and at the end of each term in year 9, pupils will be able to swap routes if, after careful consideration by everyone, it is agreed to be the right thing. They will be able to swap from either route to the other.

How will teachers be trained?

The Trust is a Teaching School Alliance for the whole age range from 4-18. It trains teachers for all age groups including maths and science teachers in partnership with the University of East Anglia. The UEA is a major supporter of our plans and believes that giving trainee teachers experience across both routes of the upper phase of our Trust is the way forward. As a Teaching School, the Science Learning Partnership for Suffolk and Norfolk, the Lead School for the Institute of Physics in the region and the Computing at School hub for the area, we will also be able to offer continuous professional development to existing teachers.

How many places will there be?

- In 2019, 110 students can be admitted into Year 9 and Y12
- In 2020, 110 students can be admitted into year 9 and 100 into Y12, so that the academy has students in years 9, 10, 12 and 13
- In 2021 the Academy should be full with 110 in each of years 9, 10 and 11 and 200 across the sixth form (Y12 and Y13).

Will children on both pathways really be part of the same Trust?

Yes, absolutely. The Trust Board will set the ethos, policies and uniform. All the clubs, activities and school journeys will be for Trust pupils. Some curriculum activities will be appropriate to both and will involve shared groups. Some teachers will be employed to work on both campuses. Both sets of students will be working towards the same core group of qualifications. This is one of the reasons why the Department for Education is so excited by our project.

Will it matter which middle campus my child attends?

No. All pupils at any middle phase campus will be considered equally for both routes and the STEM Academy is open to pupils not already in the Trust. Anyway, as set out in the answer to question on routes above, we are confident that every child will get the route they want.