

# All Through the Year



## Trust Update

### Dear parents, students, staff and governors

It doesn't seem possible that this is our third newsletter of the academic year or, indeed, that we are half way through it. They say that busy people do better and that time flies when you are enjoying yourself; we certainly agree with both those sentiments! This half term has seen our continued relentless focus on standards, together with a mix of Trust events, all-through clubs and smaller cross-phase activities.

In this edition we have featured our annual astronomy evening, modern foreign languages day and Evening of Dance alongside some of the smaller events. As we move into the second half of the school year, we all look forward to the many, varied activities to come and thank you for your continued support in and out of the classroom.

### The Gymnastics Festivals

This term our sports focus across the primary and middle phases has been Gymnastics. In addition to their timetabled lessons, Year 4 students from Tollgate and Year 5 students from Westley and Horringer have attended two gymnastics festivals. We thank **Mrs Humphreys** for coaching and leading the events.



### Inside this issue:



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#### Trust ambassadors meet Jo Churchill, MP

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# The Trust is featured on the BBC

Throughout the day on the 30th January, the **BBC ran a feature on the arts in schools**. It followed the largest survey of arts provision in the country, the results of which demonstrated that a combination of focussing on only the core subjects and funding cuts is leading to much reduced arts provision for middle and upper phase-aged children. During the breakfast, lunch, early evening and late evening news, the Trust was featured as an example of how to buck the trend. Excerpts from the Trust's **drama festival, dance and music** featured on all the bulletins together with clips from an interview

with Mrs Neale. **The clear message given was that the Trust provides high quality education across the arts subjects whilst also excelling in the academic core**. This had been demonstrated just a few days before when performance data in the most rigorous measure across English, mathematics, science, humanities and languages was published, confirming that **County Upper is sixteen percentage points above national and almost twenty percentage points above Suffolk**. It is good to see the Trust's excellent work receive this recognition; well done everyone!



## Trust ambassadors meet Jo Churchill, MP

Across the Trust, we continue to run **gardening clubs** and older students often help younger ones to improve their green fingered skills. One **special project was instigated by Bury in Bloom and the Borough Council**. Pupils across the primary, middle and upper phases were selected to redesign the flower displays in St Olave's precinct. The pupils started with a workshop from which they designed and made permanent planters. They then selected the plants to go in them to ensure a continuous display. This half term a **special planting ceremony took place with our MP, Jo Churchill, Councillor David Nettleton and other civic dignitaries**. Students from across the Trust were invited and did an excellent job of confidently explaining their project to the guests. **We thank all who took part on being exemplary ambassadors for our Trust and congratulate them on an excellent project.**



# Astronomy in Action

In what has become an annual event, science staff from the Trust joined forces with the renowned Astrophysics department at the University of Hertfordshire to run an evening for families across our age range. This year the university brought its **large pop-up planetarium** and successfully stationed it on the County Upper astroturf. It was fully booked with **two hundred and forty visitors** and they were joined by more than a hundred other guests to enjoy the remaining activities. These included viewing the night sky through a powerful telescope, building an orrery, a star chart and a rocket, using spectroscopy and much more! The Trust's science ambassadors

were excellent all evening and much complimented by our visitors. We thank them and the science staff led by **Mr Western** for an excellent evening.



# Guten Morgen, Konichiwa, Salvete or Buenos Dias!

This year, the **Trust's language day** took place on our Westley and County campuses. At Westley, primary and middle phase pupils worked together learning some facts about **Germany**. They used iPads to complete a QR quiz and made Lebkuchen biscuits. By the end, all the pupils from Barrow and Tollgate could exchange greetings in German and hold a short conversation. We thank **Mrs Chohan-Jones, Miss Conroy and Mrs Edwards** together with the Westley pupils who study German with **Miss Ash** each week.

Meanwhile at County, middle phase pupils learnt some **Japanese, Latin and Spanish** on a carousel prepared by upper phase students who study these languages. Pupils from **Horringer**

**Court and Westley** who attend the weekly Latin club also joined their counterparts at **County** for a practice examination, ready for the first stage of their GCSE. We thank **Mr Goodchild, Mrs Browning and Mr Hopkins** for these excellent opportunities the Trust pupils enjoy.



# The Able and Talented Musicians Day

We were delighted to welcome a **team from Aldeburgh** to work with the most talented musicians in the middle phase and years nine and ten at County. The musicians had both **composition and playing workshops**. By the end of the day, the pupils had written a piece

which they then performed. **The pupils demonstrated an excellent standard and thoroughly enjoyed the day**. They were congratulated by the team from Aldeburgh who we thank, together with **Mr Jermy** our Trust Music Co-ordinator and Miss Green for making it possible.



# The Evening of Dance

The Trust's PE and Dance specialists have worked for weeks with our co-ordinator, Mrs Stoten, to prepare for this annual event. **Well over a hundred performers** created a fantastic show with all the creativity, variety, discipline and professionalism for which our dance is renowned. Every campus provided its own pieces, there were a

number of cross-phase items and the show opened and closed with Trust numbers involving every performer. The audience loved the whole evening and we congratulate all who took part. **We thank all the staff who helped and, especially, Mrs Stoten for producing such a vibrant, high-quality show.**



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## Head Students in the Community

During half term, the Head Students from County Upper and Horringer Court accepted an invitation to our Trust to meet **Lord Bristol, Chairman of the Trustees of the The Ickworth Church Conservation Trust** which was founded in 2006 by the Marquess of Bristol to restore and safeguard the church and churchyard. **Ben Amroota, Maisie Finch and Rebecca Severy** represented the Trust and met The Marquess of Bristol, together with the Reverend Christopher Griffiths, Simon Pott and other representatives from Ickworth. All three were excellent ambassadors for the Trust. We thank them together with **Mrs Kemp** who accompanied them.

