

Trust Newsletter

Term 4 | 2023/24

Working together to build a community of successful learners

Inclusivity • Dignity • Respect • Ambition



WORLD BOOK DAY

THAT schools join in the festivities, and celebrate the joy of reading.

PLUS | The THAT Staff Awards Return For a Third Year!

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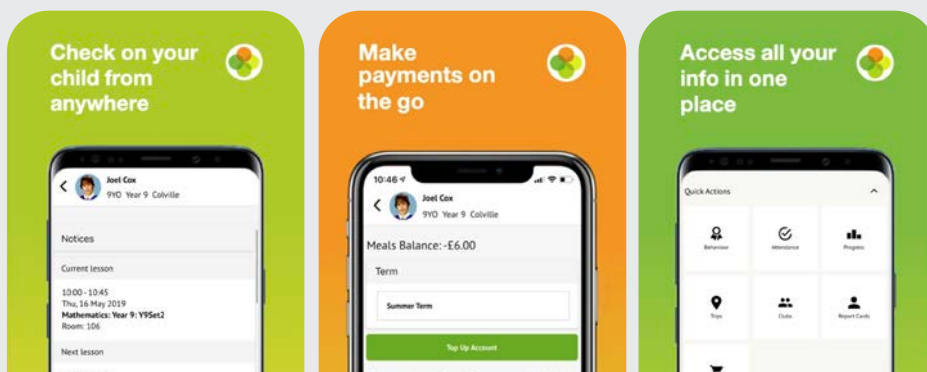
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Have you downloaded the Arbor app yet?



A Message from our Chief Executive

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues,

Welcome to Term 4's THAT Newsletter. With both Christmas and Easter behind us, we find ourselves moving into the warmer months once more, and gradually making our way to the end of the school year. The past term had a lot to celebrate, and looking through this term's news, I am reminded once again of the fantastic effort our staff put in to ensure our children receive an engaging and exciting education.

Term 4 sees our schools pulling out all the stops for World Book Day, and this year was no different. I am always thoroughly impressed by the creativity our staff have in planning activities for this event, to celebrate the love of reading that we aim to cultivate in each of our academies. This year, pupils decorated hats, participated in book swaps, read aloud to younger year groups, engaged with online lessons featuring famous authors, and created larger-than-life sculptures of literary characters, all to help form a positive attitude towards reading and literature.

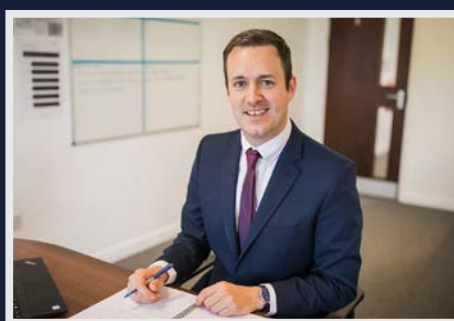
I also wanted to take a moment to highlight, and give thanks to, the help that each of our academies receives from their local communities on a regular basis. This term, Thames View celebrated Mother's Day with baked treats gifted by Boyce's Bakery, children at Temple Mill were able to visit Larkin Farm at Abbey Court, Deanwood were able to upgrade their Nursery facilities thanks to a kind donation of sand from Travis Perkins, Waterfront UTC welcomed alumni back to inspire their female students for International Women's Day, and The Howard School received help from the local community in planting some new trees across the school site as part of The Big Plant. Our schools have also given back, taking part in Red Nose Day fundraisers, and raising money for more local charities, such as The Abbey School's "Turning Red" campaign for KSS Air Ambulance. This volunteered support from members of the public is highly valued and greatly appreciated, as we continue to work together to enhance both our student's educations and give back to our communities.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to our third annual THAT Staff Awards, which have just launched. Our THAT Staff Awards are an opportunity for us to recognise colleagues across the Trust that go above and beyond, as well as celebrating our ECTs and Long Service achievements, and shortlisted nominees are invited to a prestigious awards event in the summer. Anyone from our Trust community is able to nominate a member of staff, from pupils and colleagues to parents and carers, and the information you need to do so is available within this newsletter. I encourage you to consider submitting a nomination or two, if you have a spare moment.

Best Wishes,



Owen McColgan
Chief Executive



MAT EXCELLENCE
AWARDS

SHORTLISTED 2024



Presented by



OPTIMUS EDUCATION
part of **shaw trust**

Trust executive team of the year

Central Team News

University of Kent Careers Fair

We were pleased to attend the University of Kent Spring Careers Fair on 19th March 2024 to talk to students about starting their teaching career with THAT, and how we support Early Career Teachers to flourish in a supportive culture. We look forward to further conversations with the candidates around the current opportunities available with THAT!



Digital Marketing

You may have noticed a new advertising board on the perimeter of Waterfront UTC, in partnership with Alight Media. Look out for our adverts, where we will be spotlighting career opportunities within our Trust schools, celebrating school success, and advertising other opportunities within the Trust, such as hiring our premises.

THAT Staff Awards Return!

We are thrilled to announce the return of our THAT Staff Awards, for a third consecutive year! The THAT Staff Awards are an opportunity to recognise colleagues across the Trust that go above and beyond, as well as celebrating our ECTs and Long Service achievements.

This year, we are excited to launch additional awards, for the first time celebrating Team of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Central Team Staff Member of the Year and splitting Support Staff of the Year into two individual Primary and Secondary categories.

Each year, our Staff Awards are fully funded by our sponsors, and we're on track for this year to be the same!

£12.4k / £13k raised so far



Ready to make a nomination? Head to the next page to see how you can nominate a member of staff for an award, at what promises to be our biggest and best Awards Evening yet!



THE HOWARD
Academy Trust

Staff Awards

Nominate a member of staff for an award at this year's THAT Staff Awards!

[Click here to submit a nomination](#)

Nomination Deadline:
Wednesday 8th May





A Visit to Valencia

Some of our Spanish students enjoyed a residential in Valencia. After a smooth flight from Heathrow, students walked to the old Valencia town, where they visited the old silk museum 'Lonja de la Seda' before touring Catedral de Valencia. Students enjoyed some free time shopping, exploring and sightseeing!

They visited L'Oceanogràfic, an aquarium and aquamarine research and conservation centre, where students had an excellent first half of their day exploring the wildlife and learning about conservation and preservation.



They then took a trip to El Museu de les Ciències Príncipe Felipe, experiencing areas of interactive science, space and a Disney Pixar exhibition!

In their final day exploring Valencia, our fantastic Spanish students explored the ancient caves of San Jose, moving through the caves and tight spaces via boat! After, our students ventured on to the Central Market of Valencia to discover the many traditional foods on offer in one of the world's oldest indoor markets! The day was finished with an awe-inspiring BBC Earth 3D educational film about dinosaurs in the arctic circle.

The Big Plant

What a wonderful morning at The Howard School! Our amazing staff, students, families, and community members came together for The Big Plant event. Together, we planted hundreds of trees across our expansive site! Huge thanks to everyone who lent a hand.



Top Readers

Incredible news! Three of our amazing students from The Howard School have clinched the top 3 spots nationally on Reading Wise for several weeks running! Talk about putting us on the map! Let's give a huge shoutout to these dedicated learners for their outstanding effort and achievement!





Sharing a Joy of Reading

We are immensely grateful to the exceptional Year 12 students who volunteered their time to engage with the pupils at a local primary school, by reading to them and sharing the joy of literature!

We also continued our World Book Day 2024 celebrations by gifting all our Year 7 and Year 8 students a book each, for them to take home to enjoy and keep! Once students have finished reading their book, they will have the opportunity to trade it in and swap for another book to read. Every Year 7 and Year 8 student also received a WBD voucher that enables them to choose another free book from local participating bookstores.

Keen Photographers

A group of our Year 12 Photography and Graphics students recently participated in two events at The Chatham Dockyard and were able to achieve a "Discover Level Arts Award" and an "Arts Award Explore" for their participation. The Photography workshop involved taking photographs around the site and visiting the Ocelot submarine.



During the second seminar, students learned about how Graphic Design is used professionally in companies and businesses. The students were also given challenges to design a logo for a different attraction at the Dockyard. The Arts Award is a recognised series of qualifications in the arts for young people under the age of 25. These qualifications are accredited by Trinity College London, and aim to help young people grow as creatives, and become inspired by the art world!



Tread Lightly Podcast

Miss Ashbee and Ms Hall recently sat down with Rainham Eco Hub on their 'Tread Lightly' podcast, to talk about the school's commitment to sustainability and raising awareness of environmental issues locally and globally.

Ben and Will, two enthusiastic student Eco Ambassadors who are part of the Eco Club, also sat down to share their experiences, leading the charge for positive change across year groups.



Women in Engineering

In celebration of International Women’s Day, we invited former students of the UTC to return to deliver an assembly to some of the female students currently studying with us.

Shannon Kerrigan from Willmott Dixon and Alysia provided insight into their journeys from studying at Waterfront UTC to their current employment within the construction and engineering industries, which also allowed students to gain a real understanding from their success stories of how career paths can develop after education. Some students took it upon themselves to speak with Shannon and Alysia after the session to discuss work experience and ask questions relating to careers and next steps. We’d like to thank both Shannon and Alysia for taking the time to assist with this event and we hope to invite them both back again in the near future.



Cable Car Competition

Selected students from Waterfront UTC competed in the Strood Rotary Tournament hosted at the Royal Engineers Museum. Three teams competed against students from other local schools in a design and construct task based on engineering principles.

All teams were given the task to design and build a cable car like device that could carry a supply package across a river. It was fantastic to see high levels of enthusiasm and brainstorming throughout, especially when students realised they needed to engineer a switch to power their cable cars.



Before we even stopped for lunch, the models were starting to take shape with supporting portfolios and were looking promising for the testing stages. You could hear the clapping of hands and cheering coming from students as they began testing their models and you could see and hear the competitiveness in the room.

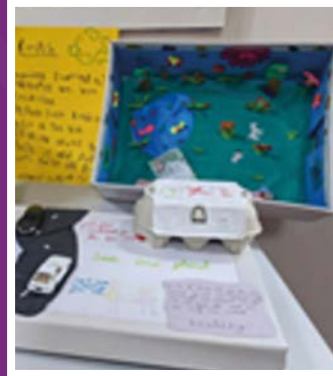
Later, all groups were asked to demonstrate their final products to the judges, where the majority were able to deliver what was expected. After a tense, nail biting wait while the judges deliberated, our advanced team knocked it out the park and took the win for their category! The judges complimented their efforts stating they hit the brief at every point and had a very clear run throughout the entire day!



An Environmental Holiday Challenge

Before we broke up, our House Captains set a Holiday Challenge to create something to promote ways for us to protect our environment. We had a huge number of entries and they were amazing! The judging was incredibly difficult as there was such a great variety: there were poems, posters, models, collages and even a rap!

Prizes were awarded - these were made up of recycled stationery and Fairtrade chocolate! Congratulations to our overall prize winners - James for his Bug Hotel, Jay for his rap and Imogen for her World In a Box! Well done to all our entrants and to our House Captains for putting such a great challenge together for us.



Visit to Larkin Farm

We have been taking groups of children to visit Larkin Farm at Abbey Court School. During these visits, we were given a tour of the farm and met the sheep, went into the chicken coop and fed the alpacas. We also met some of the children and staff from Abbey Court who made us feel really welcome. The 12 children that went really enjoyed themselves and were very well behaved, a credit to Temple Mill.





Reading Week

Reading Week is always a particular highlight of our school year, and this year did not disappoint. The children thoroughly enjoyed completing activities based around their books and it was lovely to see them sharing what they had been doing with children from other year groups at the end of the week. A particular highlight was some of Year 4's work around their chosen book "Quest" - a beautifully illustrated picture book full of room for the imagination to discover the story behind the watercolour images. The children wrote some wonderful myths about their own characters, and were able to explore the use of tone, using watercolours, by painting their own versions of scenes by Aaron Becker.



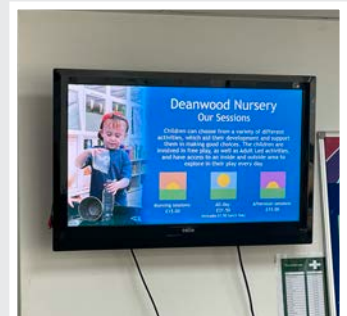
World Book Day continues to be very well supported by parents, children and staff alike. It was fantastic to see everyone dressed up and celebrating a love of reading, and we hope the children have all enjoyed spending the World Book Day token that they brought home at the end of the week.

Our Welcoming School

Some areas of Deanwood recently received a facelift, thanks to members of the THAT Central Team!

Our reception space now has new signage, welcoming you into our school, and we are utilising the reception TV screen to keep parents and visitors up to date with upcoming events and important reminders.

As you enter into the school itself, you are now greeted with a warm "Welcome to Deanwood" sign overhead, and new stickers in the wall of the main hall remind everyone of our school motto - "Happy, Successful and Safe".



Sand Donation

A big thank you to Ashley Gent at Travis Perkins for donating sand for our EYFS sand pit! It was so appreciated and is used every single day by our children. Any support to ensure we offer our children the best opportunities at school is so helpful and we can't thank you enough!

Awards Celebration

On the final week of this term, we like to celebrate and recognise all the amazing progress that has taken place over the last 6 weeks. Each teacher has selected a handful of students who have shown great improvements over this term, and everyone at The Abbey School would like to say a big congratulations to all the students who have won an award!



A Visit to The Supreme Court

On Monday 25th March, the Year 12 Criminology students went on a trip to visit The Supreme Court and The National Justice Museum at The Royal Courts of Justice. The pupils fully engaged themselves in the mock trial they participated in at RCJ and found their fellow student guilty as charged!

"On Monday, we visited the Supreme Court and the Royal Courts of Justice. We were toured around both of them and then acted out a real-life court case which was my favourite part of the trip. This was my favourite part of the trip because it was interesting to see how you would feel in the situation and the pressure of the different roles."

- Kyle D, Year 12

"I enjoyed doing the mock trial which we completed in the Royal Courts of Justice. I found it interesting learning about the different cases which are taken to court."

- Jemima W, Year 12



Duke of Edinburgh Training

Wednesday 20th March held host to our Duke of Edinburgh Expedition training day. Attended by over 80 Year 9 pupils, a group of wonderful volunteers from the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme for Kent hosted informative workshops across the day on tent assembly, first aid, outdoor cooking and orienteering, ready for our expedition outing in June. We are incredibly proud and impressed by our student's hard work and determination; the dedication with which they worked on these skills was truly commendable.

A huge well done goes out to the entire group for their conduct, along with a big thank you for all the delicious hot chocolates made on camping stoves across the day - Mr Afful and Miss Mack were kept very happy!

Turning Red for KSS Air Ambulance

It was fantastic to see the school turn red, as students and staff came together to support the work of the Kent, Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance. Years 7 and 8 were extremely lucky to have Fran, a KSS Charity fundraiser, come in to talk about the work of the charity, as well as two crew members, who gave some live demonstrations of CPR and talked about what their job entailed.

It was a really exciting morning for all, and some really important information was gained about the work of the air ambulance and CPR. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of donations, and are happy to announce that as a school, we raised £974.32!



Prize Winning Writers

We would like to give our congratulations to our students who have been awarded prizes in a recent creative writing competition by the Faversham Literary Festival team.

Mason C achieved second prize with a *“A very enjoyable story, entertaining and imaginative. Some lovely uses of language and a nicely balanced unfolding of the tale. An uplifting and positive ending too!”* The following students were also highly commended: Harley B, Bethany W, Harlow. Well done to these students - we are all super proud of your achievements.



Musical Medley

A huge well done to everyone who took part in this year's school production 'Musical Medley', over two performances to a total of 450 people!

You were all absolutely fantastic and are all a real credit to The Abbey School.



Lego Masters

Students enjoyed working in pairs to create famous landmarks in a Lego Workshop. One student was in charge of the instructions, whilst the other was tasked with building the structure without seeing the images. It was a test of their resilience and communication skills, and all students did exceptionally well.





Visiting a Building Site

Fernham Homes allowed our winners of the house structural design competition to visit the new homes being built opposite our school, and hear from the building management about how the building site runs and how they risk assess.

This proved to be a very educational and exciting visit for the children!



A Mother's Day Treat

Our Mother's Day Tea proved to be a busy and very lovely event! It was great to welcome mums, nans, aunts and other relatives into the school, and we thank everyone that came along to support us. A special thank you goes to Boyce's Bakery for the donation of our cakes for our Mother's Day Tea!

Book Sculptures

We welcomed back Arty Party this term, who worked with our children on creative art and sculpture making, to enhance our school environment, promote the school houses and our love of reading in school! This time, the team and the children truly outdid themselves, creating some larger than life sculptures which now decorate our halls and classrooms. Keep an eye out for Harry Potter, the Gruffalo, Gangster Granny, Willy Wonka, Matilda, and George (and his marvellous medicine!) when you next visit.





Book Week 2024

There was a wonderful buzz throughout the school, as Book Week came to Miers Court this term. Watching the children engage with books in so many different ways was a real pleasure, and the school is now beautifully decorated by reading-inspired creations. Colourful hats are now proudly on display in the library, and the main corridor is now awash with 'Wild' themed artwork as our class contributions flow together to retell the story. 'Wild' by Annette Demetriou and Dawn White gives a gentle glimpse into gang mentality through the eyes of two young brothers Wolfie and Wilfie. It deals with themes of peer pressure to follow and join in with unruly behaviour, aiming to open up conversations and help children realise that they don't have to follow the pack. It also gives them the confidence to do the right thing and ultimately, stay true to who they really are. This year, pupils from every year group engaged with the book in their own ways, and it was wonderful to see the whole school come together to around one central theme.



There are now garlands of fantastic artwork from each class and wall displays full of yet more book-based inspiration. Further activities involved a Book Swap, an opportunity for pupils in Year 6 to read with children in Year 1, and a whole school parade to show off everyone's Book Day costumes. There were some fantastic costumes this year, from pupils to staff alike!

Year 6 even had the opportunity to take part in a live lesson with Michael Morpurgo. The children are currently reading his book, 'Friend or Foe', and it was really exciting to hear about his work! He talked about his book "The Butterfly Lion" and how important it is to look after our ecosystems. It linked perfectly with Miers Court's theme of "Wild"!

A huge thank you also to all our families for supporting our sponsored read. The total amount raised so far is in excess of £700 which, when 'topped up' by Usborne, means that we stand to receive over £1000 of free books for the school!

States of Matter

Year 4 have been learning about States of Matter. The children made predictions about what might happen to a block of ice and over time, they observed it change from a solid to a liquid. Keira told us *"I enjoyed holding the ice. I found it melted faster when I held it, from the warmth of my body, than being sat in the tray."* Micah told us *"Ice can melt quickly in your hand, changing from a solid to liquid but it was very cold!"*





Roman Day

Thursday 14th March was a momentous day for the Year 3 children. They came in full of excitement and looked brilliant in their Roman Day outfits. We had soldiers, gods and goddesses ready for an amazing day.

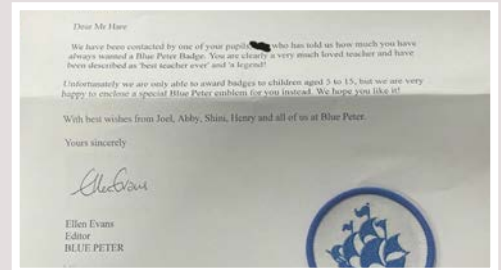
The children started by creating their shields in the morning, attaching the handle, and painting them using the designs they created for homework. While they were drying, the children then created amazing mosaics in the classroom. In the afternoon, the children had a taste of Roman food. We had some interesting faces when the children were trying foods such as olives, figs, flatbread, grapes and honey.



The day all led to the main event in the afternoon: the Roman battle! The children were so excited and were marching through the school and playground, screaming their battle cries. The children practised their battle formations before taking part in the battle between the classes. We finished the day by looking at some amazing chariots built by some of the children! Overall, the day was a brilliant success, and as always, the children's enthusiasm and behaviour made the day even better.

A Message from Blue Peter

After telling his class that he had always wanted his own Blue Peter badge, Mr Hare was delighted to receive a letter from the CBBC show itself! A really wonderful gesture from one of the children in his class, and evidence of the clear impact Mr Hare makes on his pupils.



It IS Rocket Science!

Year 5 had a visit from an actual rocket scientist! Dr James Beck has worked in the space industry for 20 years, first trying to land a probe on Mars, and then trying to help with the space debris problem. The children really enjoyed learning all about the problem of space debris and what James and space agencies around the world are doing to solve the problem. Lots of the children in Year 5 are now really interested in working somewhere in the field of space, particularly when they were reminded that you don't need to be working in America to do so, and that James himself only lives 30 miles from here!

Join Our Team

The Howard Academy Trust's aim and vision is for our member schools to work together to build a community of successful learners, and to deliver an outstanding education for children and young people. To ensure that we can provide this, we pride ourselves in our ability to deliver the support that you need to progress in your career in a way that best suits you.

We welcome new staff and ECTs into our seven academies in all subjects and key stages, and provide a community which allows for collaboration and the building of a strong and supportive teaching network. The Howard Academy Trust values employees who work for our organisation and can offer a variety of

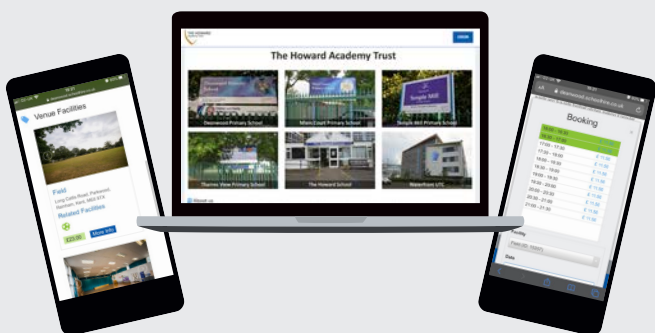
support, as well as opportunities to progress in your career with access to Middle and Senior Leadership Courses, role specific training courses for associate staff, and career stage CPD.

We also recognise that your life extends past the workplace and offer an Employee Assistance Programme, flu jabs and health checks at the workplace, subsidised gym membership and regular Mental Health and Wellbeing afternoons.

If you would like to get in touch, to discuss working with us, or how we can support your entry into teaching, you can click the link below. For more information about our ECT offer, visit: <https://www.thatrust.org.uk/learntoteach>

**Click Here to Register Your Interest
in Working at THAT**

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 to the right when searching for our individual school socials. You can also find THAT on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/thatrustkent


 @deanwoodthat


 @templemillthat

 @mierscourthat

 @thehowardthat

 @thamesviewthat

 @waterfrontutc

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*Working together to build a
community of successful learners*



Our Academies

