

Trust Newsletter

Term 1 | 2024/25



PLUS | Celebrating STARS • Eco Awards • Open Days

Working together to build a community of successful learners

Inclusivity • Dignity • Respect • Ambition

In This Issue

A Message from the Chief Executive	03
Trust News	04
Deanwood Primary School	08
<i>Adventures at Carroty Wood and an update on Mr Slack's Reading Garden</i>	
Thames View Primary School.....	09
<i>Adventures at PGL and learning life saving CPR</i>	
Miers Court Primary School	10
<i>Celebrating multiple wins at The Rainham Community Awards and the launch of STARS</i>	
Temple Mill Primary School.....	11
<i>Learning about community roles, Gladiators Ready and Micro Habitats</i>	
Hurstmere School.....	12
<i>Welcome to the Trust, Christmas Concert, Coffee and Charity</i>	
Waterfront UTC	13
<i>Board Meeting, Students take on Moon Base Challenge and British Army Personal Development Day</i>	
The Abbey School.....	14
<i>Students Art exhibition, the launch of the Golf Academy, the votes are in for House Council and Student Voice</i>	
The Howard School	15
<i>Visits to Paris and Krakow, Green School Award win and students success</i>	

A Message from our Chief Executive

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues,

Hello and a warm welcome to the THAT Newsletter, celebrating our first term of this academic year. I hope everyone has had a fantastic start to their year and is looking forward to what lies ahead.

We have had a wonderfully positive start to the year with the addition of a new school. I am sure everyone will join me in welcoming the staff and pupils of Hurstmere School to the Trust.

I would also like to offer a warm welcome to our members of staff who have joined the central team and those who have joined our schools. We are delighted to have you with us.

We have had our first Pupil Parliament session of the year, held at our head office at Waterfront UTC. This is always one of my favourite events, as I get to meet and speak to passionate and forward-thinking pupils from across our Trust schools. This lively session was heavily focused on inclusivity and environmental impact, and many fantastic ideas were shared on how the Trust can implement changes across every school. I look forward to meeting with this year's representatives again and showcase how we are bringing their ideas to life across the Trust.

The Trust recognised World Mental Health Day at our Central Services office with a Tea and Chat event which included a body scan meditation. Thank you to the members of staff who baked homemade cakes and cookies and to Kaye who ran the body scan session.

It has been wonderful to see our schools enriching their pupils' learning with incredible local visits, trips abroad, activity days and involvement with their global and local communities, including participating in multiple community awards and

welcoming exchange students to their schools. This leads me to recognise and offer congratulations to Miers Court School for its multiple award wins at the Rainham Community Awards in September. The Years 5's won the Young Eco Creators Best Product Award with their Bird Feeders made from recycled plastic bottles, and the school won in the Young Eco Creative School of the Year. Outstanding work made even more special by another win of the Environmental and Sustainability Shield. We are all incredibly proud of your work and achievements.

Our eco-warrior pupils don't stop there, and I would like to extend my congratulations to The Howard School for their Green School Award 2024 win. The Howard School has been recognised for making a real difference to the environment, but which award have they won? We will all find out at the awards ceremony in November. I hope you have a wonderful time celebrating your achievement.

Once again, we have seen a fantastic turnout for Open Evenings across the Trust, with record numbers of parents attending, excited for their children to join our schools. A huge thank you to the staff and pupils who welcomed the families and took the time to showcase your school's facilities, achievements and curriculum. We look forward to welcoming these new pupils and their families in the next academic year.

Thank you to our staff for their hard work this term, and I look forward to sharing more news with you in the coming months.

Best wishes,

O McColgan

Owen McColgan
Chief Executive



SHORTLISTED 2024



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Trust executive team of the year

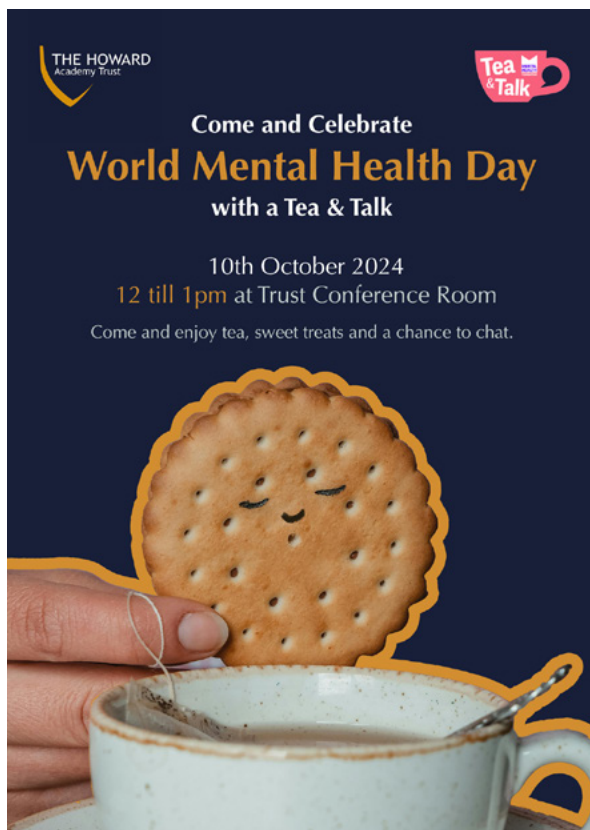
Central Team News

World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day is celebrated every year on 10th October and this year's theme is Workplace Mental Health. The theme highlights the importance of addressing mental health and wellbeing in the workplace, so today, let's take a moment to check in with our friends, family, peers, or colleagues.

This World Mental Health Day, we thought it would be nice for the central team to come together to talk about mental health and why it matters. We hosted a 'Tea and Chat' session at our head office with homemade cakes and cookies and one of our colleagues ran a body scan and breath work meditation session to help staff find ways to find calm and release anxiety.

Talking about our mental health can help us cope better with life's ups and downs. Please remember that your mental health matters, and there is support for everyone within the Trust, your schools and outside of work if you need it.



Central Team News

Pupil Parliament

On Tuesday 1st October 2024, Waterfront UTC hosted the Trust's first Pupil Parliament of this academic year and welcomed our newest members. Two pupil representatives from each of our eight schools met with the Trust's Chief Executive Owen McColgan and Director of Primary Education Barry Symons to discuss important topics that they feel impact their time at school.

The environmental impact of their schools was very much the hot topic of the Pupil Parliament, with every one of the students raising that they would like to see more ways to help the environment and make less waste. Ideas flew across the meeting room, from separating recycling bins and growing/composting food to energy-saving techniques and even litter-picking incentives to be applied at their schools.

Another much-discussed idea was for more shared activities and inclusion within our academies, including the idea that clubs could be shared across all eight academies so that every pupil could have a go at a sport they might not have access to otherwise, and to make sure all areas of the school are accessible to those with disabilities.

It was a lively session, and every pupil was engaged, sharing and offering advice to each other and to the senior leaders of the Trust with the unified goal of making a positive impact on their education, their school and their peers.

We look forward to hosting the next meeting to share these improvements with the Pupil Parliament.



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Working collaboratively with you as an individual or as an organisation to understand your goals, aspirations and challenges.

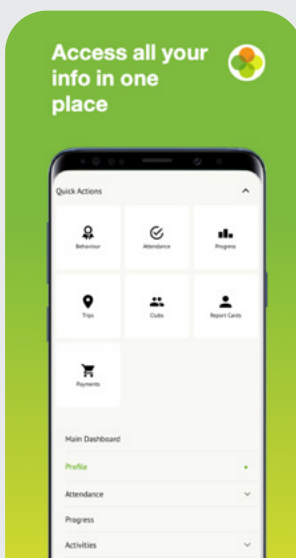
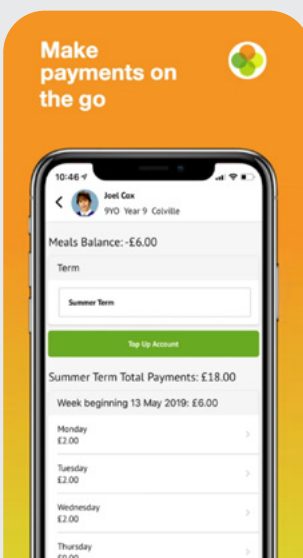
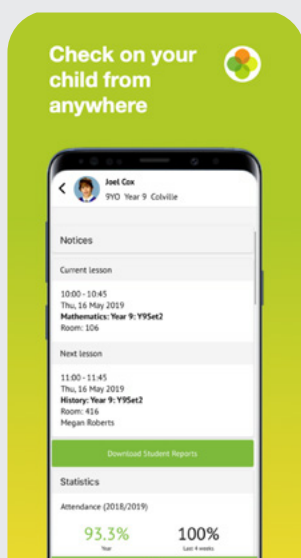
We provide a broad range of support from wills to clinical negligence, to employment law and property transactions.

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Year 6 Adventures at Carroty Wood

Our year 6 pupils had a brilliant time at Carroty Wood where they took part in many fantastic outdoor activities, including climbing, blindfolded go-carts, archery, raft building and high ropes.

Throughout the trip, the pupils learnt about teamwork and trust as well as challenging themselves to explore their strengths as well as their physical and problem-solving skills, whilst having a lot of fun.

We are so proud of what the pupils have learnt and achieved on this trip.



Mr Slack's Reading Garden

We're really excited to see Mr Slack's reading garden space take shape and we are very grateful for the hard work of Rob from the Trust site team who has been working tirelessly over the last few weeks.

We are so proud to see the project coming together and we can't wait for the pupils to be able to use this space soon. We will keep the school and Trust updated as the project moves along.





PGL Adventures

Year 6 has been on a fantastic adventure at PGL Windmill Hill. Pupils enjoyed abseiling, survival training, giant paddle boarding, fencing, rifle shooting and archery to name just a few!

Spending quality time with friends, enjoying lovely food and braving the mixture of weather, the class returned tired but inspired.



Learning CPR

Our Year 5 have been learning the vital skill of CPR from officers from Medway hospital. The pupils leapt into action learning chest compressions and much more.

We believe learning CPR and basic life support is crucial as anyone can save a life, including kids, and it looks like we have amazing lifesavers at our school!



Wins at The Rainham Community Awards

We are delighted to announce that Miers Court Primary School won three awards at the Rainham Community Awards in September.

The judges recognised the breadth of eco activities that we do here at the school, from litter-picking, recycling and tree planting and our Walk to School initiative and uniform shop, by awarding us the "Environment and Sustainability Shield".

Year 5s won the "Young Eco Creative School of the Year" for their amazing art, DT and poetry alongside yet another win, the "Young Eco Creators Best Product Award" for their recycled plastic bottle bird feeders.



*"I was excited on Saturday night as I thought we might win one award... but we won **THREE** awards in a row! I felt a jolt of excitement hit me!"*

Follow us on @mierscourtthat



The launch of STARS - New School Values

On 18th October, Miers Court Primary School launched their new school values! The children have been so excited and enthusiastic about our special words that bring us together as a school community, forever shining bright and aiming high!

Self-belief
Togetherness
Aspiration
Resilience
Success

You'll notice the first letter of each word spells out STARS, linking perfectly with our motto "Shining Bright, Aiming High". We look forward to living these values in every day and in every part of our school.



Pupils have fun learning about their community

Butterfly class have been learning about the important people who help in our community.

We focused on the roles of doctors and nurses and the police, and were delighted to find out that the class was full of aspiring health professionals and police officers!

The children fully embraced their roles, from writing statements to fingerprinting their "suspects" to creating X-rays and making sure everyone was up to date on the vaccinations!

It's safe to say that our classroom would have been the perfect place to be if you were feeling a little bit unwell or needed a mystery solved!



Gladiators Ready!

Our Year 2s enjoyed a theme day linked to their learning about Romans. They had a Roman numeral maths lesson, looked at the Roman alphabet, made bookmarks from wood, had a go at mosaic making, a gladiator teddy battle and finished our day with a chariot race on the playground.

The children also had a feast of dormice (chocolate mice) and slugs (marshmallows) with glasses of wine (apple juice)!

Micro Habitats, Big Learning!

Year 2 have been creating micro habitats for worms, slugs and snails as part of their learning in science. The children used natural materials found around our grounds and were very excited to see that a snail had already moved in!





Welcome to Hurstmere

We are incredibly excited to welcome Hurstmere School, staff and pupils to The Howard Academy Trust this year. Hurstmere is a non-selective secondary school for boys based in Sidcup, Kent.

With a strong sense of community and vision, the pupils at Hurstmere 'Believe and Achieve' to be the best they can be. The school offers a host of extracurricular activities, including fully equipped TV and music studios, beekeeping, Lego club, Rugby club and nationally successful football teams. Pupils can find and develop a large range of skills to help them excel and progress in their educational journey and beyond.

Principal Lynn Bennett and her staff are committed to building a strong home and school partnership encouraging a collaborative and inclusive community inside and outside the school. From charity fundraising to lifting student voices, Lynn and her staff strive for every pupil to receive the very best learning experience at their school and encourage every pupil to embrace learning both in and beyond the classroom.

With such shared values, it is easy to see why Hurstmere is a wonderful addition to our community, and we look forward to working with everyone at the school.

Christmas Preparations

Our Year 7 are getting into the Christmas spirit and have been at rehearsals for this year's Christmas Concert in December.

The students always enjoy the Christmas Concert, and we can not wait to welcome families to this year's festivities.



Coffee and Charity

Thanks to all those who attended and supported our Macmillan coffee morning in September.

Your continuous support and fundraising efforts make a huge difference to people whose lives are affected by cancer.

We look forward to running this event next year.



Board Meeting Success

We wish to say a special thanks to employers from Alltask Limited, FM Conway Ltd, BAE Systems, CITB, Knauf and Gallagher Group who attended our board meeting.

We're very thankful for the dedication and commitments provided by our supporting employer partners and we look forward to witnessing the continued progression from these meetings to help build a brighter and better future for the young people of today.



Going for the Moon!

A team of our Year 13 students recently took the opportunity to take part in the DSTL Callisto Moon Base challenge. This activity was launched to a number of UTCs across the UK and teams competed for the top spot in creating a moon base on the second largest moon of Jupiter.

There were multiple areas students had to consider such as crew members, water, energy and food supply, microgravity, the weight of materials to transport and various other factors. They were given a maximum payload of 10,000 kg and could only use current or developing technologies to assist their mission.

Our team used CAD drawings as well as a 3D model to capture the specifics of their design to assist their presentation and we're very proud of the hard work and effort students put into this project.



British Army Personal Development Day



We welcomed The British Army at UTC this term who delivered a series of physical activities for all of our year 12 students. Students took part in multiple exercises which challenged their soft skills such as communication, problem solving and team work.

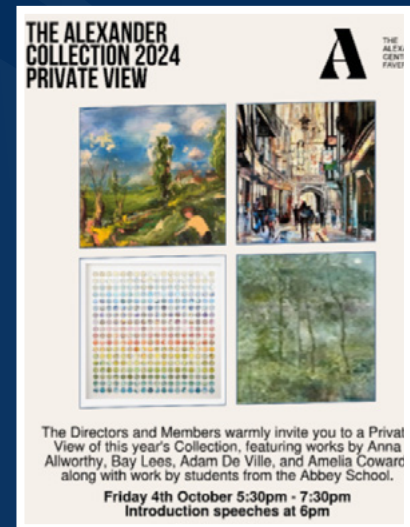
Despite some students being a bit anxious, all students persevered and did extremely well working together in their teams. They all demonstrated a high level of determination and enthusiasm throughout the activity and it was such a positive impact to our students.

Art Exhibition

A huge congratulations to those pupils from The Abbey School who have their artwork displayed as part of The Alexander Collection at The Alexander Centre.

The Alexander Collection is shown in The Alexander Centre in Faversham, Kent, home to a Community Interest Company. The art work has been produced by professional artists, many of whom live locally. The Collection is now in its fifth year.

This fantastic exhibition is on display for the rest of the year, so make sure you get an opportunity to see the works.



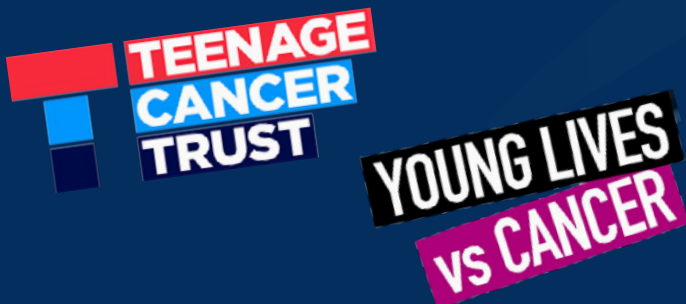
Golf Academy Launch

As of September 2025, we will be offering students the chance to join the Faversham Golf Academy. Faversham Golf Academy offers a unique post 16 education programme offering competitive golf to both boys and girls.

The programme incorporates full time education, with a built-in golf development programme. Our programme is fully funded, allowing everyone to access the game of golf.

House Council

The Council met in September and discussed a number of topics, including new projects, anti-bullying strategies and new charities to support (Teenage Cancer Trust and Young Lives vs Cancer).



Student Voice

We recently held our Student Voice elections and wish to give a big congratulations to our new Deputy Head of Pioneer, Lexzi Brocklebank.

Welcome also to Sophie H, Tallulah K and Ellie B, who have become part of the student voice and will represent their form at house councils.

It was fantastic to see so many applications from students wanting to become part of the student voice and represent their peers, it was hard to pick winners!



We've won a Green School Award 2024!

We are thrilled to announce that The Howard School has been recognised for making a real difference to the environment! A huge thank you to our incredible students and staff who have worked so hard on our eco-projects.

We'll be heading to the awards ceremony on Friday 29th November at the Ashford International Hotel to receive our award, and we can't wait to share more about our project with everyone there!



Mission Chaos!

A massive well done to an incredible 53 of our students whose work has been published in Mission Chaos!

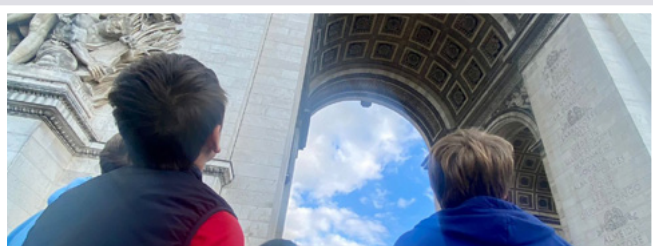
This fantastic anthology showcases the creativity and talent of young writers, and we couldn't be prouder of our winners!

Their hard work and imagination truly shine through in every piece. Let's celebrate this amazing achievement together!

Oo la la, Paris

Despite the rain, students embraced the charm of Paris, with visits to the majestic Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, alongside a VIP experience of Montparnasse.

Students walked in the footsteps of legendary artists like Monet, Matisse, and Picasso, witnessed a World War II parade, marvelled at breathtaking views and enjoyed delicious meals.





Celebrating Student Success



Meet ZM from Year 8, who has become a Jujitsu Instructor after an incredible 7 years of dedication and commitment.

He's been promoted to the adults group, having completed all his grades a remarkable 3 years ahead of schedule! An amazing achievement.



Continuing with our celebration of student success outside of school, we're thrilled to congratulate Jack! This summer marked his first season playing cricket for a team, and he's already making waves!

Jack was awarded Best Bowler for his level by his team, Rainham Cricket Club, and also claimed the title of Best Bowler in Medway by the league!



We love celebrating our students' success stories beyond the classroom, and actively encourage parents and students to inform us of their achievements!

A huge well done to Kian for being awarded Student of the Month at his Jujitsu club!

Keep up the brilliant work.

History Lived in Krakow

Our pupils explored the rich culture and profound historical significance of Krakow, Poland which included a powerful visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau, that has left a lasting impact on all who visited.

Despite a few challenges, including some late-arriving luggage, the students showed great remarkable resilience, adaptability and enthusiasm, embracing the city's history, culture and cuisine.



Join our team

The Howard Academy Trust's aim and vision is for our member schools to work together to build a community of successful learners, and to deliver an outstanding education for children and young people. To ensure that we can provide this, we pride ourselves in our ability to deliver the support that you need to progress in your career in a way that best suits you.

We welcome new staff and ECTs into our seven academies in all subjects and key stages, and provide a community which allows for collaboration and the building of a strong and supportive teaching network. The Howard Academy Trust values employees who work for our organisation and can offer a variety of support, as well as opportunities to progress in your

career with access to Middle and Senior Leadership Courses, role specific training courses for associate staff, and career stage CPD.

We also recognise that your life extends past the workplace and offer an Employee Assistance Programme, flu jabs and health checks at the workplace, subsidised gym membership and regular Mental Health and Wellbeing afternoons.

If you would like to get in touch, to discuss working with us, or how we can support your entry into teaching, you can click the link below. For more information about our ECT offer, visit: <https://www.thatrust.org.uk/learntoteach>



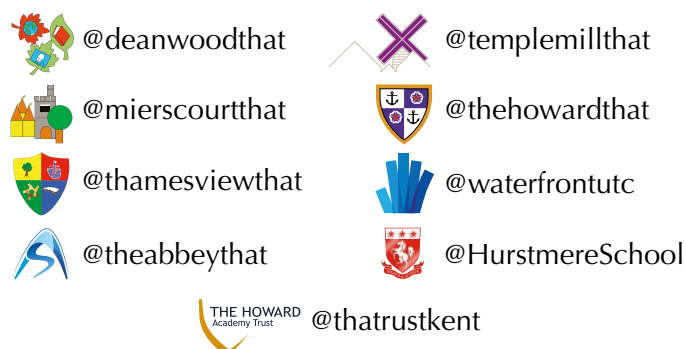
Find Us Online

To keep up to date with everything that takes place within our academies, you can follow us online on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Use the handles to the right when searching for our individual school socials. You can also find THAT on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/thatrustkent

Hire Our Facilities

Did you know that many of our facilities are available to hire outside of school hours? We have a variety of classrooms, school halls, sports hall & gym facilities, dance studios, drama studios, conference rooms and football pitches available, and accept bookings on weekday evenings and weekends!

To see a full list of the facilities available, to check availability and book a location, visit: <https://thatrust.schoolhire.co.uk/>





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FOOTBALL CLUB

#FORWARDTOGETHER



Established in 2014, our club takes pride in being an integral part of the football community in Medway and Kent.

As a two-star FA Accredited Club, we offer football opportunities for all ages, starting from three years old up to adults.

Our offerings range from soccer schools to adults and vets teams.



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*Working together to build a
community of successful learners*



Our Academies

