

Trust Newsletter

Term 5 | 2025/26



**Celebrating an icon!
David Attenborough
turns 100 years old!**

PLUS | Student Success • Award Wins • 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,

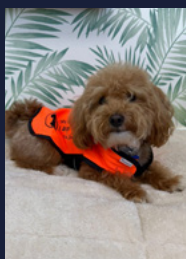
As another busy and successful term comes to a close, I would like to congratulate all of our pupils and staff for the incredible achievements, opportunities, and experiences celebrated across our academies. From sporting success and creative performances to academic enrichment, and community projects, it has been wonderful to see our young people thriving both inside and outside the classroom. I would also like to wish all of our students completing examinations the very best of luck. We are extremely proud of your hard work, resilience, and determination, and we know you will continue to do your very best.



O McColgan

Owen McColgan Chief Executive

Inclusivity



Congratulations to Bubbles at **Thames View Primary School**, who has successfully completed his Dog Mentoring programme this week! His achievement shows how every member of community, human or animal, can play a valued role in supporting wellbeing, connection, and belonging.



Students from across our Trust schools enjoyed an exciting opportunity at **Hurstmere School**, spending the day in the **end2end TV** recording studios. They took part in filming for a special video for the THAT Staff Awards - an experience that reflected inclusivity and celebration across the Trust.

Ambition



Alfie at **The Rowans AP Academy** showed real ambition by asking for a pond in the school garden and taking responsibility for helping to dig the hole himself. His determination and initiative are now bringing that idea to life, with Alfie's pond officially in the making and already inspiring others to take action.



A team of dancers represented **Miers Court Primary School** at the Medway Schools Dance Festival, performing their energetic Minion Mash-Up. Their ambition showed as they took to the stage, embraced new workshops, and showcased their talent in front of other schools and colleges.

Dignity



Thank you to Crown Decorating Centre Gillingham and the wider team for their donation of paints and resources, which will directly support children's learning and play at **Temple Mill School**. This kind and thoughtful support upholds the value of dignity, ensuring every child is given the tools to explore, create, and learn.



Waterfront UTC students took part in their first fishing experience with the Countryside Alliance and the Fishing4Schools initiative. The activity helped students build confidence, learn new skills, and experience the wellbeing benefits of outdoor learning and reflection.

Respect



Two Year 7 students from **The Howard School** were praised by a member of the public for showing great respect and kindness, helping an elderly gentleman with his shopping and safely walking him home. Their thoughtful actions, done without expectation of reward, truly reflect the school values.



The Howard School celebrated David Attenborough, marking his 100th birthday. They are proud to have one of their Houses named after such an inspirational figure, whose lifelong dedication to respect, education, and protecting our planet continues to inspire generations around the world.

Central Team News

THAT Staff Awards 2026

We are delighted to share this year's shortlisted nominees for the THAT Staff Awards 2026.

Across our organisation, we have over 800 members of staff, who are dedicated to ensuring the very best for every child that attends a THAT academy. We recognise that every member of our teaching and support staff makes an invaluable contribution and is deserving of an award.

This year, we received a record-breaking number of nominations - **more than 1,400** - submitted by colleagues, pupils, parents and carers. This overwhelming response reflects the incredible impact our staff have every single day, and the outstanding quality of nominations made the shortlisting process extremely challenging.

Our finalists were shortlisted by a panel of Trustees to ensure an impartial process, and we hope you will join us in congratulating all those recognised this year.

Primary Teacher of the Year

Georgia Bowie - Miers Court Primary School
Lindsay Gulvin - Thames View Primary School
Hannah Hand - Deanwood Primary School

Secondary Teacher of the Year

Connor Clark - The Howard School
Tom Fielding - Waterfront UTC
Jonathan Page - Hurstmere School

Primary Support Staff of the Year

Annette Brown - The Rowans AP Academy
Katrina Jimenez - Thames View Primary School
Sharon King - Deanwood Primary School

Secondary Support Staff of the Year

Chanelle Billingham - The Rowans AP Academy
Dave Hendrie - Hurstmere School
Sue Lamborn - The Howard School

Unsung Hero Award

Emma Ranson - The Abbey School
Chris Ridley - Miers Court Primary School

Wellbeing Award

Allison Bradley - Miers Court Primary School
Paul the Lollipop Man - Thames View Primary School

Central Team News

THAT Staff Awards 2026

Outstanding Outcomes Award

Alyce Le Brunn-Healey - The Abbey School
Luisa Samuels - The Howard School

Apprentice of the Year Award

Lily-Ann Knight - Miers Court Primary School
Oliver Knott - THAT Central Team

Team of the Year Award

The Pastoral Team - The Abbey School
The Facilities Team - The Howard School

Rising Star Award

Morgan Davis - Temple Mill Primary School
Freddy Killyleagh - The Howard School

Professional Growth Award

Tracey Bowley - The Rowans AP Academy
Simone Ximines - Temple Mill Primary School

Trust Impact Award

Adrienne Bradshaw - Thames View Primary School
Leanne Gale - The Rowans AP Academy

Central Team Staff Member of the Year Award

Claire Delahay - THAT Central Team
Igor Staszkiwicz - THAT Central Team

Governor of the Year Award

Pamela Conibeer - The Rowans AP Academy
Gladys Enti - The Abbey School

Lifetime Achievement & School Special Recognition Awards

Award winners to be announced on the evening



**Congratulations again to this
year's shortlisted nominees!**





A Gold Brownie Award!

Bella in Hawthorn Class has been an absolute superstar! Before Easter, she achieved her Gold Award at Brownies after teaching the group how to make beautiful origami boxes and envelopes, a fantastic achievement that showed great creativity, patience, and confidence. Mrs Wright was so impressed with Bella's talents that she awarded her one of her special gold Principal's Award stickers, and is now the proud owner of one of Bella's handmade envelopes! Well done, Bella! We hope you enjoy Guides just as much as you enjoyed Brownies.



Chess Success for Omer!

We are incredibly proud of Omer in Year 2, who recently took part in the Learn Chess Academy Champions League as a member of Rainham Junior Chess Club. Competing in a chess tournament takes great concentration, resilience, and strategic thinking, and Omer represented his club with fantastic enthusiasm and commitment throughout the event. It is wonderful to see our pupils developing their talents and interests outside of school, and Omer should be very proud of his achievement!



Cricket Club Inspires Future Athletes

Children at Deanwood are incredibly fortunate to have Mr Danes and his son George leading our Year 4-6 Cricket Club. Their enthusiasm, encouragement, and passion for the sport have created a fantastic atmosphere, with children showing great energy, teamwork, and enjoyment each week. We are excited to be taking a team to Medway Park next term to represent Deanwood at the Cricket Mini Youth Games for the very first time. A huge thank you to Mr Danes and George for being such positive role models, and for inspiring the next generation of young athletes.



Busy Times in Pine Class!

Year R have been very busy recently, taking part in a range of exciting and engaging learning activities. The children have enjoyed experimenting with colour mixing, learning more about life cycles, exploring ways of making 5, and working hard to improve their number formation skills. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm, creativity, and determination across all areas of learning. Well done, Pine Class!





Reception Explore Wingham Wildlife Park

Reception had a wonderful trip to Wingham Wildlife Park! The children were full of excitement as they explored the park and enjoyed seeing many of the animals they have been learning about in class up close.

It was a fantastic opportunity to bring their learning to life, helping them to deepen their understanding of animals and their habitats through real-world experience, curiosity, and discovery.



Exploring Flowering Plants in Science

This term, we have been learning about the different parts of flowering plants and the important functions they perform. After exploring each feature and its purpose, pupils worked collaboratively in small groups to create informative posters using real flowers.

One of the most exciting parts of the lesson was breaking up the soil to discover and examine the roots of a plant up close.

Year 5 Explore the Amazon Rainforest

Year 5 have been learning about the Amazon rainforest and the impact humans can have on these important environments. As part of their topic work, they became rainforest explorers for the day, following trails, creating jigsaw maps, and learning about the location of tropical rainforests around the world. The children also researched and drew some of the fascinating animals found in the Amazon before exploring rainforest music, using body percussion and a range of instruments to create their own soundscapes inspired by the rainforest.



Well Done, Year 6!

We are so proud of all our Year 6 children for completing their SATs tests this term.

The children have worked incredibly hard and shown determination throughout the process. To celebrate their efforts, they enjoyed a well-deserved takeaway treat, choosing to use the money raised from Enterprise Day to enjoy lunch together.



Year 6 Commemorate VE Day

Year 6 came together to celebrate and remember Victory in Europe Day by dressing in 1940s-inspired clothing to honour those who lived through World War II. This was a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the bravery, resilience, and sacrifices made during this period in history.

The day also provided a fun and engaging way to deepen their historical learning, with pupils taking part in a range of activities together and celebrating as a year group.



A Victorian Learning Experience for Year 1s

Year 1 were thrilled to welcome Jeremy from the Guildhall Museum Rochester this term as part of their learning about Charles Dickens. Jeremy brought a range of fascinating artefacts and gave the children a wonderful insight into what life was like in Victorian times. The children were fully engaged throughout the visit and even had the chance to try on some of the clothing and artefacts, bringing their history learning to life in a memorable and exciting way!

Year 6 Shine During SATs Week

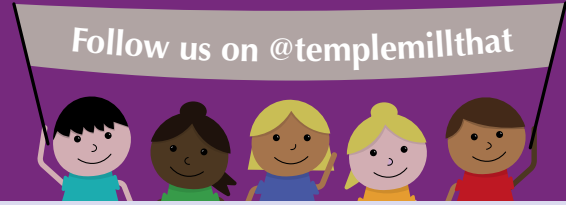
A huge well done to Year 6 for their fantastic effort during their SATs tests. Throughout the SATs week, the children demonstrated our school values of 'Self-belief, Togetherness, Aspiration, Resilience, and Success', showing determination and positivity from start to finish. We have also loved the brilliant atmosphere at the Year 6 breakfast club each morning, filled with smiling faces, plenty of toast, and some unforgettable boys vs girls dance-offs to start the day!



Walk to School Week

We were excited to take part in Walk to School Week with Living Streets. As part of Mission Move, pupils explored the many benefits of walking to school, including improving health and wellbeing, reducing pollution, and helping to create safer, stronger communities.

It was fantastic to see so many pupils getting involved and taking positive steps for themselves and the planet.



Developing Fine Motor Skills in Caterpillar Class

The children in Caterpillar Class have been developing their fine motor skills through a range of hands-on activities, including drawing, threading beads, and using scissors.

These engaging experiences are helping to strengthen hand muscles, improve coordination, and build confidence in their movements. These skills are an important foundation for early writing and also support independence in a wide range of everyday tasks.



Eco Success for Our Planet Protectors!

We are delighted to share that our school has been named one of just eight winners in the Medway Norse "Name Our Waste & Recycling Truck" competition. Judges were impressed by the creativity and thoughtfulness of our pupils' entry, and we couldn't be prouder of everyone involved. A special well done to our Planet Protectors, who received a certificate in assembly today. The winning name will soon be displayed on a real recycling truck, which will visit our school for pupils to see in person. We are also very grateful for the funding towards our Eco Schools Green Flag accreditation, supporting our ongoing work in sustainability.

Year 2 Become Young Gardeners

This term in science, Year 2 have been becoming young gardeners by planting broad beans and keeping a bean diary to observe and record how their plants grow over time. They have been learning all about germination, exploring what seeds need to grow, and identifying the different stages of a plant's life cycle. Through this hands-on experience, the children are developing their observation skills and beginning to understand how to care for living things.



Year 4 Explore Rochester High Street

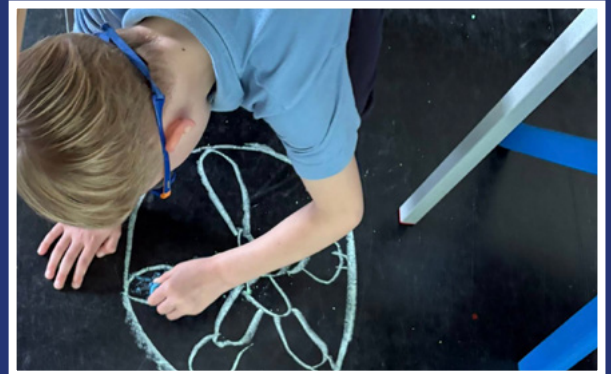
Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Rochester High Street last week. They began with a pizza-making workshop at Pizza Express before heading out to explore the historic High Street and take in the shops and sights.

The children captured their own photographs during the visit, which they are now using to support their English learning as they create informative and engaging travel leaflets about their trip.

Aspen Class Explore Hinduism

Aspen Class have thoroughly enjoyed exploring Hinduism as part of their learning this term. The children have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm as they learned about Hindu beliefs, traditions, festivals, and important symbols.

Through discussions and engaging classroom activities, pupils developed their understanding of different cultures and religions while showing respect and interest in the beliefs of others.



Forest Den Builders in Action

Henry and Blake showed incredible teamwork, determination, resilience, and impressive construction skills while building their very own “Den Base Camp” in the forest.

Their creativity and collaboration brought the hideout to life, creating what may well be the most exclusive den in the woods — with entry likely requiring imagination, snacks, and a secret password!

Fuel for Performance: Rugby Diet Experience

Our KS3 pupils explored what it takes to fuel a professional sports person, focusing on a rugby player’s diet. They were surprised to discover just how much food is needed to maintain energy levels and performance at an elite level!

Roo and Jameson took part in preparing a pre-match meal, and it was a great hands-on experience, not to mention very tasty!



Countryside Careers Event at Detling Showground

Our land-based studies pupils attended a Countryside Careers Event at Detling Showground in Kent, enjoying a very informative and inspiring day.

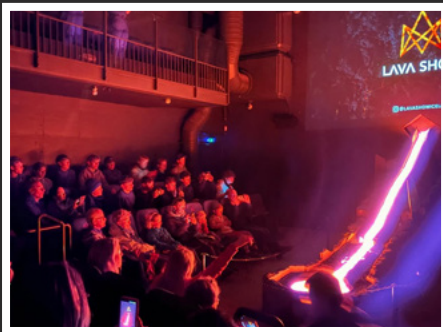
The event provided valuable insight into a wide range of countryside and land-based careers, helping pupils to explore future pathways and deepen their understanding of opportunities within the industry.



Year 11 Iceland Geography Trip

After a minor setback, Year 11 arrived in Iceland and made the most of an incredible geography trip. Students explored Grábrók Crater, experienced lava caving at Víðgelmir, and visited the waterfalls of Hraunfossar and Barnafoss.

They also visited Arnarstapi, Hellnar, Snæfellsjökull National Park, Kirkjufell, and Þingvellir National Park, bringing their classroom learning to life through real-world geography. They also enjoyed time in Reykjavík and experienced the Icelandic lava show, a unique opportunity to see volcanic processes in action. A memorable and enriching trip for all involved!



Year 11 Geography Reward and Exam Success

11N enjoyed a well-earned pizza reward on Wednesday in recognition of the outstanding effort, resilience, and commitment they have shown throughout their GCSE Geography course. A fantastic group who have worked consistently hard and fully deserved the celebration. It has also been wonderful to see the focus and maturity shown by Year 11 students during the first week of GCSE examinations, with excellent attendance at revision sessions and strong engagement across lessons and boosters. We are incredibly proud of the determination being shown across the year group.



Knife Arch Initiative at Hurstmere

This term, Hurstmere School successfully completed a knife arch initiative in partnership with the Metropolitan Police for students in Years 7–9. The initiative formed part of the school's ongoing commitment to safeguarding and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community. Students engaged maturely and respectfully throughout, with their behaviour praised by visiting officers, and were also reminded of the importance of making positive choices and the school's expectations around prohibited items.

Furthering Education and Careers

T-Level Students Explore Construction Sites

Year 12 T-Level students in Design, Surveying and Planning recently visited two construction sites in West Kent, both delivered by Apex Contractors Limited, gaining valuable real-world industry insight.

Students compared an internal redevelopment project with a large-scale new build, exploring key topics such as sequencing, sustainability, modular construction, and specialist design requirements. The visit concluded with a quiz, with students demonstrating excellent engagement and understanding throughout the day.



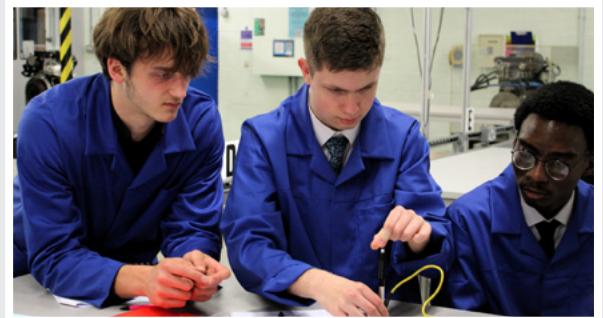
Year 9 Orienteering Competition

Year 9 took part in the annual Orienteering Competition at Capstone Country Park, hosted by Saxons Orienteering Sports Club, enjoying excellent conditions for a day of teamwork and map-reading.

Working in pairs, pupils completed two courses with our fastest duo finishing in an impressive 31 minutes. Pupils represented the school superbly, showing great enthusiasm, determination and sportsmanship throughout.

Year 13 Engineering Experience at the University of Greenwich

Our Year 13 students recently attended the University of Greenwich Faculty of Engineering to take part in a series of material testing activities linked to their studies. The hands-on sessions allowed students to apply their classroom learning in a real laboratory environment while developing valuable technical and analytical skills. We are very grateful to all staff and volunteers who helped make this opportunity possible.



Year 11 First Aid Success

Year 11 pupils successfully completed their Emergency First Aid at Work qualification, a nationally recognised award valid for three years and highly valued by employers.

Throughout the day, pupils developed vital life-saving skills including CPR, the recovery position, bandaging, and dealing with choking, approaching the training with enthusiasm and maturity. Rachael and Ian, who delivered the course, praised the group for their attitude and engagement, with every pupil achieving the qualification and becoming a certified First Aider.

Furthering Social Impact and Development

Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition

A group of our Year 9 students completed their practice Duke of Edinburgh Expedition, spending two days walking for up to six hours while carrying all of their kit and equipment. The expedition included an overnight camp where students cooked their own meals, focusing on building essential skills such as navigation, teamwork, resilience, and perseverance. They now have two months to refine these skills ahead of their qualifying expedition in July. A big thank you also goes to the staff who supported the group throughout the two days.



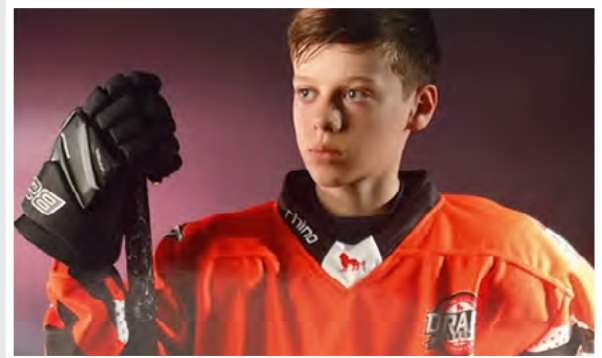
Isla Achieves 2nd Dan Black Belt

Well done to Isla for achieving her 2nd Dan Black Belt, an incredible milestone following an intensive 8-week testing period. Her assessment included technical work, fitness challenges, fundraising for charity, and a demanding Graduation Day of training and sparring, all demonstrating outstanding dedication and resilience.

Isla celebrated her achievement at a presentation evening, where she was proudly awarded her belt and plaque in recognition of her hard work and determination.

Michael Selected for England Ice Hockey Showcase

We are very proud to share that Michael was selected by England Ice Hockey to attend the England Draft Showcase tournament at Ice Sheffield Arena. Competing alongside current and potential England U14 players, he took part in both off-ice and classroom sessions before contributing to Team Phillips' success, winning all three games and the tournament overall. A fantastic achievement - everyone at The Abbey School is incredibly proud of Michael's commitment and success!



Celebrating Our Year 11 Leavers

Our Year 11 students recently celebrated their final day in school before beginning study leave. The afternoon was filled with memories, laughter, and the traditional shirt signing as students shared messages and well wishes with one another.

The year group then came together for a special leavers' assembly hosted by their Head of Year, Mr Jarman Howe. We are incredibly proud of all our Year 11 pupils and wish them every success in their upcoming exams and future journeys.



Celebrating Student Success and Social Impact

Inspirational Visit from Levi Roots

We were delighted to welcome Levi Roots back to The Howard School, where he delivered an inspiring talk to our Business students.

Best known for his Reggae Reggae Sauce and appearance on Dragons' Den, Levi shared his journey from idea to successful brand, speaking about resilience, determination, and the importance of believing in yourself.

Students were fully engaged throughout, gaining valuable insights into entrepreneurship, branding, and the power of hard work and opportunity.



Powerful Visit on Knife Crime Awareness

On the last day of Term 4, The Howard School was proud to welcome Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire, Sarah Jones, alongside local MP Naushabah Khan, as part of an important session on knife crime awareness. They were joined by Martin Cosser from Charlie's Promise, and Virtual Decisions, who delivered a powerful VR experience helping students understand the real-life consequences of knife crime.

Our students engaged with exceptional maturity, asking thoughtful questions and representing the school brilliantly throughout.

Year 9 Mathematicians Visit the University of Kent

Some of our Year 9 students recently visited the University of Kent to take part in the engaging "Stats Gone Wild" workshop. The session brought statistics to life through interactive activities and real-world problem solving, with students showing great enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the day. We were incredibly proud of how the boys represented The Howard School, receiving excellent feedback from university staff for their behaviour, participation, and respectful attitude.



Open Lifesaving Success at Crawley Competition

Well done to G.B. and J.B., who competed at the Crawley Open Lifesaving Competition representing City of Rochester Lifesaving Club, coming away with two silver medals and a bronze.

A special mention to G.B., who captained the team, an excellent achievement showing great leadership and commitment. Their performances also led to an invitation to train at the K2 Centre in Crawley.

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/>

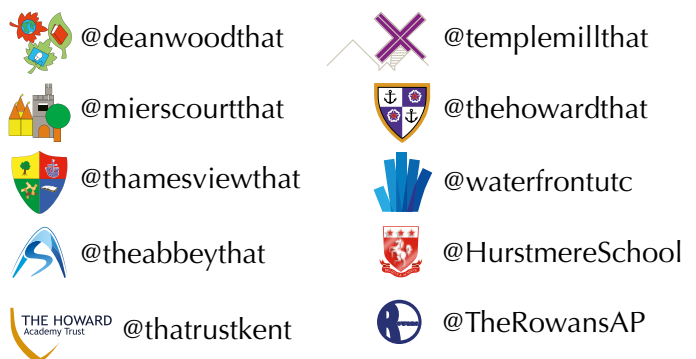


Find Us Online

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





THE HOWARD Academy Trust

*Working together to build a
community of successful learners*

Our Academies

