

Trust Newsletter

Term 4 | 2025/26



**Incredible Ofsted Results
for The Rowans AP and
The Abbey School**

PLUS | Achievements • Book Week • Trips & Visitors • 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,

It's been a busy and exciting term across the Trust, with pupils embracing a wide range of opportunities - from creative projects and hands-on learning to trips, competitions, and inspiring visitor experiences. It has been fantastic to see such enthusiasm, teamwork, and achievement across all our schools. A special congratulations to The Abbey School and The Rowans on their excellent Ofsted results. What an outstanding achievement!

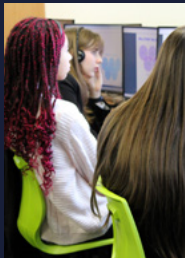
We wish all our pupils, staff, and families a happy and restful Easter break.



O McColgan

Owen McColgan **Chief Executive**

Inclusivity



Waterfront UTC celebrated #InternationalWomensDay by hosting a virtual careers session, giving our female students the chance to hear from women thriving in construction and engineering. These sessions highlight the importance of Inclusivity, showing our students that opportunities are for everyone.



Miers Court Primary School loved visiting **The Howard School** to watch Year 7 and 8 students perform *The Lion King*. The Year 6 pupils were engaged, respectful, and inspired, celebrating togetherness and the Trust-wide community.

Ambition

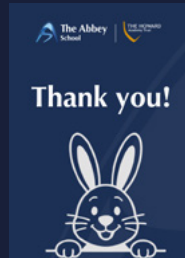


At **The Rowans AP Academy**, Charlie's incredible talent is already clear. He dreams of becoming a tattoo artist, and it's easy to see that, if this is the standard of his work already, he is well on track to achieve those dreams!



A huge congratulations to the **Hurstmere School** Year 7 football teams! The *A Team* triumphed 5-3 to become Kent Champions, while the *B Team's* 3-3 draw also secured them the trophy. Their skill, determination, and drive to succeed perfectly embody our value of Ambition.

Dignity



With Easter approaching, **The Abbey School** invites students to donate an Easter egg for local care home residents who may feel lonely. Drop donations at their reception by 1st April. Students will receive a Charity Golden Ticket and 30 House Points. #BeTheBestYouCanBe

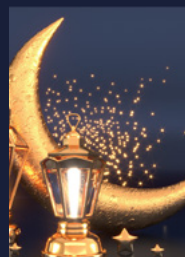


Huge congratulations to Willow Class at **Deanwood Primary School** for earning their February 'Walk on Wednesday' badges! By committing to active travel and looking after their health, they've shown real pride in themselves - a brilliant example of dignity in action.

Respect



At **The Howard School**, students Oliver C, Jack S, and Oliver St J spotted a small fire on a resident's driveway and acted immediately, alerting the resident and preventing the situation from escalating. What a brilliant example of looking out for others and showing true respect.



We're proud of the respect shown across our Trust towards and by pupils and staff observing Ramadan and Lent. Thank you for supporting our community, by providing quiet rooms, spaces away from food and drink, and areas for reflection.

Central Team News



The Rowans secures “Strong Standard” in all areas following Ofsted inspection

The Rowans AP Academy has been rated **Strong Standard across all areas** in its recent Ofsted inspection under the new report-card framework.

Inspectors recognised the consistent strength of the Academy’s provision, highlighting its trauma-informed approach, inclusive culture and the positive impact it has on children and young people who have experienced significant barriers to education.

Inspectors commented that *“this is a highly inclusive school where staff are ambitious for all pupils”* and where *“the school values of kindness, commitment and resilience are actively lived out by pupils.”*

They complimented the staff body, noting that they *“are committed to changing the future life chances of all pupils who attend the school”* and *“have a deep understanding of pupils and their individual needs.”*

Fiona May, Principal, said: *“This outcome reflects the commitment and dedication of our staff team and the determination of our children and pupils. At The Rowans, we believe relationships change lives and that the alternative is not inferior. I am delighted that this report recognises the difference that highly inclusive, trauma-informed practice makes every day for our pupils and their families.”*

Owen McColgan, Chief Executive of THAT, added: *“The Rowans sets a powerful example of high-quality alternative provision. This inspection outcome reflects a school that lives its values of kindness, commitment and resilience every day, ensuring pupils are supported to rebuild confidence and succeed. I am immensely proud of the work that happens at The Rowans and proud that it is a member of The Howard Academy Trust”*

Congratulations to all staff at The Rowans for their exceptional dedication and commitment to their pupils. Your hard work and professionalism continue to make a significant impact.

Central Team News



The Abbey School celebrates a truly transformational result following Ofsted inspection

The Abbey School is celebrating a strong Ofsted inspection under the new framework, achieving "Strong Standard" and "Expected Standard" gradings across almost all criteria. Inspectors praised the school's personal development, wellbeing, and Post-16 provision, highlighting the Pastoral Team as a particular strength: "Pupils trust staff to help them manage worries, and feel safe and supported."

Inspectors also noted the school's ambitious curriculum, improving behaviour, robust safeguarding, and reflective, purposeful leadership. Key Stage 4 achievement was identified as an area for further focus, though inspectors emphasised the strong learning in Key Stage 3 and positive Post-16 destinations.

Dr. Rowland Speller, Principal, said: "We are pleased that Ofsted recognised our strengths in personal development, safeguarding, and sixth-

form provision. Our priority now is to continue improving Key Stage 4 outcomes so they fully reflect the progress seen across the school."

Since the school's previous inspection the school has worked closely with the central team to deliver school improvement across all aspects of the school.

Owen McColgan, Chief Executive of THAT, added: "Since joining the Trust, the school's leadership and staff have worked tirelessly to strengthen The Abbey School.

Their dedication ensures pupils feel safe, supported, and a true sense of belonging. would like to recognise the commitment of the leadership team and staff who have led this work with determination and care. Together they have focused on ensuring that pupils feel safe, supported and that they truly belong within their school community."

Congratulations to all staff at The Abbey School for their exceptional hard work and commitment to their pupils.

Primary Phase Term Focus



Celebrating Book Week Across Our Primary Schools

This academic year saw the launch of our exciting Trust Focus Weeks - an initiative designed to bring our schools together through shared themes, encouraging collaboration, creativity, and a love of learning. This term, our primary schools came together to celebrate Book Week, immersing pupils in the world of reading and writing.

Throughout the week, pupils explored their chosen texts through engaging activities designed to spark curiosity and bring stories to life. From developing key reading and writing skills to planning, drafting, editing, and publishing their own work, every child had the opportunity to grow as a writer. A highlight of the week was sharing their finished pieces through class swaps, celebrating each other's creativity and achievements. Author visits further enriched the experience, inspiring pupils with real-life insights into storytelling.

One of the most memorable moments was our "Dress as a Word" day. Pupils showcased incredible imagination, transforming vocabulary into creative costumes that sparked meaningful conversations about language and expression. Some schools held parades to showcase their costumes, and bring everyone together to celebrate the effort and ingenuity - a fantastic way to bring words to life.

Staff also joined in the fun, dressing as words themselves and adding to the celebratory atmosphere. It was a week full of stories, creativity, and shared enjoyment. An inspiring example of learning brought to life across our Trust.





Year 6 Hit the Ground Running!

Our Year 6 pupils returned after the half term break with fantastic energy and focus. Not only have they been working hard in their lessons, but many are also attending before-school booster sessions and afternoon interventions to further support their learning.

It's wonderful to see such dedication and a strong work ethic on display, Year 6 are truly making the most of every opportunity to achieve their best!



Year 2 Explore Caribbean Art

Year 2 have been inspired by Caribbean artist Althea McNish, exploring the bold and vibrant patterns she created from her memories of life in Jamaica. Pupils have been using her work as a springboard to develop their own unique pattern designs. Over the course of the art block, they have been experimenting with shapes, colours, and repetition, preparing their creations for printing. It has been wonderful to see their creativity flourish as they bring inspiration to life through their own artwork.

Deanwood Begins Its OPAL Journey

Deanwood has officially launched its OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) journey, creating exciting opportunities for all children to enjoy engaging and creative playtimes. Mrs Wright and Miss Manewell recently completed their initial training and introduced the project to the children with a fun assembly. The session highlighted the joy of imaginative play, proving that even adults can have fun with something as simple as empty boxes! The team is excited to continue developing playtime experiences that inspire creativity, collaboration, and enjoyment for everyone.



KS1 Learn About Online Safety

KS1 pupils attended an online safety assembly led by local PCSOs, focusing on how to stay safe when using their devices.

Children discussed who they can speak to if they feel unsafe online, as well as understanding age restrictions for popular gaming platforms, helping them make safe and informed choices.



Opal Class Visits the Chocolate Experience

Opal Class had a choctastic day at the Chocolate Experience, learning all about where chocolate comes from and how it's made.

Pupils also enjoyed creating their own chocolate treats, and one of the highlights was tasting the delicious creations they had made!

A fun and memorable trip full of learning and sweet rewards.



Year 5 and 6 Explore Forensic Science

Year 5 and 6 enjoyed an exciting Forensic Science workshop, where they put their knowledge of DNA, blood types, fingerprints, and footprints to the test.

Pupils had the opportunity to apply what they had learned to solve a crime, working like real forensic scientists. The hands-on activities sparked curiosity, encouraged problem-solving, and gave students a fascinating insight into the world of forensic investigation.

A Visit from a Gillingham FC Player!

We were thrilled to welcome Gillingham FC star player Jonny Williams to the school this term! Pupils had the exciting opportunity to meet Jonny, hear about his football journey, and gain insight into the dedication, training, and teamwork required to succeed at a professional level. The visit was inspiring for all, sparking conversations about sports, ambition, and perseverance.

A huge thank you to Jonny for taking the time to visit and motivate our students – it was an unforgettable experience for everyone!



Year 4 Try Their Hand at Pottery

Year 4 had a fantastic time creating their own pottery! From initial designs, to finished crockery, pupils then decorated their pieces with geometric patterns, inspired by the Ancient Greeks.

It was a hands-on, creative experience that brought history to life and allowed the children to explore their artistic skills.



Choir Shine at Medway Music Festival

On 10th March, our choir had the exciting opportunity to perform at the Medway Music Festival at the Central Theatre. Singing on such a big stage, the children performed with confidence, enthusiasm, and beautiful musicality, showcasing all the hard work and practice they had put in.

Their behaviour was exemplary, and they represented the school brilliantly. Performing alongside other local schools made for a memorable evening, celebrating the choir's talent and dedication.



Author Visit: Gianna Pollero Inspires Young Writers

We were thrilled to welcome author Gianna Pollero, creator of the Monster Doughnuts series, to Miers Court. She shared insights into being an author and guided pupils in creating a new character, exploring age, background, likes, and dislikes.

The children were then challenged to use their character to write their own stories, showing great creativity and enthusiasm. Thank you to Gianna for inspiring our young writers!

Year 3 & 4 Shine at Multi-Skills Sports Event

Twelve pupils from Years 3 and 4 represented Miers Court at a Multi-Skills Sports event at The Howard School. They tried a variety of sports, encouraged their teammates, and showed fantastic resilience and determination throughout the afternoon.

Their hard work paid off, earning 10 silver awards and 2 bronze awards. We are so proud of all the pupils for their effort, teamwork, and sporting spirit, well done!



Year 1 Learn Road Safety Skills

Marie from Medway Council visited to teach our Year 1 pupils how to cross the road safely. Children learned the golden rule: always hold a grown-up's hand, and practiced stop, look, listen, and think before crossing.

They also explored key road safety vocabulary such as "pedestrian", "vehicle", "kerb", and "traffic". The session ended with hands-on practice on a training road, giving pupils a fun and practical way to apply their new skills.

Caterpillar Class Gets Up Close with Zoolab

Caterpillar Class enjoyed a fascinating visit from Zoolab this term, exploring a range of creatures including a tarantula, millipede, large snail, and even a snake! Pupils learned about each animal's diet, habitat, and what makes them scared, gaining hands-on experience with nature.

Some of our bravest children even had the chance to touch or hold the creatures, making it an exciting and memorable learning experience for everyone.



Year 6 Explore History at the Royal Engineers Museum

Year 6 had an incredible day visiting the Royal Engineers Museum, taking part in two engaging workshops: Outbreak to the Trenches (WW1) and Medway Life on the Home Front (WW2). Pupils learned what life was really like during the wars, exploring artefacts, models, letters, diary entries, and stories from soldiers. Highlights included trying on military uniforms and getting hands-on with historical exhibits, sparking curiosity and excitement throughout the day. It was wonderful to see the children fully engaged, learning through experience, and representing the school so brilliantly.

Year 2 Take Off with the Wright Brothers

Year 2 have been exploring the history of flight, learning all about the Wright brothers in their history lessons.

Pupils were tasked with putting the key events from the brothers' lives in the correct order and did an excellent job. They were fascinated to discover that the very first aeroplane didn't even have a seat for the pilot!



Year 1 Explore The Forest of Dreams

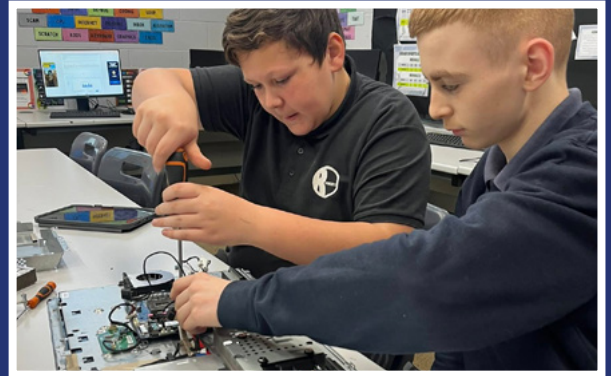
Year 1 had a wonderful time exploring The Forest of Dreams, sparking their imaginations and inspiring creativity. After enjoying the story, the children created their own dream forest collages.

The activity was delightfully messy, but the results were fantastic, full of colour, texture, and imaginative detail. We're so proud of their brilliant work!

Hands-On Learning in IT

Some brilliant work is happening in IT! Our students have been taking apart a computer themselves, carefully labelling each component and discovering what the insides really look like.

This hands-on activity allows them to explore how each part functions, develop problem-solving skills, and gain practical experience that brings their learning to life. It's great to see their curiosity and enthusiasm in action as they get a real insight into the world of technology.



Fun in the Sun for Aspen Class

Aspen Class enjoyed a fantastic day in the sun this term, packed with a mix of learning and play. Pupils took part in phonics activities to sharpen their reading skills, enjoyed swimming lessons, and had fun with outdoor games including football and chalk art.

It was wonderful to see the children engaged, active, and making the most of the beautiful weather while learning and having fun together.

Celebrating World Book Day 2026

Our English department hosted a fantastic World Book Day, with a carousel of fun and creative activities for all pupils. From reading stories and using book tokens, to sharing books in the Sensory Garden, pupils fully embraced the love of reading.

KS4 students enjoyed reading with primary pupils, while creative activities, including props, blind food tasting, and story-themed challenges, made the day even more special. A big thank you to Waterstones (Chatham) for supporting the event and to everyone who joined in the celebrations!



KS3 Murder Mystery for British Science Week

As part of British Science Week, our KS3 pupils took on a 'Murder Mystery' in the science lab! Tying in with this year's theme of Curiosity, students explored how science is used in everyday life to solve crimes.

Great work to all pupils for their enthusiasm, problem-solving, and scientific thinking!



Year 10 Visit Wembley Stadium

Year 10 enjoyed an unforgettable PE enrichment trip to the Wembley Stadium. From exploring behind the scenes to standing pitch-side, students gained a unique insight into one of the world's most iconic sporting venues. The visit provided a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the history and significance of the stadium, while inspiring pupils through sport and teamwork. A truly memorable experience for all involved.



Year 9 Step into History with Media Workshop

A group of 10 Year 9 students took part in an exciting End2End media workshop, stepping into the role of a VE Day news team. Working collaboratively, they explored how news would have been reported at the time, bringing history to life through creative storytelling and performance.

The session provided a fantastic opportunity to develop key skills in communication, teamwork, and media production, while deepening their understanding of a significant historical event. A truly engaging and memorable experience for all involved.

Year 8 Visit Westminster Abbey

The Year 8 trip to Westminster Abbey on 25th March was a tremendous success, expertly led by the Religious Studies department. Pupils demonstrated exemplary behaviour and represented the school with pride.

The journey included iconic sights such as the Changing of the Guard and Downing Street, adding to the excitement of the day. Inside the Abbey, students were captivated by the stunning architecture and particularly fascinated by the historic Coronation Chair. A valuable and enriching experience for all, with thanks to the staff who supported and organised the trip.



Year 10 Triple Science Tackle Titrations

Our Year 10 Triple Science students took part in an exciting GCSE-required practical, using titration techniques to measure the concentrations of acids and alkalis. With precision, patience, and careful calculations, they worked to determine the molarity of an unknown substance - true scientific detectives in action. Students demonstrated fantastic curiosity, teamwork, and problem-solving as they tested, observed, and refined their methods. A big well done to everyone for their enthusiasm and excellent investigative skills!

Furthering Education and Careers

New Mini Bus for Waterfront UTC!

We're thrilled to announce that Waterfront UTC now has its very own mini bus, made possible thanks to the incredible generosity of our local business partners. With a total of £4,535 in sponsorship, this new addition will make a huge difference, helping our pupils travel safely to events, work placements, and enrichment opportunities.

A huge thank you to all the companies who supported this initiative, your contributions are helping to open up more opportunities and experiences for our students. We can't wait to see the positive impact this will have on learning, engagement, and school life!



Engineering Success at Strood Rotary Tournament

Waterfront UTC students recently competed in the Strood Rotary Engineering Tournament at the Royal Engineers Museum, tackling a hands-on engineering challenge across three levels.

We're proud to share that our Advanced team won their category - a fantastic achievement. Their prize includes a VIP visit to BAE Systems, offering valuable industry insight.

Well done to all students for representing the school so positively.

Supporting Future Careers at Waterfront UTC

We were delighted to welcome FM Conway Ltd to Waterfront UTC for an Application Support Workshop during National Careers Week. Post-16 students gained valuable insight into applications, CVs, and what employers are really looking for, alongside a first-hand perspective from an apprentice sharing their journey into the industry. Sessions like this play a vital role in preparing students for their next steps, building confidence and essential employability skills. A big thank you to the FM Conway team for their continued support.



T-Level Students Visit Live Construction Site

Our T-Level students visited one of Enable's key projects, exploring the construction of a BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) Farm. The day included a guided site tour, technical insights into design and delivery, a talk from Energy Connections Project Manager Mark Chance, and a hands-on hazard identification activity.

Thank you to the Enable team for providing such an informative and inspiring experience.

Furthering Social Impact and Development

Sixth Form Taster Days at The Abbey School

Year 11 students took part in Sixth Form Taster Days at The Abbey School, getting a real taste of our “Strong Standard” post-16 offer. Students chose subjects of interest and attended a series of taster lessons, experiencing the teaching style, discussion, and independent learning expected at A-Level and Level 3. They also met teachers, asked questions, and explored the academic pathways available to them. The taster days provided a valuable opportunity to build confidence, spark curiosity, and inspire students as they consider their next steps in education.



Faversham Strikeforce U16s Lift the Cup Again!

Massive congratulations to Jake F, Zeki Al, Toby S, Archie Suter, and Logan S for representing Faversham Strikeforce U16s in the Albert and Gill Baines Cup Final on 1st March.

The team delivered an outstanding 2–0 victory against a strong Folkestone Invicta side, winning the cup for the second year in a row! An incredible achievement and a true testament to the talent, hard work, and determination of the squad.

Well done, boys!

Year 7 Take the Plunge!

Well done to our Year 7 students who completed their first swimming lesson last week! It was fantastic to see so many students embracing the water, building confidence, and developing essential swimming skills.

This marks the start of an exciting journey in the pool, encouraging fitness, coordination, and resilience, while giving students a fun way to challenge themselves and try something new.



Karate for a Cause

Isla, currently a 1st Dan Black Belt, is grading for her 2nd Dan and raising money for Young Lives vs Cancer.

On 12th April, she'll complete 3 hours of intense training, 40 minutes of sparring, and 1,500 punches and 1,500 kicks!

Any support for Isla and this incredible cause is hugely appreciated.
[Donate here](#)



Celebrating Student Success and Social Impact

Austria Ski Trip 2026

Our students had an incredible week in Austria, packed with skiing, adventure activities, and unforgettable cultural experiences. From their very first runs to the final descents, they showed determination, courage, and resilience as they mastered the slopes.

Beyond skiing, the trip was a fantastic opportunity to build friendships, work as a team, and enjoy shared experiences that will create memories to last a lifetime.

A truly unforgettable adventure that has inspired confidence, fun, and a love of the mountains.



Escape Room Takeover!

Our 100% Club from Years 7–10 took on an epic escape-room challenge right here in school!

Teams raced against the clock to crack clues, unlock briefcases, solve puzzles, and open the safe, all while showing incredible teamwork, problem-solving, and determination.

Every student threw themselves into the challenge and absolutely smashed it. A huge well done to our 100% Club. Keep showing up. Keep working hard. Keep being amazing.

Inspired by Real-World Media

Our Media students had an inspiring visit from former Howard student Alex Gilbert, now Technology & Development Director and Promoter/Producer for United Kingdom Pro Wrestling (UKPW). Alex shared how media skills from school have helped him in business, content creation, and promotion, showing students how following your passion can lead to exciting career opportunities. A big thank you to Alex for giving back and motivating the next generation of creatives.



Celebrating Young Photographers

We were thrilled to celebrate the creativity and success of our young photographers in the “Happiness in Nature” competition. Four students entered, with their work professionally judged, and certificates presented by the Mayor of Medway. Achieving winners and runners-up across two age groups is an outstanding testament to the talent and creativity we nurture in Photography.

Congrats to: GB – Winner (14–17 age category), ACD – Runner-up (14–17 age category), HA – Runner-up (11–13 age category)

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

SchoolHire

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

-  @deanwoodthat
-  @mierscourthat
-  @thamesviewthat
-  @theabbeythat
-  @thatrustkent
-  @templemillthat
-  @thehowardthat
-  @waterfrontutc
-  @HurstmereSchool
-  @TheRowansAP



THE HOWARD Academy Trust

*Working together to build a
community of successful learners*

Our Academies

