

All Through the Year



Trust Update

Dear parents, students, staff and governors

We were very pleased to welcome Mr Kearns as Head of School at Westley in September. Mr Kearns is hugely experienced and shares our passion for all-through education in three phases. Pupils across the age range have settled very well to their new year groups and our new uniforms look very smart. Subject teams across the Trust have already met to ensure that the curriculum and assessment for all our pupils operates smoothly and that every child can make the best possible progress.

Already this term, alongside all the regular cross-campus activity, we have enjoyed an all-through poetry day; the Trust drama festival at the Theatre Royal; a Rainforest Day; the second part of our Model United Nations Conference and some special PE days.

This edition focuses on these events.

For pupils in our Trust, parents do not need to worry about the next steps in their children's education. Our system enables them to move easily and confidently between the phases. However, for parents in other systems, the route is not as clear and this term involves decision about which school to select next. We are always happy to welcome parents to our Open Events and to show them around any of our campuses. Our website, www.burytrust.org is a good place to start and contains all the details you need.

We wish everybody a good half term break and look forward to an exciting second half with much to enjoy before Christmas.

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The Rainforest Experience

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Clubs, Clubs, Clubs!

A strong extra-curricular offering remains at the heart of the Trust vision and there are over a 100 clubs a week in the upper phase alone.



A Sporting Half-Term

Our **All-Through Trust Sports Partnership** continues to be very well-regarded by the Department for Education and sports organisations.

World Class Schools' Quality Mark

The Trust was in the **first eight schools in the country** to be awarded this status which awards a quality mark to **state schools that offer the**

best education to young people in the UK. We remain proud to have the award five years on and strive to ensure that we offer the best in all we do.

The Rainforest Experience

Pupils from across the **middle phase** joined with pupils from **Tollgate at Horringer Court** for the first of this year's subject days. The focus was the **geography of the forest** and reinforced and extended the curriculum. Pupils looked at the different layers of the forest, examining the types of habitats and the animals which are found there. Having increased their knowledge, pupils then worked in mixed groups

to prepare **posters and diagrams** of the animals, their habitats and how they contribute to the rainforest. Each group then used their material as part of their **presentation** to everyone. **At the end of the day, there was some superb work and we congratulate all who took part.** We thank **Mrs Bateman, Mrs Kemp and Mr Whitwell** for organising and running this event.



National Poetry Day

To celebrate this day, we were delighted to welcome back **performance poet, Joshua Seigal**. Pupils from **all four campuses** spent the day at County Upper with Mr Seigal who is highly regarded as a professional poet, performer and educator who uses poetry to develop literacy skills, confidence and creativity in communication. As a **National Poetry Day ambassador**, he was well placed to work on this year's theme

of 'Truth'. Throughout the day, **pupils worked in groups on their own poems and gave presentations, interspersed with contributions from Mr Seigal**. At the end, he took questions about his life and how he became a poet. Everyone really enjoyed the day and **Mr Seigal was full of compliments**. We thank **Mrs Dowsing and Miss Stannard** for organising it and the **English staff across the Trust** for their work before and on the day.

"Make Your Mark"

This is a national ballot for 11-18 year olds arranged through schools and other youth organisations to give young people a chance to decide what Members of the **Youth Parliament** consider this academic year.

Captains of Politics at County Upper ensured that pupils from year seven upwards had the chance to vote. Our past involvement has led to a **national award** for the number of pupils involved and we maintained our high participation rate. The top issues were the environment as the national issue, mental health as the devolved issue and transport for under 18s as the local issue.

We thank all who took part and congratulate the sixth form for leading it.



The Trust Drama Festival

This year's festival at the **Theatre Royal** took place just before half term. The theme was **'Future 2020'** and each campus devised its own pieces with support from Hayley Murrow and Katie Wright at the Theatre. Katie is a former Trust pupil and we were delighted to be working with her. The **pieces were devised in extra-curricular drama time and culminated in a day's workshop at the theatre.** The younger pupils gained hugely from seeing what the older students can do while for the

older ones it was an excellent chance to practise their leadership skills. **Over a hundred pupils from across our age range** gave a thoughtful and entertaining glimpse into our future and our relationship with technology in particular, all skilfully woven together by four narrators from the upper phase. **We congratulate all who took part and thank all the trust staff led by Mrs Lacey** for an excellent project and a performance that was thoroughly enjoyed by a large audience.



The Model United Nations Conference

Pupils from the **middle and upper phases** had their first experience of this event in July when they learned how the United Nations operate and spent a day practising being delegates. This half term, the pupils reconvened at County and spent a day following the format of an actual conference in New York. All the pupils

dressed smartly for the occasion and participated in a number of planned and emergency debates following UN protocol. **The sixth formers at County did an excellent job of leading the day and the younger pupils responded magnificently.** We congratulate them all and **thank the staff led by Ms Rehahn** who organised it.



Clubs, Clubs, Clubs!

A strong extra-curricular offering remains at the heart of the Trust vision and there are over a 100 clubs a week in the upper phase alone. One of the many advantages of our all-through approach is that it offers the chance for pupils to work across a bigger age range

and for the older ones to develop their leadership skills. Already this term, in addition to the many **sports clubs, Trust drama, gardening and Latin clubs** are already well established and pupils are very enthusiastic participants. We thank all the staff involved.



A Sporting Half-Term

Our **All-Through Trust Sports Partnership** continues to be very well-regarded by the Department for Education and sports organisations. A mix of **action days and clubs** have permeated the half term and the **whole of year three and year eight** have already had a great day. **Year 3 worked with Horringer Court dancers to choreograph a short dance.** Each group was led by the Horringer Court pupils and choreographed a short section before putting them together to create a class piece. Meanwhile **year eight** were able to **play handball, experience basketball with a professional coach, try trampolining on a full sized trampoline and, after some Zumba and dance practice, prepare and perform their own haku** to coincide with the rugby world cup.

The Trust has also been reaccredited with the School Games Mark from the Department for Education. County, Horringer and Westley have retained their gold mark, the highest level, while Tollgate has moved up to bronze/silver. This recognises our commitments to ensuring competition across the age range and is testament to our commitment to both collaboration and competition. **We thank all the PE staff** for the quality and quantity of sport we enjoy.

