

All Through the Year



Trust Update

Dear parents, students, staff and governors

It is hard to believe that Christmas and the longest term are now behind us. The first of this year's Trust-wide assessments have been completed and we are delighted that the overwhelming majority of pupils are on-track with their learning. The results will be shared with parents and carers early this term so that we can continue to work together to help all our pupils reach their potential.

The curriculum has again been enriched with cross-phase activities, large and small. The main events last half term included a drama day, a science day, a maths/business day, a poetry day and

an elite sports performance day. Extra-curricular activity was equally strong with a number of our campuses sharing music performances in the town; regular drama events, Latin lessons, and, of course, a full sporting programme.

We were delighted to see so many families at our recent middle phase open events and there is still time to meet us before the application form is due on the 15th January, so do feel free to contact us. For those already associated with our Trust, we thank you for all the support you give to the Trust and wish you all a very happy new year.

Inside this issue:



The Poetry Day

This year we welcomed a **new performance poet** to this established event. **Joshua Seigal** is a published poet who includes anthologies for children among his works.



'Private Peaceful'

Year seven students enjoyed a special **drama day at Horringer Court**. The day was based on 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo, a famous novel based on the First World War.



The visit to the University of Essex

Able and talented PE pupils from across years seven, eight and nine travelled to the **High Performance Centre in Colchester**.

The Sports Report

Our **All-Through PE programme** has continued with all our weekly clubs and activities along with regular coaching in **basketball, football, handball and netball**. This half-term's festivals have been in **trampolining** and **years three and four** have had a six week block of trampolining sessions after school at County Upper in preparation for showing their moves at the festival. We thank the

PE team across the Trust for another excellent half term.



'Private Peaceful'

Year seven students enjoyed a special **drama day** at **Horringer Court**. The day was based on 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo, a famous novel based on the First World War and featuring a boy who is on its front lines, and a childhood remembered. Chiming perfectly with the centenary of the end of the War, our Trust's Director of Performing Arts led the day which saw the pupils devise and present pieces based on the novel. **The pupils engaged superbly** with all the activities and produced some excellent work. We congratulate them and **thank Miss Lacey** for making it possible.



Music in the Community

Choirs and ensembles across the Trust have played their part in **our town's Christmas celebrations**. During the weekend of the **Christmas Fayre**, the Tollgate and Westley choirs together with County's Swing Band entertained the crowds from the stage on Angel Hill and were much complimented. The annual **EACH carol service** took place in St Edmundsbury Cathedral and included well-received performances from Westley's choir and signing choir and County's Chamber choir. County's choirs and brass ensemble and musicians from Horringer Court represented the Trust with **carol services at St Mary's**, the town's civic church. Horringer's Choir also performed for charity at the request of Tesco's and entertained the residents of Glastonbury Court while Tollgate's sixty-strong choir also entertained residents at **Manson House** and patients at **Newmarket Community Hospital**.

We congratulate all who took part and thank the music staff across the Trust for providing both these performance opportunities and chances for pupils to see their Trust counterparts in performance. We look forward to our whole **Trust concert** at The Apex in March.



The Poetry Day

This year we welcomed a new **performance poet** to this established event. **Joshua Seigal** is a published poet who includes anthologies for children among his works. He visits schools across the country to encourage pupils to appreciate poetry, to write their own poems and, in so doing, to learn about techniques and figures of speech in an entertaining way. **Eighty students**

from years seven, eight and nine came together to work in mixed groups writing and performing poems as well as enjoying Mr Seigal's readings. The final pieces – love poems to favourite foods – were a fitting end to a great day. **Well done to all who took part and we thank the English teachers** across the Trust, led by **Mrs Lewis**, for providing this opportunity.



The visit to the University of Essex

Able and talented PE pupils from across years seven, eight and nine travelled to the **High Performance Centre in Colchester**. Here they learnt about how performance is measured and improved. Each pupil underwent a series of fitness tests and received an individual report on their current levels of fitness and how to improve on these. The group was also fortunate to use the new thirteen million pound sports hall at the university. All the students made the most of the opportunity and were a pleasure to take. We **thank Mr Marshall and Mr Snelling** for the day.



The termly science day

This term's day was for pupils in **year six** across our middle phase who worked together at County on a '**Mousetrap-style challenge**.' Pupils needed to use their understanding of forces and electrical circuits to complete a 'chain reaction' which started with a ball on a slope and culminated in a candle being lit. Throughout the day pupils were helped by **year nine STEM Ambassadors** at County who did an excellent job. The younger pupils worked with interest, enthusiasm and skill to complete the challenge. We **thank the science staff**, especially **Mrs Bradfield and Mr Rande**, who in turn congratulate all who took part.



World Class Schools' Success

The Trust was awarded World Class School status in the first group of schools to receive the designation and, as such, is eligible to enter its annual essay competition, launched in 2016. Following our success in each of the last two years, we were delighted that **Emily Jones in year ten was the national winner** and **Aaron Saenz de Villaverde** was one of nine other entrants chosen to receive an '**honourable mention**' at a national awards evening in London. **Eight year ten students** from County were chosen to host the event and were excellent ambassadors for the Trust. Well done, everyone!



The mathematics/business day

Pupils from across **year eight** came together at County to demonstrate their entrepreneurial skills and to consolidate their recent work in mathematics. This took the form of a quiz with mixed teams from Horringer Court and Westley working through a series of rounds. These included quick-fire starts, logic problems, problem solving, multiple choice questions and functional maths investigations. Our **sixth form Captains of Mathematics** marked each round and provided the cumulative scores which served to increase the element of competition and a number of teams remained very close through to the bitter end!

The business element of the day gave

teams a choice of two activities. Either they looked to **run a fundraiser or to set up an ice cream van**. Teams looked at starting up their business by considering factors such as capital outlay and their fixed and variable costs. Each group gave a presentation aided by posters they had made and there were prizes for the most points, the best team-working and the best presentation.

Throughout the day, **year ten mathematics ambassadors** from County supported the year eight pupils and everyone involved was a real credit to the Trust. We congratulate them all and thank **Mrs Ibrahim, Mrs Crichton and Miss Scott** for arranging the day.

