

Trust Newsletter

Term 5 | 2023/24

Working together to build a community of successful learners

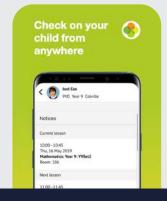
Inclusivity • Dignity • Respect • Ambition



PLUS | Mental Health Awareness Week • Sporting Success

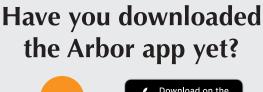
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A Message from our Chief Executive

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues,

Welcome to the fifth instalment of this year's THAT Newsletter. As it always seems to do, the school year has flown, and we find ourselves once again entering the last 7 weeks, albeit with a little less sun than we are used to at this time of year.

The past term saw some really good news across our academies, but the highlight has been our double Ofsted success in two of our primary academies. I would like to say an enormous well done to the staff, pupils and communities of both Deanwood Primary School and Temple Mill Primary School, for maintaining their "Good" Ofsted ratings during the recent inspections. Both schools have worked and continue to work incredibly hard to provide their pupils with the best possible education, working in the face of adversity through some very difficult times over the past couple of years. I wish to commend them all for their persistence and determination, and hope you all managed to get some well deserved rest over the half term. More information from their Ofsted reports can be found within this newsletter, and the full reports are available on each school's website.

There have been lots of other fantastic achievements to celebrate across the Trust this term, with academic and sporting success in both our Primary and Secondary academies. From marathon runners and a Championship League head-to-head for two Howard School alumni, to successes in Mini Youth Games and football tournaments, student-run chess tournaments, reading champions and the completion of student leadership programmes, I am always impressed and inspired by the talent, initiative and motivation that I see on a day-to-day basis from the young people within our community.

Term 5 also saw our academies engaging in Mental Health Awareness Week, holding assemblies for our pupils about the importance of talking about Mental Health, and partaking in activities and fundraisers for corresponding charities. The theme of this year's awareness week was built around encouraging people to get moving, and the positive impact regular movement can have on our brains, and it was great to see a large number of pupils walking to school, as well as staff partaking in our Trust-wide step challenge.

As we enter the final term of the school year, I would like to finish by saying well done to every pupil who has taken SATs in our primary academies and GCSE/A Level examinations in our secondaries. You have all worked very hard, and I look forward to celebrating with you all at results days over the summer.

Best Wishes,

O McColgan

Owen McColgan **Chief Executive**





SHORTLISTED 2024



Trust executive team of the year

Ofsted Success at Deanwood!



Deanwood Primary School continues to be a "Good" school in their recent Ofsted inspection, maintaining their previous inspection result.

Inspectors highlighted that "Pupils enjoy coming to school at Deanwood. This is clear in the positive ways that they interact with one another."

The report highlights how children within the Early Years at Deanwood get off to a strong start in their education. Inspectors said "Children in early years start their education strongly. Staff set clear and high expectations for what every child will learn, and this helps them to achieve well and be ready for the next stage of learning."

Jane Wright, Principal at Deanwood Primary School said "We are absolutely overjoyed with the outcome of this inspection. It has been a challenging year for us at Deanwood following the sudden death of our Assistant Head last academic year. However, this outcome reflects the hard work that has been put in by all staff and the amazing resilience of the whole school community."

Owen McColgan, Chief Executive of The Howard Academy Trust said "I am delighted that the inspector recognised the fantastic work that takes place at Deanwood Primary School every day. Staff within the school are passionate about making sure that every child at Deanwood reaches their full potential."

Temple Mill are 'GOOD'!



Temple Mill Primary School continues to be a "Good" school in their recent Ofsted inspection, maintaining their previous inspection result. Inspectors highlighted that "Pupils are rightly proud of their nurturing and inclusive school. They love coming to school and enjoy learning", and that "Staff know the pupils very well and there are strong and trusting relationships".

The report found that "The school is determined that all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), will achieve their very best. This is embedded in the school motto of 'Give your best, expect success', which is demonstrated very well in every aspect of school life."

Other highlights of the report noted the school's many leadership opportunities for pupils, its "broad and ambitious" curriculum, and the "purposeful" and "calm, ordered and supportive" lessons, delivered by "a strong team who are proud and happy to work at the school".

Lisa Lewis, Principal at Temple Mill said "We are delighted with the outcome of this inspection and thrilled that so many of our most valued qualities have been recognised in the report. The children and staff, and our families, at Temple Mill have worked through a very challenging year and have been able to show what an amazing and resilient team we are. I am very proud of us all."

Central Team News

Mental Health Awareness Week

"One of the most important things we can do to help protect our mental health is regular movement. Our bodies and our minds are connected, so looking after ourselves physically also helps us prevent problems with our mental health. Exercise releases "feel good" hormones, that reduce feelings of stress and anger. It can improve our sleep too. Despite these benefits, so many of us struggle to move enough. We know there are many different reasons for this, so this Mental Health Awareness Week we want to help people to find moments for movement in their daily routines."

- mentalhealth.org.uk

To celebrate Mental Health Awareness Week, we have been encouraging staff across the Trust to get moving with a Trust-wide Steps Warrior Challenge! For the next 30 days, members of staff across our academies and Central Team will be competing to do the most steps, with prizes up for grabs. We'll share the winners in our Term 6 Newsletter.

Staff in the THAT Central Team also took part in Yo-Yo OFFICE®'s 'The Big Wiggle', which encourages staff to get moving during the work day. They made a conscious effort to stand when they could, making standing phone calls, having walking meetings, and using the stairs rather than the lift.



How else are we focussing on Mental Health?

We trained 12 new members of staff in Mental Health First Aid for Adults last term. The MHFAiders in our school are a point of contact, and staff are encouraged to contact a MHFAider from any school within the Trust if they are struggling and would like to talk to someone.



Our academies also highlighted the importance of Mental Health during this week, encouraging students to Wear it Green. Deanwood extended their daily mile, encouraging students to complete the mile via hopping, skipping and jumping.

At The Abbey School, Years 7-12 attended a 'Running out of batteries' assembly, exploring how we can attend to our own 'mood battery' to support our mental health and well-being. Year 8 also took part in a Still Waters project developed to coincide with Mental Health Awareness Week. Through a full day of class-based workshops centred around the theme of water - its sound, weight, and movement - these workshops invited students to consider how water can be used to help create moments of calm within the school environment, and to engage them in thinking critically about their relationship to water more broadly.

Central Team News

MAT Regional Network

We hosted Optimus Education's South East MAT Regional Network at The Howard School. Chaired by our Chief Executive, Owen McColgan, attendees discussed how we can foster an inclusive educational culture, and how collaboration among stakeholders can enhance student outcomes. We also considered what strategies are most effective in encouraging community engagement to harness local expertise and resources.

Feedback for the event was positive, with one colleague highlighting "the ability to talk and discuss common challenges with colleagues who shape the direction of their Trust."



Pupil Parliament

On Tuesday 21st of May, pupils across our academies attended our Trust Pupil Parliament. The key focus this time around was the ways in which we can make each school more environmentally friendly.

Suggestions included:

- having light sensors in hallways and bathrooms to reduce the amount of energy wasted on lights
- organising separate bins for paper, plastic, glass and cans
- using laptops to decrease the amount of paper used in lessons
- removing plastic cups from canteens and replacing with washable cups







Staff Awards Update

We received a phenomenal 1287 nominations for this year's THAT Staff Awards, beating last year's record of 750 by over 500 nominations!

We would like to thank everyone that submitted a nomination, for taking the time to help us recognise the hard work of staff across our academies. Members of the leadership team now have the difficult challenge of reading through and shortlisting nominations, ahead of our Awards Evening in July. We look forward to sharing this year's winners with you in the near future!

A fond farewell and best wishes to Kallum Patching (Finance Officer), who leaves us this term after gaining a promotion. And a warm welcome to Marilyn Cousens, who has joined our Finance team as Finance Officer!



The Living Land Experience

Willow Class joined Year 3 on a trip to The Living Land Experience at Detling Showground, learning all about farming in and around Kent.

Our school trip was lots of fun, and the children really enjoyed learning about all the farming machinery and seeing all the animals. The children saw a range of large scaled machinery that is used to work the fields and farms to produce crops throughout the year. There was also a team from New Zealand which presented a live show of sheep brands.







We're Going On A Bug Hunt

In their Science lessons, Maple Class have been learning all about invertebrates. We went on a walk around the school grounds to see what animals we could find, and decided if they were vertebrates or invertebrates.

We used iPads to research 4 different invertebrates and presented our findings to Year R, who have been learning about minibeasts. Year R have been exploring their habitats in their outside area, as well as learning about the life cycle of a butterfly - looking after their own caterpillars and witnessing the life cycle first hand.

Harry Potter Studio Tour

We took 65 children from Years 4, 5 and 6 to The Harry Potter Studio Tour. We had a brilliant time exploring the sets and completing our 'passports' with all the stamps scattered around the site. Some also chose to have their photo taken on the broomstick with a green screen background.

We need to say a big thank you to Mrs Turner for organising the trip as well as all the staff and volunteers who made the trip a success! We also need to thank the children for their excellent behaviour - we are always proud to take our Deanwood children out as they represent the school so well.











Business Forum

We'd like to thank all employers from FM Conway, Alltask Limited, Knauf Ceiling Solutions, CC Cousins, Kier Group, Clague Architects, CITB, MEMS Power Generation, Tarmac, Wire Belt, Energy Solutions and Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, who took the time to attend our successful business forum.





We held discussions surrounding the importance of bridging the gaps between employment and education, including skill challenges and T-Levels.

We are passionate about the futures of our students, which is why it is so important to have the support of local and nationwide businesses to help provide and support job opportunities for young people and to ensure those pupils are employer ready.

We are so thankful for all the support we have received in supporting students to secure their futures and to provide them with the knowledge of the world of work.

Rotary Tournament Winners

Our winners from the Strood Rotary tournament had a fantastic visit to BAE Systems where they received a tour of their facilities and were provided the opportunity to experience their plane simulators.

The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and appreciated the opportunity that was provided for them. It's experiences like these that link students' studies to their aspirations, and keeps students engaged and enthusiastic about their desired industry.



Football Semi-Finalists!

With the league over and a 2nd place finish, our Year 9 team put their focus into the quarter final of the cup this week. The 1st half saw a strong start from WUTC but a strong end to SJF. It was end to end with WUTC going in at half-time 1-0 up, via a successful penalty. As the 2nd half began, SJF came out fighting and soon it was 1-1 with a chipped goal from far out. The very tense game eventually ended in a 2-2 draw after extra time, meaning it all came down to penalties.

After a flawless penalty shootout, WUTC emerged victorious, progressing to the Semi-Final!



First Gold Book Challenge Winners!

We were able to present some Book Challenge Silver Awards, and we are thrilled to announce we have our first two Gold Award Winners! Our winners have completed the 40 Book Challenge and have earned another bookmark and journal and were also able to choose a brand new book from our golden book basket.







A Visit to Rochester Cathedral

Reception children boarded the coach to Rochester Cathedral. For some children, it was their first time riding on a coach, making it quite an exciting experience. During our visit to Rochester, the children were amazed at how big the inside of the cathedral was. The children were really interested in learning about the golden eagle bible stand and the beautiful stained-glass windows, each telling different stories. They walked on very old stairs (over 300 hundred years old!) and sung in the special choir area.

One child even got dressed up as a Bishop, which was a very special moment for him: "my dream came true because I always wanted to visit the Cathedral."

This visit was a wonderful learning experience for Butterfly Class and they were praised by their tour guide for their excellent behaviour and great listening.

A Magical Evening

Children from Years 3-6 were invited to celebrate our first annual Harry Potter book night. They came dressed up in their best wizard-wear, to join Professor Convey and Professor Forrest for an evening of quizzes, games, crafts and, of course, snacks! We played 'Pin the Tail on the Hippogriff', the children chose and decorated their own wand, and we finished by reading an extract from 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'. We are already planning next year's magical event!





Apprenticeship Fair

A group of Year 12 students attended the UK University & Apprenticeship Fair which took place at the University of Kent in Canterbury. The event is designed to provide Year 12 students with the opportunity to speak to representatives of many of the country's universities and gain an insight into what they offer. Deciding what and where to study next is both a confusing and stressful process. The event gave students the chance to talk to and see what is on offer and widen their view of what courses may appeal to them moving forward.





In addition, students had the opportunity to attend seminars on a number of topics including: Student Finance, UCAS Personal Statement and 'Why Take an Apprenticeship?'.

There were a number of stands representing the apprenticeship route including: Border Force, British Army, Police and the NHS.

As well as engaging with the stalls, students were encouraged to get as much free stuff as they could. Unsurprisingly, they took this invitation very seriously, with some of our students amassing quite an impressive haul of pens, badges and tote bags!

Good Luck, Year 11!

We gathered for a heartwarming Good Luck Assembly to wish our incredible Year 11 students all the very best as they embark on their public examinations journey. We are wishing each of them well as they showcase their hard work and dedication. You've got this, Year 11!



Colour Run Volunteers

These sixth-formers have been volunteering their time to read to primary students at St. Thomas of Canterbury in Twydall. They have made such an impression at the school over the last few months that the school asked them to help with their annual Colour Run. As you can see, they certainly got in the spirt of it all.







A Hockey Champ

Incredible news from Finland! Toby, one of our outstanding ice hockey players, scored a crucial goal as part of the England team's historic gold medal win at the AAA level.

This victory marks England's first-ever gold at this elite international competition, and it's also their debut at this prestigious level. What an achievement! Congratulations, Toby, on your stellar performance and for making history on the ice!

Our Future Leaders

Let's give a round of applause to 12D for conquering their leadership journey! Completing a leadership programme isn't just about reaching the finish line; it's about the growth, the lessons learned, and the transformations made along the way. Your dedication, commitment, and hard work have truly paid off. Here's to the future leaders, innovators, and changemakers among us!





A Howard School Head-to-Head

We are incredibly proud of 2 of our exstudents, who went head-to-head in a Championship League match this season - Luis Binks for Coventry City and Joe Walsh for QPR.



Talented Photographers

Our talented Year 12 Graphics and Photography students have been awarded their Arts Award certificate, for their participation and work with The Chatham Dockyard.

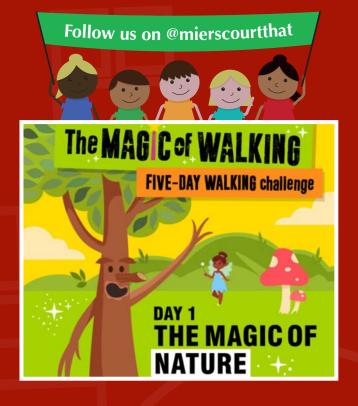
These qualifications are accredited by Trinity College London, and they aim to help young people grow as artists and creatives, and become inspired by the art world. This achievement will look great on the students' CVs, and in future applications.





Walk To School Week

Children across Miers Court took part in the annual Walk to School Week. Pupils have been discovering how walking to school is good for us and how it can impact our health, and how walking and wheeling is a great way to boost our morale and arrive at school feeling ready to learn. They reflected on how walking to school can provide them with quality family time, connecting with friends or making new ones along the way, and the importance of sustainability and the positive impact walking to school can have on the planet. There were a total of 1744 active journeys to school from our children this week, averaging around 350 a day!





A Summary Of Our VE Day

"On VE Day, we learnt about VE Day and the events that led up to it. We listened to Churchill's speech declaring victory. We also listened to the Lambeth Walk and some of us danced to it! We sang some WW2 songs such as: Lambeth Walk, Run Rabbit Run and Bye Bye Blackbird. We also had great fun baking and made jam tarts using a WW2 recipe which included: butter, jam, flour and water. They were actually really nice!

We dressed up as evacuees, soldiers, land girls and even a plane! We made planes out of lolly sticks and pegs and used felt tips to colour them in and flew them. We also made paper chains using some coloured paper which was red, blue and white. Then we went outside and played WW2 games such as marbles and chess. We all really enjoyed spending the day together."

- Lily and Jess, Year 6

Un-BEE-lievable Exhibits

Once again, Miers Court has entered the Kent Garden Show! The Kent Garden Show has a new competition aiming to teach people about how important bees are to people. We learnt about how vital bees are to our eco-system, and were challenged to make our own self-supporting bee exhibits.

Each year group submitted an entry and the children worked really hard together to create an information board. We are very proud to say we received the prize for most cumulative votes!





Cheerleading Inspiration

We would like to say a huge congratulations to one of our pupils for a brilliant result at her first competition with her cheerleading squad. She has only been cheerleading for 8 months but took part in her first National competition over the Easter holidays, competing against squads from all over the country. They did amazingly well and were awarded 3rd place!

Hearing the news has brought back fond memories for Mrs Doherty, who used to compete with the very same cheerleading squad when she was younger!



"Watching the routine has filled me with nostalgia and I would like to share the joy cheerleading brings with the children at Miers Court."

Mrs Doherty, and her Assistant Coach will be running a cheerleading club during lunchtime on Tuesdays, initially for children in Year 6 with the intent of widening the offer to other year groups in the future.

Netball Mini Youth Games

Miers Court's cup team did a fantastic job at Netball Mini Youth Games. Despite the weather, they all showed amazing resilience and teamwork skills. They were an absolute credit to our school and should be very proud of what they achieved.





Science and DT with Year 4

This term in DT, Year 4 have been learning about mechanisms and how things move. They combined this with their Geography study of the USA and their science knowledge of electricity to make model cars with moving wheels and working headlights to travel down Route 66!

We also celebrated Science Day! The children got to take part in a range of experiments, from exploring non-newtonian fluids and making lava lamps, to experimenting with acids and alkalis. The children were even able to explore how polymers work, by pushing pencils through bags of water without leaking, and were able to make letters float off of plates and catch them with paper! There were two demonstrations in the afternoon, creating elephant's toothpaste, and even using fire to create a chemical snake!



Aerobics Studio Upgrade

We are pleased to show you some pictures of the newly refurbished Aerobics Studio flooring, after a lot of hard work sanding and repairing, taking all the gymnastic equipment out, and adding all-new line markings and three coats of varnish/sealer. I hope you agree that it is now looking great and will provide a really nice area for our students to make use of.





Chess Tournament

As part of our partnership with East Kent Schools Together (EKST), three of our Year 11 students organised, and hosted, a cross-school Chess Tournament on Tuesday 23rd April. Leo and Sunny battled against the best players from St Edmund's, St Anselm's and Herne Bay High School in a tense morning of chess competition, with Evan playing the pivotal role of Official Adjudicator.

St Edmund's were the overall winners with Leo and Sunny taking respectable runner-up spots on the scoreboard. It was a wonderful day for all involved; staff and students all spoke highly of the three wonderful organisers who demonstrated true Abbey School spirit and were a credit to themselves, their families and our school community.

Big Questions in Philosophy

On Monday 29th April, 14 of our Year 10 students were invited to The King's School Canterbury, to attend a workshop on "Big Questions in Philosophy", as part of our partnership with East Kent Schools Together. All students conducted themselves in an extremely mature way and were a credit to The Abbey School. They have been invited back for the opportunity to debate a philosophical issue with some of the students from The King's School, as well being offered a full tour of the cathedral. We really look forward to building upon this partnership with The King's School.



Mental Health Assemblies

The Mental Health charity Kooth visited to give an assembly on Mental Health, the issues that young people are facing, and the support that is given. The Kooth team provide free, safe and anonymous online support and counselling. Massive thanks to Kooth for paying us a visit!





Archie Runs a Marathon

A massive well done to Archie Hatcher, who smashed his 26.2 mile run in 3:42:49!

Everyone at The Abbey School wants to wish Archie a huge congratulations. He has been raising money for the NSPCC, and we hope he can continue to raise as much money as possible.



Explore Your Futures

A group of Year 12 students took part in an 'Explore Your Futures' day at Canterbury Christ Church University.

Students were able to choose from a selection of lectures and seminars in different career pathways including; Business, Education, Technology, Criminal Law and Nursing. There was also an opportunity to network with employers and attend a careers fair and Q&A session.

Not only did the day provide them with an insight into future careers, it also provided a fantastic opportunity to experience what a typical day at University might be like.

As always, our students conducted themselves impeccably and were a credit to themselves and our school community.



Dover Athletic Win Big!

A massive congratulations to Dover Athletic Football Academy for winning the Kent Schools' Academies Cup, taking home the trophy with a final 3-1 win!

Everyone at The Abbey School is very proud.



DofE Awards 2024

On Monday 13th May, we hosted our annual DofE Awards Ceremony. It was a fantastic evening to celebrate the hard work the students have put in this year. We look forward to the expedition that will be taking place in June!





A Visit to Rochester Castle

Year 2 had a wonderful time at Rochester Castle as part of their Medieval Medway topic. They were very adventurous and climbed all 156 steps to the top of the castle and back again.

They spotted many features of a castle from their Hook day learning, including a portcullis, battlements, bailey and keep.





Eco Shop Keeps Growing

Our Eco Shop now has approximately 1800 good quality second hand uniform items, new PE T-shirts, water bottles and head lice combs in stock. Since the launch in October 2022, approximately 3000 clothing items have been stopped from going to landfill. Thank you to Mrs Cull and all parents who visit!

Tadpole Journey

After receiving a number of tadpoles just before the Easter holidays, Reception have been watching keenly, as they grew into frogs. The children learned that tadpoles grow their legs around week 9, and after weeks of taking good care of the little creatures, using fresh rain water to clean the tadpoles' tank out (to keep the environment the same as they would have in a pond) and feeding them a small amount of fish food each day, they ended the term with their first fully grown frog!









Thames View LIVE!

This term saw our first ever production at the Glassbox Theatre, as part of our LAMDA and drama offer at Thames View. Mrs Flynn and Miss Bailey coordinated a magnificent show, with children of all ages performing. The show, called 'Thames View Television Station Presents: TV Live' gave us a recap of all our best loved television shows over the last few decades. Staff, parents and governors enjoyed the performance, and we had some incredible reviews!



"I cried the whole way through! It was just absolutely brilliant. Well done to everyone! You are all so amazing. Thank you to all the teachers for giving our children a fantastic opportunity."

"SO proud of them all! Thank you for giving our children such a wonderful opportunity. A big thank you to everyone involved!"

"All the children were amazing! Thank you to all the staff for giving up their time to make this possible."

We thank Mrs Flynn and Miss Bailey for all of their hard work. Our next big production will be Matilda the Musical, at the GlassBox Theatre on the 12th December, so please save the date.







A World of Adventures

Year 4 enjoyed exploring wildlife and pond dipping at Shorne Country Park as part of their climate change topic. They talked all about how climate change is impacting our environments, and then enjoyed a day in the sunshine with a little picnic with their friends at lunch time! Meanwhile, Year 6 celebrated a fantastic day at Chessington World of Adventures – their reward trip for the hard work they all put in towards their SATs.



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



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

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/







Our Academies













