

Trust Newsletter

Term 1 | 2025/26



**The Abbey School
SLT dress up as Roald
Dahl characters for
spectacular open
evening**

PLUS | WOW Projects • School Trips • Cultural Day • 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,

Hello and a warm welcome to this term's THAT Newsletter, celebrating the achievements and highlights from our first term of the academic year. I hope everyone has had a positive start and is looking forward to the terms ahead.

We have seen an incredibly busy and inspiring start to the year across all our schools. Pupils have been fully engaged in their learning, from local and international trips, hands-on STEM and creative activities, cultural days, and residential visits, to exciting employer engagement opportunities that give students a real insight into the world of work.

I would first like to take a moment to remember Miss Rita Brobbey, a much-loved colleague from Thames View Primary School, who passed away suddenly earlier this term. Rita was a valued member of our Trust family, and she will be deeply missed by staff, pupils, and the wider community. Our thoughts remain with her family and friends during this very difficult time.

I would also like to commend our academies on some truly impressive achievements. Congratulations to all our secondary schools who hosted their Open Evenings this term. These events were a great success, with excellent turnouts and enthusiastic engagement from families, showcasing the outstanding work of our staff and pupils, and the unique opportunities offered at each school.

Across the Trust, our pupils have excelled in many ways. From eco projects and award-winning initiatives to cultural and creative achievements, it has been wonderful to see students thriving both in and out of the classroom.

We have also marked National Inclusion Week and World Mental Health Day, highlighting the importance of wellbeing with mindful activities and workshops, reminding us all that taking care of our mental health is essential.

This term has also seen significant investment in our schools through the School Condition Allocation 2024/25. Across the Trust, we have invested £1.3m to enhance safety, improve IT, and ensure our schools remain fully operational. Projects completed include new boilers, upgraded IT infrastructure and Wi-Fi, refurbished learning spaces, safeguarding fencing, fire alarm improvements, and other essential works to keep our schools safe and functioning effectively. Many of these projects were completed over the summer holidays, with others delivered during the term, and while some may be behind the scenes, they are crucial to our schools' smooth running.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all staff, pupils, and families for their continued commitment, energy, and support. Your dedication ensures our schools remain vibrant, welcoming, and inspiring places to learn.

Thank you for all your hard work this term. I look forward to sharing more successes and news as the year progresses.

Best wishes,

O McColgan

Owen McColgan
Chief Executive



Central Team News

Remembering Rita

It is with deep sadness that we acknowledge the loss of a much-loved colleague from Thames View Primary School, Miss Rita Brobbey, who passed away earlier this term. Her presence, warmth and dedication to her pupils are already sorely missed.

Miss Brobbey joined Thames View in September 2019 and quickly became known for her care, her enthusiasm, and the positive impact she made on those around her.

During this difficult time, our thoughts are with her family, her friends, and all those at Thames View - pupils, staff, and community - who have been touched by her kindness and commitment.



Record-Breaking Attendance at THAT School Open Events



This term, our secondary schools welcomed record numbers of visitors through their doors during Open Events and tours.

Highlights include:

- The Howard School Open Days and tours were attended by over 500 families.
- Hurstmere School saw over 800 people engaging in their most interactive Open Evening ever.
- The Abbey School and Waterfront UTC saw their highest attendances in recent memory.



We are delighted to have seen so many families engaging with our schools, exploring our facilities, and learning about the opportunities available for their children. Each school received very positive feedback, and we congratulate them on their efforts.



These events are a testament to the hardwork of our staff, and evidence of our students' commitment and eagerness to showcasing their learning environments.



At Accent we *season* everything!

We are a school caterer passionate about bringing students delicious, locally sourced meals. Our menus are thoughtfully crafted around the seasons to deliver better taste, enhanced nutrition and greater variety, while being gentler on the planet and perfectly balancing cost with quality. From fun tasting tables and themed days to hands-on chef and nutritionist workshops, we love finding creative ways to inspire students to choose healthier options and build good food habits that last a lifetime. Plus they taste great!



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Accent

Central Team News

School Condition Allocation 2024/25

Projects Completed

As a Multi Academy Trust, we benefit from additional capital funding called School Condition Allocation. This funding is used to address the worst condition items across the Trust, including both Estates and IT. We are delighted to share the projects that have been completed during 2024/25, many of which are behind the scenes and you may not have noticed, but all of which are crucial to keeping our schools safe, open and functioning.

This year, we have invested £1.3m across the Trust to enhance safety, ensure schools remain operational and can function as they should. A majority of these projects have been completed over the summer holidays, whilst some were completed earlier in the year.



- Upgrading of the fire alarm panel.



- Minor upgrades to the fire alarm system.



- Replacement of the school server and upgrading of some networking.



- Completion of new safeguarding fencing around the Sports Centre and sports fields, totalling £56k.
- Brand new boilers in the Sports Centre, canteen and library.



- Complete replacement of the IT infrastructure, switching and WiFi, along with server improvements – resolving serious issues around IT continuity and inadequate internet coverage.
- Replacement of several small boilers that were no longer working.



- Complete replacement of the school's four boilers.
- Alterations to the sports hall roof to enhance safety.

Central Team News



**Deanwood
Primary School**

- Full refurbishment of the wrap around care building, including cladding, roofing and interior.
- Delivery of two “WOW” projects, to move and fully redesign the Year R learning area, and create a cooking area to expand opportunities for the pupils.

BEFORE



BEFORE



IN PROGRESS



IN PROGRESS



COMPLETED



COMPLETED



Central Team News



**The Howard
School**

- Complete replacement of the main staff toilets and the canteen toilets.
- Complete re-tarmacking of the main car park and entry roads.
- Installation of a new safeguarding fence and automated gate interior to the school, to remove safeguarding risk.
- Replacement of the C Block boiler.
- Complete replacement of the wifi across the school to address serious issues with wifi coverage and quality.
- Installation of brand new backlit school values signage onto H Block.



BEFORE



IN PROGRESS



COMPLETED



COMPLETED



IN PROGRESS



COMPLETED



COMPLETED

Central Team News



**Miers Court
Primary School**

- Creation of new classroom areas and storage.
- Complete refurbishment of the exterior of the learning centre, including roofing and cladding.
- Replacement of the fire alarm ensuring this is fit for purpose and keeps staff and students safe.
- Replacement of single glazed windows.

BEFORE



IN PROGRESS



COMPLETED



Get ahead of your winter tree care.

Winter is fast approaching, and with trees holding onto their leaves longer than expected, signs point to a potentially harsh season ahead.

Inspect trees for hazards like dead branches or structural weaknesses.

Prune safely to remove damaged or diseased limbs.

Mulch around the base to insulate roots from frost.

Feed trees early in winter with a slow-release fertiliser for vitality.

Check tree supports (stakes, ties) and adjust if needed.

Clear fallen leaves and debris to prevent pests and disease.

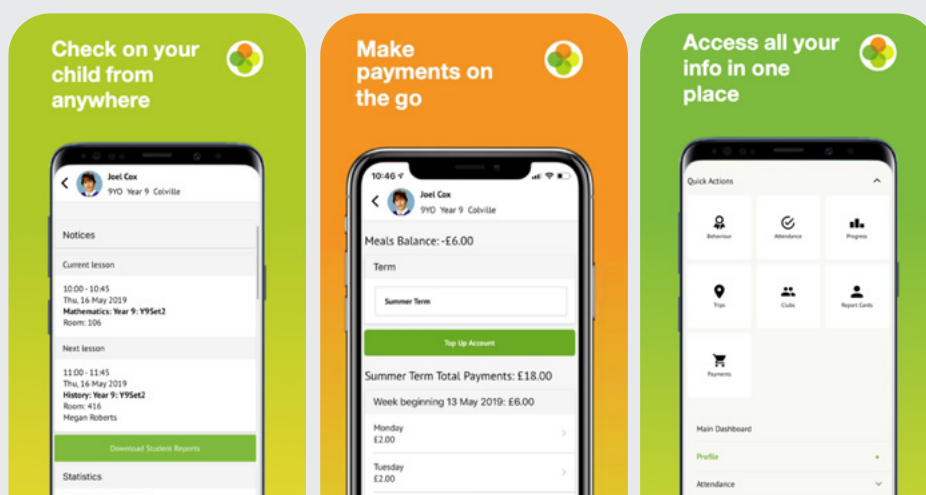
Monitor soil moisture; water during dry spells before the ground freezes.

Book a tree risk assessment survey with Landscape Services.

Prepare your trees for the winter; call Landscape Services on 01622 236655 to arrange a no-obligation site visit from a qualified arboriculturist today. Landscape Services provides commercial grounds maintenance and arboriculture in Kent.



Have you downloaded the Arbor app yet?



Primary Phase Term Focus



Celebrating Art Across Our Primary Schools

This term marks the launch of our new Trust Focus Weeks – an exciting initiative designed to encourage collaboration and creativity across our schools. Each term, pupils will explore a shared theme, showcasing their learning and celebrating their achievements together.

Our very first Focus Week shines a spotlight on Art, with pupils across our primary schools embracing creativity in all its forms.

Miers Court Primary School created a stunning Garden of Expression, filled with imaginative and colourful artwork, and even received a special video message from Mister Maker himself!

Thames View Primary School explored art from around the world, from Banksy's street art to African masks and interactive digital pieces.

Temple Mill Primary School welcomed parents to enjoy their Portrait Garden, a vibrant celebration of self-expression.

Deanwood Primary School pupils in Year 5 were inspired by David Hockney's digital art, using iPads to create their own digital masterpieces.

Our Art Focus Week has been a wonderful celebration of creativity, cultural exploration, and shared learning showcasing the incredible talent and enthusiasm across our schools.



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It's Residential Adventures Time!

Year 6 embarked on their residential adventures! They built rafts, tackled the climbing wall, and showed great teamwork and enthusiasm. Staff described the children as "helpful and thoughtful", and Mrs Russell said that they were an "absolute credit to Deanwood." Highlights include pedal karting (it turns out driving blindfolded is tricky!), archery worthy of Robin Hood, and a campfire with Mr Ingham, complete with toasted marshmallows and s'mores.

They've faced challenges, conquered fears, and made us all very proud. Well done, Year 6!



British Museum Trip

On Monday 22nd September, Year 5 travelled to London to visit the British Museum. They explored the Islamic Art Exhibition and learned more about Early Islamic Civilisations.

The children were fascinated by what they discovered! A brilliant day of learning and curiosity, well done, Year 5!

Year 3 Stone Age Study

In their study of the Stone Age, Year 3 have been exploring Paleolithic artefacts, investigating what they were used for and how people lived during this early period.

As part of their learning about the Paleolithic diet, the children became hunter-gatherers for the day! Miss Beard scattered cards across the field and split the class into two teams. Working together, they had to identify and "gather" their food, bringing history to life in a fun and hands-on way.



Hawthorn Class Swimming

Hawthorn Class have been thoroughly enjoying their swimming lessons at Cozenton Park. Each week, the children are gaining confidence in the water, improving their skills, and having lots of fun along the way.

Their enthusiasm and progress have been fantastic to see!



Year 4 Explore Roman History

Year 4 enjoyed an exciting visit from a Roman expert, who transported pupils back in time to explore life as a Roman soldier. Through an engaging, hands-on workshop, pupils learned about the different weapons, armour, and tactics that Roman soldiers used in battle, and the discipline that made the Roman army so powerful. A highlight was when pupils had the opportunity to take part in a re-enactment, recreating a Celts vs Romans battle and even stepping into the arena to experience what it might have been like to be a gladiator in the Colosseum. The immersive experience helped pupils deepen their understanding of Roman history, bringing the topic to life!



Year 4 Visit to the Science Museum

Year 4 visited the Science Museum to explore Sound in the Wonder Lab.

They arrived in London and enjoyed seeing the sights, including Boudicca (who they were studying in English), Big Ben, and Westminster Abbey. It was a fantastic day of learning and exploration.



PGL is an adventure!

Year 6 enjoyed their PGL adventure! They were certainly kept busy with plenty of activities which included hiking, climbing, the challenge course, archery, trapeze, and Jacob's Ladder.

The Giant Swing and raft building were big hits. They spent time learning survival skills, trying to make fire, and building shelters. They also enjoyed orienteering, the sensory trail, and even had some fun at the evening disco. It was a fantastic, action-packed experience with more adventures ahead!



Freestyle Football with Jamie Knight

World record holder Jamie Knight joined us today for a day of freestyle football fun! Years R, 1, and 2 enjoyed an exciting assembly and hands-on workshops, learning football free styling skills from one of the best in the world.

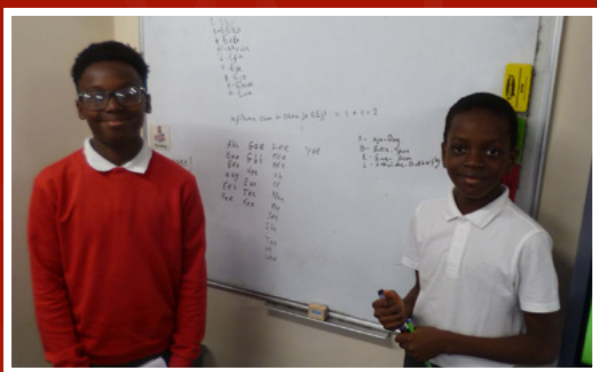
A brilliant day full of energy, skill, and inspiration for our young footballers!





Miers Court Success at Rainham Community Awards

We're thrilled to have won two awards at this year's Rainham Community Awards! Our children's creative work for Earth Week earned us **Young Eco Creative School of the Year (Primary)**, with pupil **Rory** also winning **Best Poem in the primary category**! Our gardening team received a Silver Certificate for their efforts, and we have exciting plans to make our school grounds even more eco-friendly. We're especially proud to have been awarded the **Environment and Sustainability Shield for the second year running**, recognising our children's passion and commitment to protecting the planet through projects like recycling, gardening, litter-picking, energy-saving initiatives, and more.



Languages Day Celebrations

Our pupils come from many different countries, and bring with them a wealth of languages and cultures to our school. For Languages Day, several classes enjoyed pupil-led sessions sharing their own languages. Flamingo Class explored Punjabi, learning to count to 5, singing a fruit-themed song, and practising writing new words. Macaw Class learned Romanian, including numbers, colours, days of the week, and how to say "My name is...", even practising Mrs Kavanagh's name. Phoenix Class celebrated Yoruba, learning numbers, greetings, and common words, then creating PowerPoint slides to practise their skills.

Year 5 Manga Art Activity

This term, Year 5 followed their interests for their express activity and discovered a keen fascination with Manga, the Japanese art style used in comic books. Pupils were given the chance to imagine, design and draw their own Manga-inspired characters, and some even went one step further, creating their very own short comics! A fantastic way to combine creativity and storytelling.



Year 6 Learn About the Circulatory System

Year 6 have been exploring the circulatory system and the importance of keeping the heart healthy. They took part in a hands-on CPR training session. The children learned what to do in an emergency and how to get help. They practiced putting someone who is unconscious but breathing into the recovery position, and carrying out CPR if someone is not breathing, including using a defibrillator. A big thank you to Emma and her team from Medway Hospital for visiting and guiding the children through this important life skill!



Art Week Celebrations

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Art Week celebrations. The children have been incredibly proud to share their learning and the wonderful work they created throughout the week.

Our EYFS and KS1 pupils enjoyed welcoming parents to the Portrait Garden to showcase their artwork, and we look forward to our KS2 families seeing their children's creations too. It has been a fantastic celebration of creativity across the school!



Order! Order! Year 6 Magistrates Visit!

Year 6 welcomed two magistrates to their classroom to learn about the Crown Court and Magistrates Court. The children enjoyed hearing about life as a magistrate, taking part in a role-play activity, and asking questions.

It was an informative and engaging morning, giving pupils a real insight into the justice system.

Little Chefs in Action!

YR have been enjoying the autumn weather and their outdoor campfire, chopping, mixing, and experimenting with natural materials to create delicious apple-inspired dishes.

Highlights included BBQ apples on sticks, warm apple crumble, and even inventing their very own apple juice by squeezing apples with a stick! A fun and tasty way to explore creativity outdoors.



Year 1 Computing Skills

This term, Year 1 have been developing their basic computing skills. They have been practising opening apps, using the device to create pictures, and typing text using a keyboard.

The children have shown great enthusiasm and confidence as they explore technology, building important skills for their future learning.



Willow Class on Wheels!

Willow Class swapped the classroom for the Cyclopark track and had an incredible time! From speedy sprints to daring jumps, every rider showed fantastic balance, bravery, and brilliant biking skills. With the sun shining and plenty of smiles all round, it was a day full of energy, confidence, and fun.

Well done to everyone for giving it their all, you've certainly earned your place in the Tour de Willow!



Maple Class Cultural Day – Italy

Maple Class have loved exploring all things Italian as part of their cultural day.

They took a virtual tour of Italy, designed sleek Italian sports cars, became fashion designers, and followed a recipe to make their own delicious pizzas.

The day ended with one important question... does pineapple really belong on a pizza?

Say Cheese!

Our amazing KS3 scientists took part in a fascinating practical lesson, learning how to turn milk into cheese using enzymes.

They explored how enzymes cause chemical changes in milk, helping it to separate into curds and whey.

The session was full of curiosity, teamwork, and plenty of excitement as the students saw science in action, and discovered just how much chemistry goes into making everyday foods!



'Creeping' It Real in Art Class

The Art Department were 'creeping' it real this term, with some fantastic pumpkin carving!

Pupils showed great creativity and imagination, designing and carving their own spooky masterpieces.

A perfect way to get into the Halloween spirit.



Lights, Camera, Learning!

Hurstmere School is one of the few schools in the UK to have a dedicated, professional broadcast TV production facility on site, delivered in partnership with the not-for-profit company end2end TV CIC.

This unique collaboration provides students with hands-on experience in a multi-camera green-screen studio and production control room.



From script to screen, pupils engage in real-world media production, gaining valuable skills in film-making and broadcasting.

Mrs Davis, Senior Vice Principal, says:

"Lorraine and Peter are true experts in their field, and it's an absolute pleasure to collaborate with them. Their dedication and passion for helping our pupils thrive are evident in everything they do."

This innovative approach not only enhances the curriculum but also prepares students for future careers in the media industry.

Year 9 & 11 Parent Priority Update Meetings

We would like to extend a big thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our Year 9 and Year 11 Parent Priority Update meetings. For Year 9, discussions focused on the options process, student wellbeing, and how our updated assessment framework supports progress and informed decision-making. For Year 11, the sessions covered managing stress, exam preparation, and using the assessment framework to help maximise achievement in the months ahead. These meetings are a key part of our commitment to working in partnership with families, ensuring every student is supported both academically and pastorally.



A Fantastic Start to This Year's Macmillan Coffee Mornings at Hurstmere!

We had a excellent start to this academic year's Macmillan Coffee Mornings! Staff and students came together to enjoy delicious homemade cakes, biscuits, and hot drinks, all in support of a fantastic cause. It was wonderful to see the school community taking time to chat, connect, and contribute to raising vital funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Events like this truly capture the caring and community spirit that runs throughout Hurstmere. A huge thank you to everyone who baked, donated, and joined in, your kindness and generosity made the event a great success!

Furthering Education and Careers

Students Visit Live Construction Site

Since September 2025, our students have been visiting a live construction site run by Apex Contractors Limited, seeing first hand how a project comes together. Each Wednesday, they explore planning, designing, and building processes, while learning about the different roles needed to make the project successful.

These visits provide invaluable real-world experience beyond the classroom. We are very grateful to Apex for their time and expertise and look forward to seeing the project completed in summer 2026.



Year 9 Visit to Fort Amherst

Year 9 students had the exciting opportunity to visit Fort Amherst Limited to collect data by measuring the old drawbridge using industry-standard equipment. This data will be used to design and construct a smaller-scale model, including a moving element.

It's fantastic to combine local educational visits with hands-on projects. All students engaged well with the task, and we look forward to seeing their models take shape next term.

Employer Engagement and Advisory Board Meeting

The new academic year has started strongly with multiple employer engagement activities, including hosting our Employer Advisory Board (EAB) meeting.

The meeting brought together familiar faces to discuss how employers and the UTC can best support each other and our students.

Discussions focused on successes, challenges, and ways to bridge gaps between education and industry, with a particular emphasis on T-Levels.

Employers keen to support T-Level placements met students, scouting for talent and helping match candidates with opportunities. Students engaged confidently, asking questions and showcasing their skills, strengths, and interests.

We look forward to future EAB meetings and welcoming more employers to join the board to help benefit both education and employment. A huge thank you to everyone who participated and we hope to see you again in the new year.

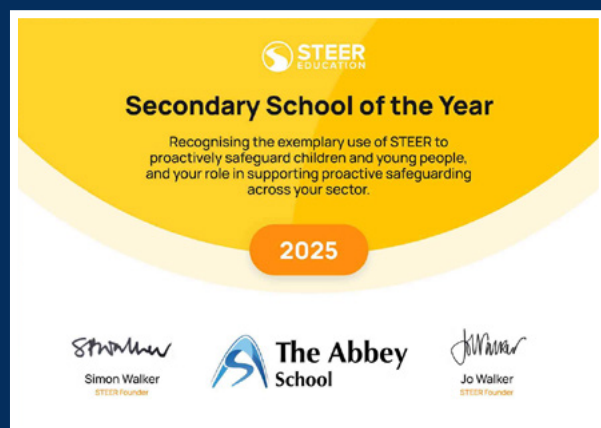


Furthering Social Impact and Development

STEM Club Meets Pascal!

Our Year 8 STEM Club students were thrilled to meet the newest member of the science family, Pascal the gecko! Pascal quickly became the star of the session, happily greeting each student and sparking plenty of curiosity and questions.

The group loved learning more about how geckos adapt to their environments and are already looking forward to caring for Pascal and including him in future science projects.



The Abbey School Named STEER Secondary School of the Year

We are delighted to announce that The Abbey School has been awarded STEER Secondary School of the Year. The school was recognised for its consistently high-quality use of STEER Tracking throughout the last academic year, demonstrating outstanding commitment to supporting student wellbeing and development.

Congratulations to everyone involved, an exceptional achievement that reflects the school's dedication to nurturing and supporting every student.

A Fantastic Evening at The Abbey School Open Event

We were thrilled to welcome over 600 visitors to our recent Open Event! Our talented school choir opened the evening beautifully, setting the tone for our Principal talks, before our pupils took families on guided tours around the school.

From the Roald Dahl trail to the buzz of activity in classrooms, visitors had the chance to explore our curriculum, meet our dedicated staff, and see first-hand the exciting opportunities and facilities we offer.



Highlights included interactive lessons, live performances, delicious food, and even a few very popular animals who stole the show!

The atmosphere was vibrant, busy, and full of energy, a true celebration of our Abbey community.

A heartfelt thank you to all the families who joined us, and to our incredible staff and pupils whose enthusiasm and teamwork made the evening so special.



Celebrating Student Success and Social Impact

Paris Trip Highlights

Our students had an unforgettable trip to Paris! They explored the history of the Rugby and Football World Cups, wandered the artistic streets of Montmartre, and conquered the Arc de Triomphe, enjoying stunning panoramic views. A stroll down the Champs-Élysées even included a chance to sit in a real Ferrari! They also had a fantastic day at Parc Astérix, meeting famous characters and embracing the Halloween spirit. The trip ended on a high note with an epic climb of the Eiffel Tower, taking all 670 steps to the top and enjoying breathtaking views. A truly memorable experience for everyone involved.



Goedendag to Our Amsterdam Students

We had an exciting day hosting 24 students from Amsterdam, who experienced life at our school for the day. Our Year 10 and Year 11 buddies were fantastic, showing them around, helping them settle in, and giving a taste of our timetable.

From lessons to laughs, it was brilliant to see everyone mixing, learning, and enjoying a friendly football match together.

Year 9 Visit to the Houses of Parliament

Year 9 had an incredible day exploring the Houses of Parliament, including the House of Commons, House of Lords, and Westminster Hall. They also took part in a workshop learning how to write petitions that could be sent to the Government.

While in London, students enjoyed visiting iconic landmarks such as the London Eye, Westminster Abbey, and Big Ben.

A huge well done to all students for representing the school so well.



Year 9 & 10 Army Visitor

Some of our Year 9 and 10 students had an amazing time with the Army, learning about career opportunities and taking part in team-building and problem-solving challenges.

The students showcased their skills, worked together, and had a fantastic day exploring new opportunities for the future.

MEDWAY UNITED

FOOTBALL CLUB

JOIN OUR CLUB

As a two-star England Football 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.



COMETS DISABILITY FOOTBALL

Ages 5 - 11 years
Saturdays, 11.30am to 12.30pm
St Margaret's Junior School, Orchard Street, Rainham

WILDCATS GIRLS FOOTBALL

Ages 5 - 11
Thursdays, 5pm to 6pm
The Howard School, Derwent Way, Rainham



Sponsored by



SOCCER SCHOOL

Ages 3 - 6
Saturdays, 9am to 10am
Thames View Primary School, Bloors Lane, Rainham

GIRLS SOCCER SCHOOL

Ages 3 - 6
Saturdays, 9am to 10am
St Margaret's Junior School, Orchard Street, Rainham



Medway United FC

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Medway United FC

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



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





THE HOWARD Academy Trust

*Working together to build a
community of successful learners*

Our Academies

