

# Trust Newsletter

*Term 3 | 2025/26*



**Inspiring Career  
Fairs being held  
across the Trust**

***PLUS | Celebrating Student Achievements • Trips • And More!***

***Working together to build a community of successful learners***

***Inclusivity • Dignity • Respect • Ambition***

# In This Issue

<b>A Message from the Chief Executive</b> .....	<b>03</b>
<b>Maths Focus Week</b> .....	<b>06</b>
<b>Deanwood Primary School</b> .....	<b>07</b>
<i>Celebrating What Makes Us Unique, Sewing, and Bringing Ancient Rome and Egypt to Life in the Classrooms</i>	
<b>Thames View Primary School</b> .....	<b>08</b>
<i>Exploring Volcanoes, Tudors, Conductors and Insulators, and a Trip to Gillingham FC</i>	
<b>Miers Court Primary School</b> .....	<b>09</b>
<i>Wellbeing Club, Diving into Ocean Conservation, Winter Walks and Mini Youth Games</i>	
<b>Temple Mill Primary School</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<i>Investigating Evolution, Liquid Effects on Teeth, Becoming Ocean Protectors, and Artists of the World</i>	
<b>The Rowans AP Academy</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<i>Careers Fair, Visiting The Turner Contemporary and Exploring the Chemistry of Fireworks and Tent Materials</i>	
<b>Hurstmere School</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<i>Getting Creative with Healthy Cooking, Trips to a Dry Ski Slope and Olympic Park, and Talking Apprenticeships</i>	
<b>Waterfront UTC</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<i>Embracing Career Opportunities in Engineering and Construction, and James Whittaker Visits from Peel Waters</i>	
<b>The Abbey School</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<i>A Wicked Trip to the Theatre, Exploring Careers with the Army, and Promoting Respect and Safety</i>	
<b>The Howard School</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<i>Supporting Student Wellbeing, Inspiring Students with AI and Celebrating Students' Achievements</i>	

# A Message from our Chief Executive

Dear Parents, Carers, and Colleagues,

As we close another busy and successful term, I am delighted to reflect on the fantastic work happening across our Trust.

Our Primary schools have engaged in Maths Week - children have been celebrating Number Day with fun, number-themed activities, games, and Trust-wide competitions. These opportunities have encouraged curiosity, teamwork, problem-solving, and confidence in applying knowledge.

Across the curriculum, pupils have enjoyed engaging and memorable experiences. Year groups have taken part in interactive History and outdoor learning sessions, including visits to the Sea Life Centre, Chatham Dockyard, and Stratford Olympic Park, while others have explored Ancient Egypt, the Tudors, and Titanic-themed activities. Science, art, and creativity have flourished with hands-on experiments, chemistry investigations, well-being workshops, and visits to The Turner Contemporary, all helping students connect learning across subjects and beyond the classroom.

Students have excelled in sport, enrichment, and careers-focused sessions, exploring opportunities in engineering, AI, and education, while demonstrating resilience, teamwork, and leadership. Inspiring visitors, including MPs, Armed Forces personnel, and external partners such as Kooth and ZooLab, have motivated pupils, supported their learning, and broadened their horizons.

Pupils have also made meaningful contributions to charity, sustainability projects, and community initiatives, connecting their learning beyond the classroom and making a positive impact in the wider community.

This term, we also celebrated National Apprenticeship Week 2026, shining a spotlight on the achievements of our apprentices across our academies and central team.

Their dedication, practical learning, and valuable contributions to our schools are an inspiration to all and a reminder of the exciting opportunities apprenticeships offer.

None of this would be possible without the passion, commitment, and professionalism of our staff, whose dedication ensures every pupil thrives. I am incredibly proud of everything our teams and pupils have achieved this term.

On behalf of the Trust, I wish all staff, pupils, and families a restful and enjoyable half term. Thank you for your continued hard work and care. You make a real difference every day.

Best wishes,

*O McColgan*

Owen McColgan  
Chief Executive





# Save money on student bus travel

If you're a student getting the bus to school, college or university make big savings on your travel and spread the cost of the ticket over affordable monthly payments when you pay by direct debit.



**Reduced** price bus travel for the academic year



**Unlimited** bus travel in your chosen Arriva Zone, **7 days a week**



Convenient monthly **direct debit**



**No minimum** contract - cancel anytime



Scan QR code or visit our website to get started.

[arrivabus.co.uk/monthlytickets](https://arrivabus.co.uk/monthlytickets)



# Vacancies Spotlight

## 2 I/C of Science

A leadership opportunity at The Abbey School for a passionate Second in Command of Science to support the Head of Department in driving curriculum excellence, raising standards and improving student achievement across all key stages.

### What We're Looking For:

- Someone who is genuinely passionate about education
- Committed to excellence in teaching and learning
- Have an unwavering commitment towards our pupils and staff

### Why Join Us?

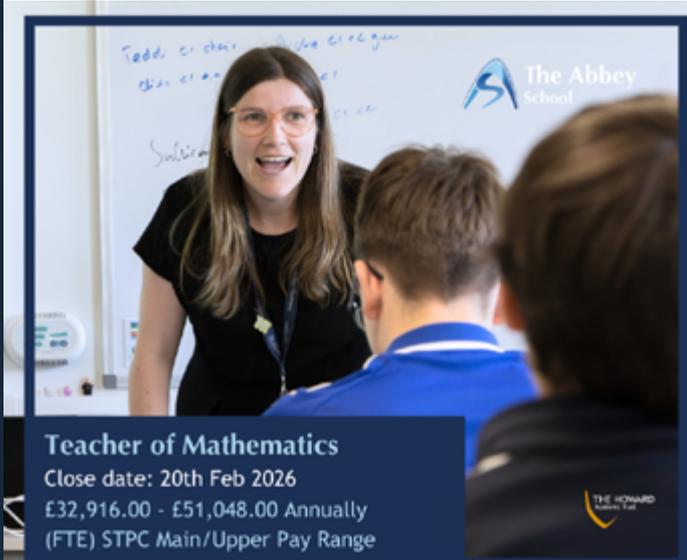
- Competitive salary and benefits
- Well-being and Lifestyle support and perks
- Exciting career development opportunities

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



**2 I/C of Science**  
Close date: 3rd Apr 2026  
£32,916.00 - £51,048.00 Annually (FTE) STPC MPS/UPS

**Plus £5k Golden Hello!**



**Teacher of Mathematics**  
Close date: 20th Feb 2026  
£32,916.00 - £51,048.00 Annually (FTE) STPC Main/Upper Pay Range

## Teacher of Maths Maternity Cover

The Abbey School is seeking an enthusiastic Teacher of Mathematics (Maternity Cover) to join the Maths Department from April 2026, inspiring students and supporting them to reach their full potential.

### What We're Looking For:

- Enthusiastic, talented, and passionate Teacher of Mathematics
- Forward-thinking and focused teaching for every student
- Have an ambitious vision for our school pupils and staff

### Why Join Us?

- A supportive environment for career growth and staff well-being
- Exciting career development opportunities
- Competitive salary and health benefits

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

## Facilities Operative

The Rowans AP Academy is seeking a hands-on Facilities Operative, to support the Premises team with the day-to-day maintenance, cleaning, site set-up and general upkeep of the school.

### What We're Looking For:

- Someone who is genuinely passionate about education
- Committed to excellence
- Have an unwavering commitment towards our pupils and staff

### Benefits Include:

- Competitive salary & benefits
- A supportive environment for career growth and staff well-being
- Exciting career development opportunities

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



**Facilities Operative**  
Close date: 3rd March 2026  
£25,185.00 - £28,142.00 Annually (FTE)  
NJC D2 points 4-11

# Primary Phase Term Focus

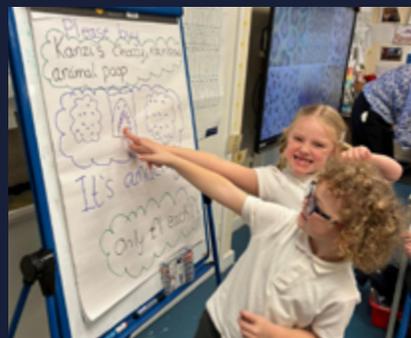


## Celebrating Maths Across Our Primary Schools

This academic year marked the launch of our new Trust Focus Weeks – an exciting initiative designed to encourage collaboration and creativity across our schools. Each term, pupils explore a shared theme, showcasing their learning and celebrating their achievements together. This term, we celebrated Maths, giving pupils across our primary schools the chance to explore, experiment, and get creative together. A huge well done to everyone for the amazing effort on NSPCC Number Day, which gave Maths Week a fantastic start! It was wonderful to see so many children taking part in number-themed outfits and telling number-themed jokes!

Throughout the day, pupils practised their number skills and played maths games, while also learning about the important work of the NSPCC. Pupils worked collaboratively, shared ideas, and developed their reasoning, problem-solving, and spatial awareness skills throughout. Our schools also held a fantastic Enterprise Day, where pupils were encouraged to create their own stalls and sell products. Children designed marketing materials, using persuasive language to attract customers, while applying their Maths skills to calculate costs, discounts, and special offers.

The Maths Focus Week was a brilliant way to spark curiosity and celebrate the achievements of our young mathematicians. It gave pupils the chance to see how learning connects across topics and beyond the classroom, making maths both engaging and memorable across all our schools.





## Bringing Ancient Rome to Life in the Classroom

Year 4 began their new topic by bringing Ancient Rome to life in the classroom. The children embraced the theme with incredible costumes, from Emperors and Empresses to gladiators and soldiers. They explored Roman numerals through counting and problem-solving, practised their writing skills on “ancient” scrolls during SPAG sessions, and drew inspiration from Roman tiled floors to create their own intricate mosaics. It was a fantastic day of learning that sparked creativity and curiosity, and we are very grateful to all the parents and carers who supported the children with their brilliant costumes.



## The Art of Sewing

In Design Technology, Hawthorn Class explored the art of sewing. They began by practising their skills on Binca before applying what they had learned to more creative projects in the classroom.

The children showed great focus and imagination, producing impressive work and demonstrating their new skills with confidence. Well done, Hawthorn Class!

## Willow Class Celebrate What Makes Us Unique

Willow Class have been learning about the importance of speaking to a trusted adult when something makes them feel worried, confused, or unsafe. They understand that adults can only help if they are told, and that sharing worries is an important part of keeping everyone safe and supported.

They've also been exploring what makes each of us unique, celebrating differences that make our community stronger, kinder, and more interesting. At Deanwood, being different is something to be proud of!



## Cedar Class Celebrate Ancient Egypt Day

To launch their new topic, Cedar Class came to school dressed as Ancient Egyptians. The students explored what life would have been like in Ancient Egyptian times, learning about daily routines, customs, and traditions. They enjoyed using our new cooking facilities to create food that Ancient Egyptians might have eaten. The day was full of curiosity and hands-on learning, giving students a memorable introduction to their new topic.



## Year 3 Explore Volcanoes

Year 3 have been busy creating volcano models as part of their hook day, bringing their learning about the Earth to life. Students explored the different layers of the Earth, including the crust, mantle, and core, and learned how these layers contribute to the formation of volcanoes.

The hands-on activity encouraged curiosity, creativity, and teamwork, making the study of volcanoes an exciting and memorable experience for all.



## Year 5 Explore the Tudors

Year 5 have been learning all about the Tudor royal family, with a particular focus on the notorious Henry VIII and his six wives. Students have been discovering the stories, personalities, and historical significance of each figure, exploring life in Tudor times and the impact of the monarchy on history. The topic has sparked curiosity and lively discussions as pupils delve into one of England's most fascinating periods.

## Behind-the-Scenes Tour of Gillingham FC

Year 6 had an exciting morning exploring behind the scenes at our partnership club, Gillingham Football Club. The students were thrilled to visit areas normally only seen by players and staff, including the executive suites, boardroom, dugouts, media suite, and changing rooms.

They gained a real insight into how a professional football club operates and what goes on off the pitch, making for a memorable and inspiring experience.



## Year 4 Explore Conductors and Insulators

Year 4 have been discovering which everyday classroom items are conductors or insulators of electricity, including Vinnie the class bear!

The hands-on science lesson was full of fun and curiosity, helping students understand how electricity works while engaging with familiar objects in an interactive way.



## Year 4 Dive into Ocean Conservation

Year 4 kicked off their new theme, "How Can We Save Our Oceans?", with an exciting trip to the Sea Life Centre in Brighton.

Students explored the aquarium, enjoyed a workshop on the impact of human activity on oceans, and even handled some artefacts.

Their curiosity and excellent behaviour impressed the Sea Life staff, and the octopus was a firm favourite!

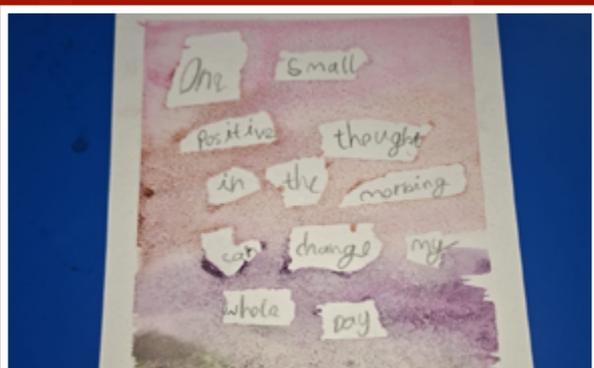


## Year 6 Shine at Mini Youth Games Swimming

Eight of our fantastic Year 6 pupils represented the school at the Mini Youth Games Swimming competition, and they did an incredible job! The team demonstrated outstanding teamwork and sportsmanship, cheering each other on throughout the day. Their efforts were rewarded with excellent results, including numerous first-place finishes, helping our school secure 2nd place out of 35 local schools. We are immensely proud of every one of them. Well done, team!

## Year R Enjoy a Winter Walk

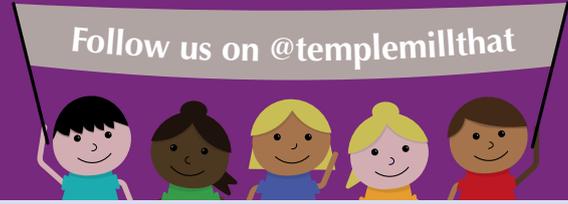
Year R had a magical winter walk at the start of the term, enjoying the falling snow and the crisp, cold air. The children loved catching snowflakes, listening to the crunch beneath their feet, and exploring the frosty surroundings. They then continued this learning, when they investigated a wintery, icy setup in the garden.



## Wellbeing Club: Creativity and Positivity

Our Well-Being Club explored creativity as a way to support mental health. Students painted watercolour backgrounds for positive affirmations that resonated with them, then turned abstract "blob pictures" into imaginative creatures.

Some also chose partner games to further support their well-being, combining mindfulness, creativity, and social connection in a fun and engaging session.



## Exploring the World of Artists and Architecture

In their Art lessons, Year 2 have been exploring the world of artists and architecture.

They discovered the role of an architect and how local surroundings can inspire their designs, before creating their own sketches of a famous piece of architecture that captured their imagination.

The children demonstrated great creativity and attention to detail. Perhaps we have a class full of future architects in the making!



## Year R Become Ocean Protectors

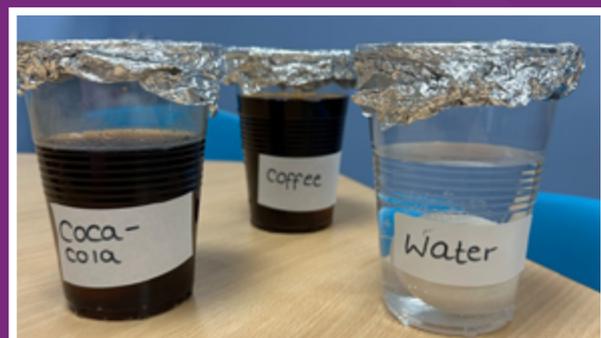
Year R explored their Ocean Protectors theme, by reading "The Snail and the Whale" and exploring the different places the characters visit throughout the story. They showed great curiosity when using globes and atlases to locate these places and learn more about the world around them.

They also enjoyed a fantastic workshop with ZooLab, who visited to talk about how we can all be responsible ocean protectors. The children were excited to meet some mini crawly visitors, making the experience even more memorable.

## Year 6 Investigate Evolution

Year 6 explored Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection through a hands-on science investigation, testing different "beaks" to see how birds are adapted to their food sources.

By making predictions, recording results, and drawing conclusions, pupils discovered how beak shape affects survival, bringing learning about evolution and inheritance to life.



## Year 4 Investigate How Liquids Affect Our Teeth

Year 4 explored how different liquids can affect teeth through a hands-on experiment. The children placed three hard-boiled eggs into different liquids to observe the impact on the eggshells, which are made of calcium, just like our teeth!

This activity helps students understand the importance of caring for their teeth while making science engaging and interactive.



## A Fantastic Careers Fair

This term, we hosted an engaging Careers Fair, providing our students with the chance to explore a wide range of future opportunities. Throughout the day, students demonstrated curiosity and confidence, asking thoughtful questions, and engaging with exhibitors. The fair offered insight into different industries, roles, and career paths, helping students consider their next steps beyond school. A huge thank you to all the visitors who shared their time, expertise, and experiences with our students. Your support helps inspire and guide their future career paths.



## GCSE Art Pupils Visit The Turner Contemporary

Our GCSE Art pupils had the exciting opportunity to visit The Turner Contemporary in Margate.

They explored a wide range of artworks, gaining inspiration and broadening their knowledge of different artists and artistic styles.

The visit provided a valuable chance to connect classroom learning with real-world art experiences, encouraging creativity and critical thinking.

## KS3 Explore the Chemistry of Fireworks

Our KS3 students have been producing fantastic work as they dive into the chemistry behind the vibrant colours of fireworks. They explored how different chemical elements and compounds create the stunning reds, blues, greens, and yellows seen in fireworks displays. Through hands-on experiments and investigations, students developed a deeper understanding of chemical reactions while applying curiosity, observation, and critical thinking skills.

It was a fun and engaging way to connect scientific theory with real-world phenomena, sparking excitement and wonder in the classroom.



## Investigating Materials in the Den

Students in the Den carried out a hands-on science experiment to investigate which material would make the best tent, exploring different properties and testing their effectiveness.

Alongside their scientific investigations, the children also enjoyed some creative fun with mud kitchen potion mixing, combining learning and imagination in a playful, engaging session.



## Students Get Creative with Healthy Cooking

Our students recently enjoyed a hands-on session preparing healthy chicken goujons, learning not only essential cooking skills but also the importance of balanced, nutritious meals. The activity encouraged teamwork, creativity, and confidence in the kitchen, while demonstrating how simple ingredients can be turned into delicious, wholesome dishes. We are proud to see our students developing practical skills that support a healthy lifestyle.



## Year 10 Take on the Dry Ski Slope

Year 10 students recently enjoyed an exciting session on the dry ski slope, building confidence, coordination, and resilience in a fun and supportive environment.

The session encouraged students to challenge themselves, try new techniques, and work together, all while developing skills they can carry into other areas of life.

It was fantastic to see so much enthusiasm and determination on display.

## Year 11 Complete Geography Fieldwork at Stratford Olympic Park

Year 11 had an exciting and productive week completing their GCSE Geography fieldwork at Stratford Olympic Park. Over two days, students explored the impact of regeneration in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park area, collecting data, conducting environmental quality surveys, and investigating the social, economic, and environmental changes since the 2012 Olympics.

The experience allowed students to apply their classroom learning in a real-world context, developing their analytical and observational skills while gaining a deeper understanding of urban regeneration and its effects on communities.



## National Apprenticeship Week 2026

As part of National Apprenticeship Week (9th–15th February 2026), all Year 11 students took part in a special assembly webinar, focused on engineering apprenticeships at Gatwick Airport. The session provided valuable insight into the world of apprenticeships, highlighting career pathways, the skills required, and opportunities available in engineering.

It was an inspiring start to the week, encouraging students to consider practical routes into the workplace and further education.

## Furthering Education and Careers

### James Whittaker visits from Peel Waters

Waterfront UTC was pleased to welcome James Whittaker from Peel Waters for a visit that showcased our facilities, curriculum, and the ambition of our students. James saw first-hand how industry-led learning comes to life, from T Level CAD work linked to a real employer brief from Apex Contractors to an inspiring talk for Year 9 and 10 students on local regeneration projects.

The visit highlighted the strength of our partnerships with industry professionals, and the valuable opportunities these collaborations create for our students.



### Waterfront UTC Career Fair: Connecting Students with Opportunities in Engineering and Construction

We were thrilled to welcome over 40 employers and education providers to the Waterfront UTC Career Fair, representing a wide range of opportunities across the Engineering and Construction sectors.

The event offered our students a unique chance to explore career paths, gain insights from industry professionals, and discover the skills and qualifications needed to thrive in these dynamic fields.

From hands-on demonstrations to one-to-one conversations with employers, the fair provided invaluable exposure to real-world careers and the diverse possibilities within Engineering and Construction. A huge thank you to all the organisations that participated, sharing their expertise and inspiring our students to think ambitiously about their future.

Events like this are vital in helping young people make informed career choices and in strengthening the connections between education and industry. We look forward to continuing to build these opportunities and supporting the next generation of engineers, builders, and innovators.



## Furthering Social Impact and Development

### Student Shoutout!

Evie W, a member of Stagecoach Performing Arts, recently performed in a modern production of Annie at the Shaftesbury Theatre in London. After months of rehearsals, Evie took to the West End stage with confidence, delivering an outstanding performance and even taking centre stage for parts of the show.

Performing is truly her happy place, and her dedication, talent, and ambition shone through. A huge well done to Evie—we are incredibly proud of her achievements.



### A 'Wicked' Trip to the Theatre

On Wednesday 14 January, students enjoyed a fantastic opportunity to take a short break from their lessons and travel to London's West End to watch the spectacular musical Wicked.

The trip was a memorable experience and a wonderful chance for students to experience the excitement of live theatre.

A huge thank you to all the staff who organised and supported this brilliant trip.

### Exploring Careers with the Army

Students recently enjoyed an informative session with the Army, learning about the wide range of career opportunities and diverse roles available. The session offered students a chance to learn more about future career options and ask questions, giving them a deeper understanding of life and work in the Armed Forces.

We are very grateful to the Army for taking the time to visit and share their expertise with our students.



### Promoting Respect and Safety

We were proud to welcome the Child Centred Policing Team to deliver assemblies on preventing Violence Against Women and Girls to Years 7–10 and Year 12. As one of only three schools in Swale selected for this initiative, we are beginning our journey toward White Ribbon Status, working to challenge harmful attitudes and foster a culture of respect and safety. Students also have the opportunity to become VAWG Champions, taking an active, student-led role in shaping real change within our community, moving beyond awareness to action.



## Celebrating Student Success and Social Impact

### Picking Things Up in the New Year

A huge shoutout to I.I, who chose to spend New Year's Day litter picking on the beach. While most of us were staying warm indoors, he was out making a real difference by helping to keep our coastline clean and welcoming for everyone.

It's an inspiring way to start the year, showing initiative, responsibility, and the impact one person can have on their community.

We love celebrating stories like this and are always proud to see our students making such a positive contribution. Well done, I.I — a fantastic effort and a brilliant start to the year.



### Supporting Student Wellbeing

This week, students in Years 7–11 welcomed a representative from Kooth to discuss mental health and wellbeing. The sessions explored how to look after mental health, recognise barriers to seeking support, and understand that it's always okay to ask for help.

Students were also introduced to the Kooth app - a free, NHS-approved service offering confidential support for young people aged 10–25. Kooth provides live chat with trained counsellors, self-help resources, and a supportive online community.

### Year 12 Inspired by AI Talk from Scaling Edge

Year 12 students were inspired by a talk from Scaling Edge on how Artificial Intelligence is shaping education, careers, and business. The session sparked engaging discussions on using AI responsibly, future career opportunities, and how human creativity combined with AI can open exciting possibilities.

We are grateful to Scaling Edge for delivering such a motivating and forward-looking session, providing plenty of food for thought as our students continue to plan their next steps beyond school.



### Outstanding Sporting Achievement

We are incredibly proud of L.C., who opened his 400m season at Lee Valley with a superb new personal best of 48.63 seconds. This performance currently places him third in Europe at Under 18 level and has secured a qualifying time for the British Championships - an exceptional achievement.

Congratulations to L.C. on a brilliant start to the season; we look forward to cheering him on in the months ahead.

# 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 9 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](https://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 below when searching for our individual school socials.

You can also find THAT on LinkedIn at: [www.linkedin.com/company/howardacademytrust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/howardacademytrust)





# THE HOWARD Academy Trust

*Working together to build a  
community of successful learners*

## Our Academies

