

# All Through the Year



## Trust Update

### Dear parents, students, staff and governors

Another busy half term for the Trust has seen Business, Mathematics and Science days together with another day in our Oxbridge programme. Alongside this, our sports partnership continues to flourish and teams from across our middle and upper phases continue to dominate at both western area and county level.

Many smaller joint activities enable pupils to work cross-phase and/or cross-campus. These broaden the extra-curricular programme and include such diverse activities as Latin, Dance, Warhammer and Photography. Across the Trust, there has been much music for Christmas with pupils coming together for some of the town's civic events.

Behind the scenes, staff continue to work together to provide a coherent curriculum and accurate assessment throughout each pupil's all-through journey. The start date for the building of our new STEM Academy grows ever closer and it is exciting to think that by Easter, construction should have begun. Discussions about state-of-the-art equipment are already well advanced and our sponsor companies are helping to design the curriculum, ready for September 2019.

In the meantime, we thank you for all your support of our work and wish you all a very happy new year.

## World Class Schools Essay Competition

The Trust was in the first group of schools nationally to be awarded this Quality Mark and so was eligible to enter this year's competition. The title was linked to democracy and the competition was judged by Churchill College, Cambridge. Nine of the entrants were awarded 'Honourable



Mention' certificates and we congratulate **Millie Perry at County Upper** on being one of them. Millie received her prize at a special ceremony in Cambridge.

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### The Business and Mathematics Day

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### The autumn Science Day

Our **regular year six day** took place in November. Pupils from across the Trust enjoyed **a day of investigations based on the theme of sweets**.



### The Sporting News

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# The Business and Mathematics Day

Pupils from **across year eight** of the Trust came to County and worked with **year ten mathematics ambassadors**. Each group comprised pupils from Horringer Court, Westley and County which allowed them to work well with students they didn't know. For the mathematics tasks, teams worked on **quick-fire starters, multiple choice questions, logic problems, functional maths investigations and**

**problem solving**. Teams were keen to see the scores after each round and there was a healthy balance between competition and collaboration.

The **business task featured the setting up of an ice cream van**. Teams looked at starting up their business by considering capital, fixed and variable costs. They even estimated the amount

of ice cream needed to fill each cone! Their work was presented orally and with large posters. Prizes were given for the most points, the best presentation and the best team-working. **Everyone participated really well** throughout and we can congratulate them all.

We thank **Mrs Ibrahim, Mrs Crichton and Miss Scott** for organising it.



# The autumn Science Day

Our **regular year six day** took place in November. Pupils from across the Trust enjoyed **a day of investigations based on the theme of sweets**. Their Physics investigation involved testing the stretching properties of different types of sweets to determine if they were elastic, plastic or brittle. In the Biology investigation they described the different tastes of sweets and explored which parts of the tongue were sensitive to each taste. Finally, in Chemistry, they planned their own investigations to find the endothermic properties of lemon sherbet. **The students demonstrated excellent investigative skills and were confidently supported by our Year 9 and Year 10 science ambassadors.**

We congratulate them all and thank all the science staff led by Mr Rande for an excellent day.



# The town's Christmas events

The Trust made another excellent contribution to the **music** for Christmas this year. The East Anglian Children's Hospices (**EACH**) held their carol service in St Edmundsbury Cathedral with performances which included **Westley's** choir and signing choir and **County's** chamber choir. At the St Edmundsbury Christmas Fayre, visitors were entertained on Angel Hill by the choirs from **Tollgate and Westley** and by **County's** Swing Band. St Mary's is the town's civic church, hosting all the main civic services throughout the year. **Horringer Court and County** both represented our Trust with carol services there. The pupils' contributions were much admired and complimented and it is always good for them to see their counterparts across the Trust perform.



## The Oxbridge Programme

Stephanie Hale and Ingrid Heggli from Oxford University visited County Upper and gave talks to **pupils in years seven, eight and nine** and to those in **years ten, eleven and twelve** to give them a flavour of what Oxford has to offer and a virtual tour. On the same day, Doctor David Bainbridge from Cambridge University continued his mentoring of our potential Oxbridge students by running a workshop for those in **year thirteen** preparing for this year's round of interviews.

## The SAT results for 2017 are published

In December the Department for Education publishes the national results for the Standard Assessment Tests taken by all year six pupils in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. **We were delighted to see that our middle phase came out so strongly.** The Trust's campuses at Horringer Court and Westley were right at the top on the headline measure out

of the fourteen schools in the area and two of only three to make the top four for both attainment and progress. We congratulate the staff and pupils at both campuses and, **especially, Horringer Court where the results were thirteen percentage points above the national average and seventeen points above the Suffolk average.**

# The Sporting News

All our weekly Trust activities have continued as well as a full programme of clubs and fixtures on our individual campuses. In this term's Western Area and Suffolk competitions, Horringer Court, Westley and County have continued with a range of impressive wins. At Trust level, of particular note are **the Connexus netball and football clubs** for players in **years seven, eight and nine**. The regular coaching is much appreciated and students enjoy coming together for the sessions. There has also been a series of **football coaching sessions** at Tollgate run by County's **sixth formers** and **two trampolining festivals** this half term. One was for pupils in **years four and five** with the other for those in **years five and six** and, as always, they were extremely well received.

**We thank the sports staff across the Trust and Mr Marshall for all the activity we enjoy.**



## Bury Abbey Rotary Young Chef Competition

The Trust hosts this annual competition at the Westley campus. Reaching the final is to be commended and finalists then have to cook a three course meal. The results are judged by superstar chef Pascal from Maison Bleue. We congratulate **Chloe Taylor** who came second and especially **Ben Templeton, also from Westley**, who won and progresses to the regional round.

