

Trust Newsletter

Term 3 | 2024/25



Welcome to
The Rowans
AP Academy

PLUS | Young Voices • Twist & Pulse • Pupil Parliament • And More!

Working together to build a community of successful learners

Inclusivity • Dignity • Respect • Ambition

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A Message from our Chief Executive

Dear Parents, Carers, and Colleagues,

Welcome to the latest edition of The Howard Academy Trust's newsletter, where we celebrate the achievements from our third term this academic year.

This term, we are delighted to welcome The Rowans AP Academy to The Howard Academy Trust. We are excited to have the staff and students join our community, and I know everyone will extend a warm welcome as we work together to continue the Trust's success.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our newly appointed Governors. Your wealth of expertise and knowledge is a tremendous asset, and we look forward to collaborating with you as we move forward.

This term has been incredibly productive for The Howard Academy Trust, with lots happening across all our schools and within the Central Team. We held our second Pupil Parliament at Waterfront UTC, which is always one of the most rewarding events for me. I had the privilege of meeting and engaging with the passionate and driven pupils from across the Trust.

A special congratulations to DW from The Howard School Kent (Year 9), who was elected as Chairperson by his peers. He led a fantastic focus group, setting the direction for the Parliament moving forward.

We are incredibly proud of the collaborative spirit shown by all participants, and we look forward to the positive changes that will come as a result of their hard work.

Our schools continue to enrich our students' learning through exciting experiences, including guest visitors from the worlds of media, sports, and entertainment, alongside school trips, visits and cultural experiences that enhance the education provision we offer. These experiences are at the heart of what makes our Trust so special creating opportunities for students to thrive academically, socially, and personally.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all our staff for their tireless commitment and dedication. Working together we see the strength of our community, and I look forward to sharing more exciting updates in the months ahead.

Best wishes,

O McColgan

Owen McColgan
Chief Executive



Nominations are open



Kent Teacher of the Year recognises the critical role that educators and school staff play in shaping the future of children. Deadline 28th Feb 2025

Place your vote today

Central Team News

A warm welcome to The Rowans AP Academy

We are excited to welcome The Rowans AP Academy staff and pupils to The Howard Academy Trust this February.

The Rowans AP Academy is an Ofsted Outstanding Alternative Provision focused on nurturing educational provision that supports young people facing challenges in conventional education or life traumas based in Medway, Kent.

Through a trauma-informed approach and core values of kindness, commitment, and resilience, the school helps pupils re-engage with learning and make positive life choices.

The academy offers a personalised curriculum, tailored interventions, and cultural activities to ensure academic success and personal development.

Pupils work towards meaningful qualifications and are encouraged to contribute positively to their communities.

With a strong emphasis on positive relationships, inclusive practices, and holistic family support, The Rowans provides a safe and supportive environment for pupils to thrive and change the direction of their lives.

The school also has a small special educational needs primary provision for 24 children, which opened in September 2024.

With such outstanding commitments to their pupils' development both inside and outside the classroom, it is easy to see why The Rowans is a wonderful addition to our Trust community, and we look forward to working with everyone at the school.



Vacancies Spotlight

Teacher of English

Hurstmere School is seeking a passionate and talented Teacher of English to join their dynamic English Department, in a full-time, permanent role.

What We're Looking For:

- An enthusiastic, talented, and passionate Teacher of English
- Committed to excellence in teaching and learning
- Have an unwavering commitment towards our pupils and staff

Why Join Us?

- Competitive salary and benefits inc £5,000 Golden Hello
- Well-being and Lifestyle support and perks
- Exciting career development opportunities

[More details](#) | [Apply here](#)



Hurstmere School

Teacher of English
Close date: 21st Feb 2025
Salary: Outer London STPC MPS

Plus £5k Golden Hello!

THE HOWARD Academy Trust

Teacher of Science

Waterfront UTC is hiring a passionate Science Teacher to join their dynamic team from January 2025. This full-time role offers a £5,000 recruitment incentive and great career development prospects. Ideal for experienced or early career teachers.

What We're Looking For:

- Dedicated to delivering excellence and driving student success
- Forward-thinking and focused teaching for every student
- Have an ambitious vision for our school pupils and staff

Why Join Us?

- Competitive salary and benefits inc £5,000 Golden Hello
- Be part of a small and personable school with big ideas
- Exciting career development opportunities

[More details](#) | [Apply here](#)



Waterfront UTC

Teacher of Science
Close date: 24th Feb 2025
Salary: STPC MPS/UPS/UNQ

Plus £5k Golden Hello!

THE HOWARD Academy Trust

Head of Engineering

Waterfront UTC is seeking a dynamic and passionate Head of Engineering to lead our thriving Engineering Department. This is a unique opportunity to shape the future of our specialist subject and make an impact to student development.

What We're Looking For:

- Enthusiastic about engineering and it's future developments
- Committed to excellence in teaching and learning
- Ready to inspire students and staff through effective leadership

Why Join Us?

- Competitive salary and benefits inc £5,000 Golden Hello
- Be part of a small and personable school with big ideas
- Exciting career development opportunities

[More details](#) | [Apply here](#)



Waterfront UTC

Head of Engineering
Close date: 24th Feb 2025
Salary: STPC MPS/UPS & TLR2a (£8,279)

Plus £5k Golden Hello!

THE HOWARD Academy Trust

Central Team News

Pupil Parliament

Our latest Pupil Parliament meeting was held on Tuesday, 28th January at Waterfront UTC, and it proved to be both engaging and productive!

Two pupil representatives from each of our eight Academies met for the second time this academic year with the Trust's Chief Executive, Owen McColgan, and Director of Primary Education, Barry Symons, to discuss and vote on key actions, including electing the Chairperson.

The elections included inspiring speeches from the candidates, followed by individual voting from everyone in the room.

Congratulations to DW from The Howard School Kent (Year 9), who was elected as Chairperson after receiving the most votes from

his Parliamentary colleagues. DW immediately stepped into his role by leading discussions on the Parliament's focus areas going forward.

The Parliament debated two impactful topics:

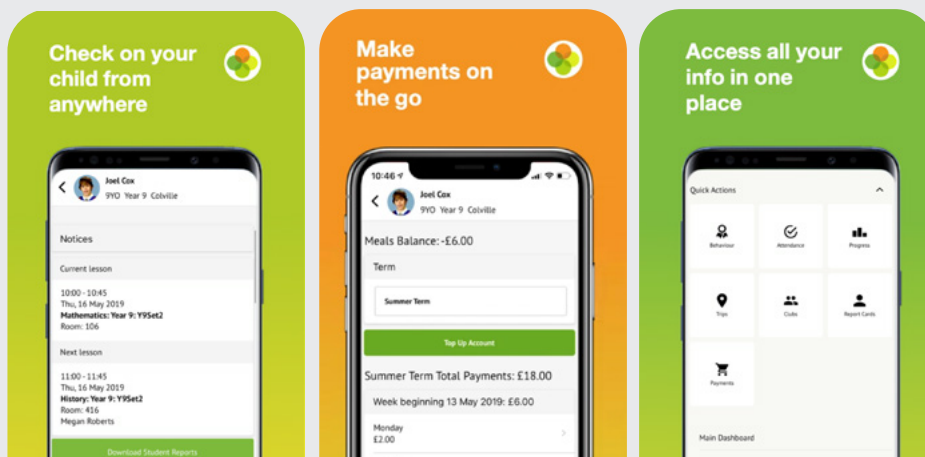
- Enhancing our environmental impact
- Maximising learning through digital devices

Following thoughtful discussions, the focus on Digital Services came out on top. Pupils have been encouraged to gather insights from their school councils to keep the momentum going in future meetings.

We're incredibly proud of the collaborative spirit shown by all participants and look forward to the positive changes ahead.



Have you downloaded the Arbor app yet?



Central Team News

Arbor Education Event

Our CEO, Owen McColgan took the stage alongside leaders from TKAT and Castleford Academy Trust in a discussion panel as part of Arbor Education's The Power of Data in Education event on 21st January.

They tackled the big question: *What does operational excellence look like, and how can we achieve it?*

Data can drive meaningful change across education and help us deliver the best outcomes for our students.

Thank you to Arbor for the invite.



Sharing Success

Each term, we invite the central team to nominate a colleague for the Spotlight Award, recognising outstanding contributions across our core values: Slick, Professional, and Expert.

This term's well-deserved winner is Gemma Kingswood, who received nominations in every category—a remarkable achievement, especially as she's only been with the team for three months!

Congratulations, Gemma, and thank you for your dedication and impressive work. We're excited to see your continued success.

The Central Team Values



Celebrating National Apprenticeship Week

During National Apprenticeship Week 2025, held from 10 to 16 February, The Howard Academy Trust (THAT) reaffirmed its commitment to fostering talent and providing valuable career pathways through apprenticeships.

By engaging in #NAW2025, The Howard Academy Trust not only celebrated the achievements of its current apprentices but also encouraged prospective candidates to consider the diverse and rewarding apprenticeship opportunities available within the Trust.

View our socials on [LinkedIn](#) for more.





Musician of the Month: Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan

In yesterday's assembly, we proudly introduced our February Musician of the Month — Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan.

A legendary Pakistani artist, Nusrat wrote 125 albums and is renowned for bringing Qawwali music to global audiences.

We encouraged families to listen to a featured piece together and discuss their observations.



Interactive Learning Fun in Nursery

Our Nursery children have been thoroughly enjoying the interactive whiteboard to complete exciting animal puzzles! After selecting a mystery animal, they work together to solve the puzzle and reveal the hidden creature.

This engaging activity has been fantastic for developing core strength, improving coordination, and exploring different shapes. It's been wonderful to see the children supporting one another when they needed help reaching pieces on the board. Well done everyone, great teamwork and problem-solving skills!

Fantastic Sportsmanship at Table Tennis Mini Youth Games

Yesterday, some of our Year 4, 5, and 6 students proudly represented the school at the Table Tennis Mini Youth Games at Medway Park. The children had a fantastic time, showcasing excellent teamwork, sportsmanship, and fair play throughout the day.

A member of staff from another school even praised our students, saying we were "the nicest school they had played, showing great sportsmanship."

We eagerly await the tournament results but couldn't be prouder of the children's outstanding effort and conduct.

Well done, everyone!





Twist and Pulse Inspire Year 5 at Thames View

Year 5 students at Thames View had an unforgettable experience with a special workshop led by Twist and Pulse, the talented dance duo who rose to fame on Britain's Got Talent. Twist and Pulse brought their energy and expertise to the classroom, inspiring the children with their passion for dance and creativity.

Mrs. Rogers was particularly amazed, recalling how much Twist has grown since she taught him 22 years ago! Now, Twist is giving back by inspiring the next generation of dancers at Thames View. It's a moment the students won't soon forget!



Year 1 Explores Greenwich: A Day of Discovery

Year 1 students had an exciting day of exploration in Greenwich! They climbed a spiral staircase to see the largest telescope in Great Britain and even had the chance to touch a meteorite — the oldest object they'll ever encounter! The adventure continued with a captivating show in the planetarium, where the children learned all about our planets. It was an educational and unforgettable experience for our young explorers!

Young Voices at the O2: A Wonderful Experience

The Young Voices concert at the O2 was truly a memorable experience for all involved.

A heartfelt thank you to Mr. Wykes for organising the event, and to all the staff who supported the students throughout the evening. It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone, and a lovely evening enjoyed by all!



Hook Day Boards: Year 4's Greece Takes the Win

Our Hook Day boards, designed to promote each year group's topic, have been a fantastic way to bring learning to life. These interactive displays engage our students and make the learning experience even more exciting. This time, the Year 4 team's "Glorious Greece" display took the top spot, impressing everyone with its creativity and engaging content. Well done to Year 4 for creating such an inspiring board!



Year R Tackles Crime and Investigations in an Exciting Week

Year R had a thrilling week filled with crimes, investigations, and teamwork as the Evil Pea escaped jail and caused chaos in the classrooms! Thanks to their perseverance and self-belief, the children successfully captured the Evil Pea and assisted Kent Police in returning him to jail where he belongs.

Chief Inspector Searle and his colleagues arrived to arrest the Pea, using the opportunity to teach the children about the important role of a police officer. The children even got to experience the police van firsthand, setting off the lights and sirens!



Miers Court Choir Shines at Young Voices Concert

Our school choir made us incredibly proud this week when they performed at the annual Young Voices concert at the O2! Their behaviour was exemplary, and they sang with all their hearts, showcasing our new school values with pride.

The concert featured incredible guest acts such as MC Grammar and Tommy Blaize, and with over 8,500 children participating, Miers Court was part of the largest children's choir concert in the world!

A huge well done to the Miers Court choir, and special thanks to Mrs Townsend and Mrs Young for their dedication in teaching the songs and making this unforgettable event possible!



Pulling Out All The Stops!

At Miers Court, we are always committed to providing our students with the best learning experiences possible. This term, we are starting a new initiative where each term will kick off with an exciting and engaging activity to introduce the theme for the term. From staff in quirky costumes to explorations of space, mysterious footprints, Egyptian collars, pollution awareness, and polar explorer tools, this week has been full of 'wow moments' for everyone. There is so much to look forward to this term, and we can't wait to share more updates with you as the learning unfolds!



Year 4 Kicks Off Learning with Anglo-Saxon Workshop

Year 4 has had a fantastic start to their learning journey with some memorable events this term!

The children participated in an engaging Anglo-Saxon workshop. The day began with Ash the Viking making a dramatic entrance, spear in hand, giving the children an exciting introduction to Viking history. Throughout the day, they handled artefacts, explored weapons, and even created a shield wall and took part in a Viking Burial. Ash was so impressed with their behaviour that he showed them extra artefacts he wouldn't usually share. Well done, Year 4!

Later in the week, the children learned about dental hygiene by using disclosing tablets to check how well they'd cleaned their teeth. The blue tongues caused plenty of laughter!

What a fantastic week for Year 4 — we can't wait to see what they'll get up to next!



Year 1's Polar Places Experience Day

Year 1 students had an exciting start to their week with a Polar Places experience day. As part of their home learning, the children researched an animal that lives in the polar regions and presented their findings in creative ways. Some students confidently shared their research with pictures and key facts, while others even created impressive 'YouTuber' style videos!

The day also included hands-on activities, such as making and tasting hot chocolate, exploring how ice melts, and role-playing as Arctic explorers.

A special highlight was a visit from the late Robert Falcon Scott, who shared his story and answered the children's questions. It was a fun and educational day for all involved!





Furthering Student's Education and Social Impact

Stratford Geography Field Trip at Hurstmere School

Our Geography students recently took part in a field trip to Stratford, a key component of their Paper 3 exam. The trip provided hands-on experience in applying geographical concepts and fieldwork techniques, enhancing their understanding of the subject.

This valuable experience allowed students to gather real-world data and deepen their knowledge, setting them up for success in their exams.



2nd Place Finish at Premier League-Inspired Football Tournament

On January 20th, our boys competed in a Premier League-inspired football tournament and secured an impressive 2nd place finish! The team demonstrated great skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the event.

A huge congratulations to all the boys involved — you made us proud!

Ski Trip 2025: An Exciting Start at Cannon Mountain

Our 2025 Ski Trip to Cannon Mountain, New Hampshire, got off to a fantastic start! After a smooth and uneventful journey, students and staff were ready to embrace an exciting week ahead.

The group began their first morning with a hearty 7 a.m. breakfast, energized by the stunning sight of fresh snowfall that blanketed the slopes overnight. Spirits were high, and everyone was eager to make the most of the perfect conditions at this breathtaking resort.

We're looking forward to a week filled with skiing, skill-building, and unforgettable memories.



Furthering Student's Education and Careers

Celebrating National Apprenticeship Week

As part of National Apprenticeship Week, Waterfront UTC hosted a live PAL session in collaboration with Kent & Medway Careers Hub and The Careers & Enterprise Company.

Year 12 students had the invaluable opportunity to explore apprenticeships, T Levels, and further education pathways through a series of guest speakers. Among them were current apprentices who shared their personal experiences, providing real-world insights into the benefits of combining work and study.

This session offered a valuable perspective on alternative career routes, equipping students with the knowledge to make informed decisions about their futures.



Waterfront UTC VS The Howard School!

An exciting and hard-fought basketball game between two schools within The Howard Academy Trust. Waterfront UTC faced off against The Howard School in a closely contested match that kept spectators on the edge of their seats.

Despite a valiant effort from Waterfront UTC, The Howard School narrowly secured the victory. Both teams demonstrated exceptional skill, determination, and sportsmanship, making for a fantastic game. Well done to all the players involved!

UCAS Support for Year 13 with a Drop-in Session

With the UCAS deadline approaching, we arranged a drop-in session with the University of Hertfordshire to support our Year 13 students with their applications and personal statements.

Students received 1-2-1 guidance, tailored to their individual queries, and had the opportunity to ask any final questions.

A special thanks to Ramees, who stepped in at short notice to ensure students were well-prepared ahead of the deadline. We appreciate the University of Hertfordshire's support and look forward to future engagement opportunities for our sixth form.



Furthering Student's Social Impact and Development

STEM Club Tackles Zombie Apocalypse with Morse Code

Last week, our STEM Club put their problem-solving and technical skills to the test by using Morse code to survive a zombie apocalypse. By sending vital messages across long distances without alerting the zombies, they discovered the power of this historical communication tool.

It was a creative and fun way to hone their skills while working together to solve challenges and keep their survival efforts secret and organized. Great job, STEM Club!



MS (Year 9) Triumphs at International Junior Miss Pageant

MS, Year 9 student at The Abbey School, recently competed in the International Junior Miss Pageant in Virginia Beach, USA, where she earned 1st Runner-up (2nd place globally) in the Pre-Teen category. She also won 1st Runner-up in Print Model and was named the Pre-Teen International Interview Winner.

Using her platform, MS advocates for causes like period poverty and dementia, while working to change perceptions of pageantry.

MS now prepares for the UK competition in April, with hopes of returning to the US next year as a UK Queen. Congratulations!



Matt Crosby Inspires Year 10 and Year 13 Media Students at The Abbey

Year 10 and Year 13 media students had the exciting opportunity to meet Matthew Crosby, a talented writer, podcaster, radio presenter, and comedian. With experience working on some of Britain's biggest shows, including *Bake Off*, *Traitors Uncloaked*, *Hypothetical*, and *Blankety Blank*, Matthew delivered an inspiring talk about turning creativity into a career. He also led engaging games that challenged students to connect unrelated ideas—a crucial skill in comedy. The session was both enjoyable and insightful, and we are grateful to Matthew for taking the time to share his expertise with our students.





Celebrating Student Success and Social Impact

An Inspiring Visit from Steve Eadon at The Howard School

We were thrilled to welcome Steve Eadon, former Arsenal FC community leader, to The Howard School.

Steve delivered an inspiring assembly to Year 8 students, highlighting the vital role of language skills in football.

A special congratulations to our 60 top linguists who enjoyed an exclusive football training session with Steve, an unforgettable experience combining sport and learning.



Year 10 Students Gain Expert Exam Tips from the University of Kent

Our Year 10 students recently had the fantastic opportunity to attend a virtual session with the University of Kent, focusing on key strategies for exam success. The session covered:

- Revision Skills: Smarter, more effective ways to study.
- Exam Techniques: Practical tips for tackling questions with confidence.
- Coping Strategies: Managing stress and staying calm under pressure.

A huge thank you to the University of Kent for delivering such valuable advice. We can't wait to see our students put these skills into action as they prepare for their upcoming exams.

Year 9s Gain Valuable Insights from British Army Visit

Our Year 9 students recently had the privilege of hearing from Sergeant Paul Garvie of the British Army. His engaging talk highlighted the diverse career and apprenticeship opportunities available within the Army, offering students a glimpse into earning while learning, developing lifelong skills, and exploring various career pathways.

We extend our thanks to Sergeant Garvie for sharing his expertise and inspiring our students to think boldly about their futures.



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: mynewterm.com/trust/The-Howard-Academy-Trust



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/>

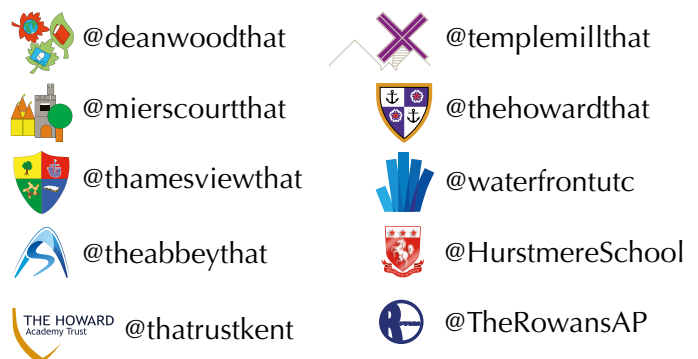


Find Us Online

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





THE HOWARD

Academy Trust

*Working together to build a
community of successful learners*

Our Academies

