

All Through the Year



Trust Update

Dear parents, students, staff and governors

It is in this half term that our younger pupils take their KS1 and KS 2 SATs while the upper school students begin their GCSE and 'A' level examinations. We have worked hard across all our campuses to prepare our pupils well and to support them as they sit the tests. Alongside this, we have enjoyed some very successful activities. As

promised in this edition we also celebrate the excellent Trust concert which we enjoyed on the last night of last term.

After half term, we move into the final few weeks of the academic year with all the special events which always mark the end of a Trust year.

The Trust's maths team in action!

Each week the **most able mathematicians** in the middle phase of the Trust attend a special club run by **Mr Masterman** at County Upper. This half term, four pupils represented the Trust in the **regional final** of the UK Mathematics Trust's Team Challenge at the School of Mathematical Science in the University of Cambridge. The team consisted of **Lewis Palfrey** and **George Young** from Horringer Court together with **Sian Lewis** and **Peter Lillistone** from year nine at County. The team did



extremely well on a variety of tasks using their skills of problem solving, teamwork and communication. We congratulate them on reaching the regional round.

Inside this issue:



The STEM Activity Days

Four days of STEM Activity for the middle phase at our Westley Campus.



The Tennis Festival

This half term, tennis has been the featured sport across the Trust.



Warhammer Club makes the national semi-finals

The semi-finals are always held in Nottingham and, for the third consecutive year, the Trust made this stage in the competition.

The Trust Concert at The Apex



The Apex was completely sold out for this year's Trust concert. **Over two hundred pupils aged six to eighteen** did the Trust proud with a selection of songs from film and stage. The audience was treated to numbers from 'The Sound of Music', 'The Lion King', 'Matilda', James Bond movies and 'Singin' in the Rain'. All the performers filled the stage for the opening and closing numbers which were from 'Hairspray' and 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'. The whole evening was enhanced by a **specialty formed pit orchestra** from County Upper who provided live accompaniment to all the items. **We congratulate all who took part and thank all the music staff**, especially **Mr Jermy**, who co-ordinated the concert.



The Newmarket Dance Festival

Students from across the Trust achieved truly amazing results at the recent Newmarket Dance competition. In most sections students were awarded winning places with individual, duet, trio, quartet and group sections.

At the final presentation, amongst others, **Outstanding Awards** were given to many students. **Leah Barker** took the overall and senior modern awards; **Millie Cooke Wharton** the overall senior song and dance and best costume; **Megan Warnock** gained

overall intermediate modern, song and dance and musicality while **Lucy Hutchings** was the most promising dancer overall. **Holly Pryke and Megan Warnock** were the most outstanding duet while **Holly** also gained the award for the most outstanding song and dance solo. The most outstanding piece of the festival was awarded to a **Classical Character Group**, 'Titanic', where many Trust dancers came together to perform. We congratulate them all and thank **Mrs Stoten** for all she does for our Trust dancers.



The STEM Activity Days

STEM Ambassadors, together with other pupils from year nine at County Upper, led a total of **four days of STEM Activity** for the middle phase at our Westley Campus as part of its activities week. The workshop involved the Westley students racing against the clock to save humanity from a deadly virus. The activity required the Westley students to work in small groups in order to solve puzzles around the theme of viruses and vaccines which would give them codes that would allow them to unlock the padlocks on their box. Inside the box was the vaccine required to save the world. As part of the activity the students found out about the structure of viruses and the different myths surrounding them.



They also researched the history of vaccines and the different diseases that have been eradicated due to their use. **It was great to see the teamwork and problem solving skills of all the students involved and we congratulate them all.**



Sporting Successes

The netball tour to Wiltshire

The **Trust's Connexus Netball club** for girls in years seven to nine practises fortnightly as part of our Sports Partnership. This half term, girls from years eight and nine spent a long weekend in Wiltshire at a netball tournament for schools across the South of England. The girls enjoyed some outdoor activities alongside their netball. These included abseiling and aeroball. The netball matches were played on courts built to England Netball standards and officiated by England Netball. At the end of the weekend, **our Connexus team were runners-up**, and we **congratulate the girls** and **thank Miss Vincent and Miss Bloomfield** for making it possible.



The Academy Basketballers end the season at the top

Basketball remains very strong across the Trust and we are very grateful to **Coach Johnson** for all the time he puts in and for his evident expertise. Our Trust sides **dominated the Suffolk Championships** across the middle and upper phase age ranges. In the upper

phase, the U15 girls' team went on to East of England success, the elite U19 Academy side were unbeaten all season and the U16 boys' squad finished **third in the country at the national finals** in the new Manchester Performance Centre. **We congratulate them all.**



The Tennis Festival

This half term, tennis has been the **featured sport** across the Trust. This culminated in a tennis festival at County Upper for pupils from Tollgate, Horringer Court and Westley with sports leaders from the upper phase. It was an excellent event enjoyed by all and we thank **Mr Marshall** for running it.



Our Science Learning Partnership makes the news

As well as being a **Teaching School**, we also **run the Department for Education's Science Learning Partnership**, training teachers across Suffolk and Norfolk. This half term we learned that our funding for this will be significantly increased to reflect how successful we have been. This, of course, **benefits the Trust** as it enables us to be fully staffed, with teachers receiving high quality training. We **congratulate Dr Hanfrey** who leads

the Science Learning Partnership.

The Partnership was also invited to provide all the science training at the **Festival of Education** held at West Suffolk College at the beginning of term. **Dr Hanfrey** and **Mrs Tunstill** took part together with **Mr Western** and **Mrs Payne**, both of whom were featured on local television, together with renowned scientist Dr Emily Grossman whom we brought to the event.



Warhammer Club makes the national semi-finals

The semi-finals are always held in Nottingham and, for the third consecutive year, the Trust made this stage in the competition. The Trust club is for middle and upper phase pupils and meets weekly at our Westley campus. The team was selected from across the members and the competitors were excellent ambassadors for the Trust. We congratulate them and **thank Mr Lloyd** for organising the club.

