

Trust Newsletter

Term 2 | 2023/24

Working together to build a community of successful learners

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NORTHERN LIGHTS

Students at The Howard School witness the aurora borealis on a very exciting trip to Iceland

PLUS | *New Library Areas • Christmas Card Competition Winners*

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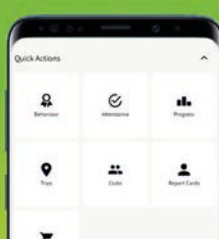
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A Message from our Chief Executive

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues,

Welcome to the second THAT Newsletter of the academic year. I hope that everyone had a restful Christmas and enjoyed celebrating the New Year, in whatever capacity. It is hard to believe that we have found ourselves in January already!

In this edition of our Termly THAT Newsletter, we look back at the accomplishments and achievements from our academies over the last two months, as well as highlighting some of the most exciting events that took place.

Schools were fortunate to welcome a vast number of guests and speakers through their doors this term, to speak to both students and staff alike, and to heighten their learning. At Thames View, pupils were treated to a special performance by MC Grammar, who used modern music to teach the children literacy skills. Other students in the school were also able to meet with some Olympic medallists, with Rebecca Adlington and Hannah Beharry both visiting the school.

Waterfront UTC hosted another very successful Careers Fair, inviting nearly 30 local and national businesses, to highlight to students the wide variety of careers and pathways open to them upon finishing their studies.

Also featured in this newsletter are the winners of our annual Christmas Card competition. Each year, pupils across our academies are invited to design a Christmas Card, which will be used as our official THAT Christmas Card for the year. The submissions this year were truly impressive, and my team and I had a very difficult time selecting a shortlist and winner. This year's winning design can be found on the following pages.

I would also like to draw attention to some of the fantastic work that staff across our Trust have been doing, in creating new and engaging spaces for our students to both learn and play. Constant work takes place at every academy to ensure that students have the best possible learning environments. Recent work has included the updating of a number of classrooms at The Howard, and the launch of the new library space at Waterfront UTC, and this term, I would like to highlight in particular the new library and music space that has been created at Deanwood. Pupils at Deanwood now have a brighter, more expansive room to engage in their love of reading, which is so important to the ethos of the school. On top of that, they now have a bespoke area for music, which will be of enormous benefit to the children.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all of our students on their brilliant performances in their plays, nativities and concerts over the festive period - a couple of which I was fortunate to see myself. We clearly have more than a few budding performers in our midst!

Whilst there was plenty of good news this term, we unfortunately received some very sad news also. Many of you will be aware that our dear colleague Ann Gee sadly passed away during the October half term. Ann was a huge part of the Temple Mill community, and her presence is sorely missed. Within this newsletter, we have included the 'shema' blessing, written by 2 Temple Mill pupils, that was shared with the children and staff during a commemorative assembly. I continue to send my deepest condolences and well wishes to her family, and to everyone in the Temple Mill family.

As always, I look forward to us being able to share more news with you in the coming months, and may I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy and prosperous 2024.

Best Wishes,



Owen McColgan
Chief Executive



Christmas Card Competition

Term 2 saw the return of our annual Christmas Card competition. Students across our academies are invited to design a Christmas Card, to be distributed by the Trust to our staff and governors.

Mr McColgan was very impressed by the wide variety of designs we received this year, and selecting a winner was as difficult as always. After careful consideration, two winning designs were selected – one from a Year 6 student at Deanwood, and the other a Year 3 student at Thames View.

These winning designs were printed onto cards, signed by the Leadership Team and handed out to staff, who were very complimentary of the designs! We hope everyone had a lovely Christmas, and we look forward to running the competition once again next year!



Deadline Reminder

Hoping to send your child to one of our primary schools in September? The Medway application deadline is January 15th!



Making Music

We're very excited to now have a room dedicated to music! We have relocated our library to create a room solely for music lessons.

Music plays an enormous role in day to day life at Deanwood, and we are very happy to now have a space where our children can express themselves through the use of a variety of instruments including: piano, keyboard, brass, flute, drums and percussion!



A New Library

Have you seen our new library area? We have relocated our library to a bigger, brighter and more colourful space (with some brand new comfy bean bags!) At Deanwood, we strive to instil a love of reading in all of our children, and we're already loving this new space, getting cosy, and diving into exciting new stories!



Christmas Events

We want to say a big 'Thank You' to all the parents, carers and family members who attended our wonderful Christmas events. It is always the youngest children in our school who tell the Christmas story and they worked so hard this year to create some very special events to share with you.

We held our Christmas Assembly in school where each of the classes contributed a song or a poem - this year we had songs in Spanish, German and Makaton! This is always a special assembly which creates a wonderful Christmassy atmosphere around school. We hope all of our Deanwood families had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Garden Updates

We are delighted to share with you some fantastic news about work that has been going on in the school grounds. One of our parents and former pupils, Kyle Jones, contacted us and offered to join with Kingsheath Construction LTD to transform Mrs Kerr's garden. You will see from the photographs what a magnificent job they have done, despite having to work through the rainy weather and Storm Ciaran! The children absolutely love being able to enjoy the area and we are especially pleased that Mrs Kerr's tree was able to be carefully re-located to form a central piece in the garden.



We would like to say a huge thank you to Kyle, as well as Kane, Tony and Dean from Kingsheath Construction LTD for their generosity, support and kindness. We are really grateful for everything you have done.

KS2 Playground

The KS2 playground fence has had a bit of a face lift! Lots of new activity panels have been installed, purchased through the Sports Premium funding. We know the children are going to love using these at playtimes. Some children have already had the chance to test them out!



Victorians and Vikings

As part of Year 6's topic, the children had the opportunity to take part in Victorian Day. The children experienced what it would have been like for a Victorian child in school. Lessons included chanting tables, reciting prayers, handwriting, exercise drills and exploring artefacts. Even nails and shoes were inspected! The Year 6 team were really impressed with the effort made and enjoyed getting into character too.



Over in Year 4, children have been learning all about life in Viking Britain, including what it was like to live as a Viking citizen, who the Vikings worshipped and how they invaded. To celebrate their learning, the children had a Viking day, where they were able to test the swords and axes that they had built in DT, try their hand at traditional Viking weaving, carve runes into clay, learn about the fascinating history of longships and even try some traditional Viking foods!

Attendance Rewards

We were really excited to have launched our Termly Attendance Rewards draw at the end of term, with the prize of a brand new bike! This new initiative followed the generous donation of 6 bikes by CRM Students.

Bea Allison from CRM Students reached out to us to explain that in being the UK's leading provider on student accommodation, students sometimes move on from their studies, returning home to overseas homes after studying in the UK. Often, transporting the bikes back across the UK is not possible. These bikes have been quarantined and checked as available, then donated to us. Of course, we are delighted to have these donated to us at The Abbey School.



For the past two weeks, we have run an attendance challenge and have awarded a number of bikes to lucky recipients in Years 7-11. We are extremely grateful to be working in partnership with CRM in enriching our Sixth Form over the coming months.

Congratulations to the fabulous students whose excellent attendance saw them selected from this term's draw for a bike just in time for Christmas!

Remembrance Day

We held a very moving remembrance parade followed by a two-minute silence. Our grateful thanks to Mr Stucken for the reading of the poem, 'In Flanders Fields', and to Rev Dan Corcoran for his message of peace. This was an incredibly poignant and respectful service to commemorate all of those who have fallen in war and conflict.



Pantomime Performers

An enormous congratulations to some of our Performing Arts students who performed in pantomimes over the month of December. Nuala A, Bella A, Megan C and Chelsey C all performed at various venues in Kent including The Malthouse, The Woodville and Doddington! We are very proud of you!



Special Visitors

We were very fortunate to be able to welcome a number of very exciting, engaging, and inspirational visitors to school this term!

A big thank you to Hannah Beharry, the boxing medalist and first professional woman boxer to represent GB, for visiting Thames View. Our children are lucky to meet such inspirational sports people and we thoroughly enjoyed your boxing workouts!

MC Grammar paid our school a visit with a fun twist on an English lesson! Transforming popular songs through the medium of rap, he got the KS2 hall rocking! Staff were also fortunate to work with him after school on some teacher training. The children really enjoyed this event, and we look forward to welcoming MC Grammar back to school soon.

Becky Adlington, Double Gold Medallist Olympic swimmer, visited our school! She spoke to the children about water safety, her Olympic career, and the brand new swimming pool at 'swim! Chatham'. The children even got the opportunity to see and hold her medals too!



Arriva Bus Visit

Year 1 were visited by an Arriva Bus, following their learning about transport in Term 1! They were able to go on the bus and ring the bell, and also spoke to the driver about his job and what it is like to drive the buses!



Christmas Activities

Christmas truly arrived at Thames View over the last couple of weeks, with plenty of fun had by all! Our Reception and KS1 children performed brilliantly in their nativities and Christmas plays, we held an exciting snowy fun day (complete with snowball dodgeball and circus skills!) and the jolly old man himself even popped by to visit! A thank you also to all of our parents who supported our PTA-run 'Polar Express' movie night.



Golden Tickets

We are excited to announce the launch of our new Golden Ticket rewards system! Students earn Golden Tickets for doing something remarkable, in lessons or around the school, and all tickets are entered into regular prize draws for exciting prizes! We currently have the following up for grabs this year:

P = 10 x Chinese vouchers courtesy of 'Yummy House Chinese' in Gillingham, plus a lucky dip box - drawn on the 20th December

I = 10 x selection boxes and 4 x £25 All4one vouchers - drawn on the 20th December

E = 10 x Easter Eggs and a LAPTOP! - to be drawn at Easter

R = A mystery school trip - to be drawn towards the end of the academic year



Young Enterprise

Annabelle from Young Enterprise and Audrey from National Grid UK delivered a Career Coaching session to a group of our Year 13 students. This session is part of the Grid For Good pathway, providing advice on career opportunities and top tips for applications.

Students appreciated the help and support from the session and said it was very informative. They will soon be putting the advice and tips into practice, as they begin looking and applying for degree apprenticeships which will start in September 2024. Thank you to both Annabelle and Audrey for your support with the UTC and we look forward to the Business Taster sessions to follow.



DEC Brief

We were lucky to have Morgan Clarke and Russell Crawford from Enable deliver the introduction and design brief to our Year 10 DEC class (Design, Engineer, Construct). Russell shared his knowledge in electrical engineering, while Morgan provided information surrounding what work our student's projects will be based on. The focus of the project will be based around Network Rail's project in Reading, a new substation, built to power a community hub while also incorporating a renewable energy source for a sustainable project.

Our students are looking forward to getting started on this project, and receiving the employer delivery only amplified this! We appreciate the preparation and the time taken to help deliver this project face to face with our students, and we look forward to planning future visits including potential site visits through the course of this two-year project.

Careers Fair

We held another fantastic Careers Fair today, with a huge number of employers in attendance.

Amongst our visitors, we were fortunate to welcome a number of former students, who are now in apprenticeships or full time employment with these employers. This proves to be a valuable inspiration for our current students, highlighting the possibilities available to them once they leave the UTC.



Students were eager to engage with representatives and received valuable information regarding the opportunities available. This included apprenticeship schemes, work experience, industrial placements and engineering taster weeks, which are available for students to apply to. Students were complimented on their professionalism including the high level of engagement, which was witnessed throughout. A more personal thank you to each company, as well as many more photos of the event, can be found on our social media.

After visiting our careers fair, Year 11 students then spent the afternoon creating and editing their CVs as well as logging into their Kudos, working on their profiles and searching potential career opportunities.

Sporting Achievements

This term, we have been very impressed by the sporting achievements of our students. A particular highlight of the term saw our Year 9 boys travelling to St John Fisher for their second fixture.

The game started very evenly and was end-to-end action. A fantastic last-ditch tackle from Sean stopped SJF from getting the first goal. We dug deep and found a lot of space down the right which Samuel (on his debut) exploited, managing to score two goals to put us in front. SJF didn't give up and James had to pull off a great save after a striker had found himself one on one!

With halftime looming, a last minute shot was hit by SJF and James managed to get his hand to it, but it found the back of the net. The whistle blew 2-1 at halftime. A quick tactical talk gave the boys some things to consider, but it was the words of Captain William that inspired the boys to go out in the second half. The second half saw football from UTC take a positive turn with shot after shot. SJF did score another in the second half but this didn't halt Waterfront who scored 4!

The final score was SJF 2 - 6 UTC!

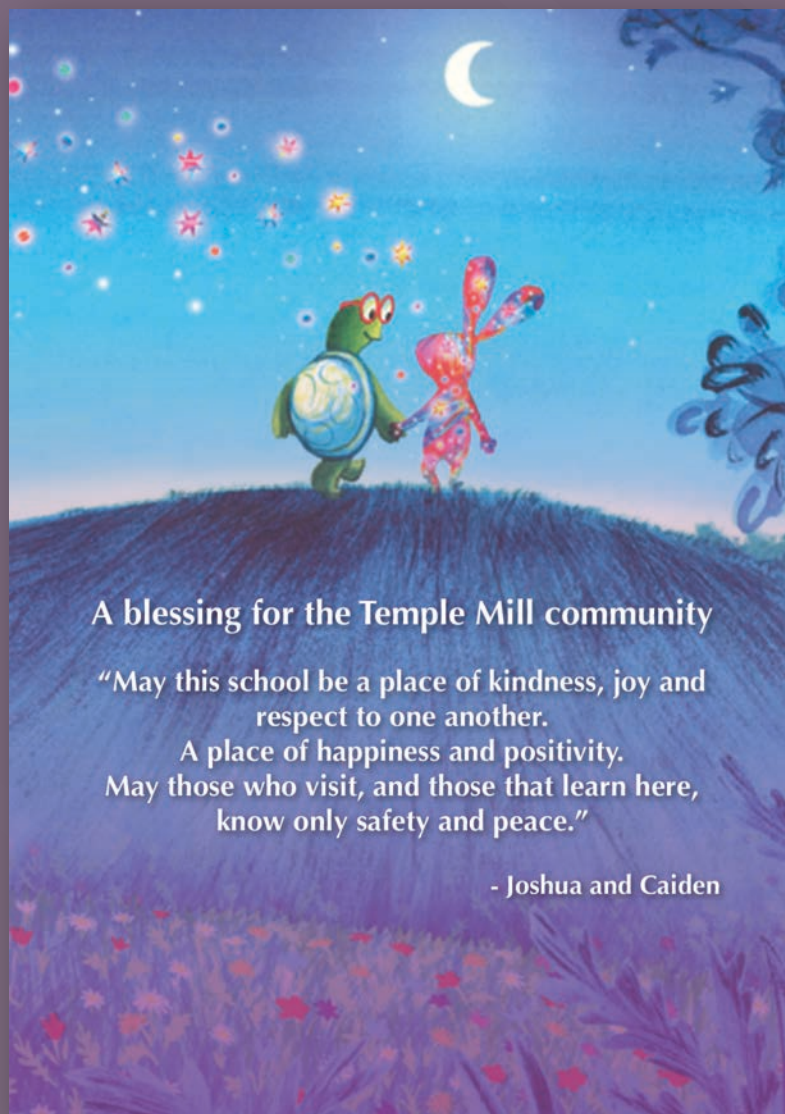


In Memory of Ann Gee

Our dear friend and colleague Ann Gee sadly passed away during the October holidays. Ann was a hugely important member of the team and we know she meant a great deal to our children, their families and all of her workmates. We will all miss her very much.

We have been very touched by the wonderful floral tributes that have been brought to school. The kind messages of condolence have been of comfort to us and to her family.

In school, we held a special assembly to think and talk about Mrs Gee. We listened to music, shared a story and told each other about our favourite memories. We'd like to share with you this "shema" blessing, originally written by 2 of our children for their class and then adapted for our assembly.



Ann's family have requested donations to The Brain Charity. The link to her tribute page is:
<https://ann-gee.muchloved.com>



Reptiles in the Classroom

We recently invited RDJ Reptiles to bring some animals into Year 3 so that we could continue our learning about skeletons and muscles. Jay spoke to us all about Savannah Monitors, Bearded Dragons, Chameleons, Boa Constrictors and Burmese Pythons.

We had a chance to feel how snakes move their bodies and discussed how they use thousands of muscles to move themselves (humans only have about 600). After feeling their muscles and their spine, we then tried to draw what we thought a snake's skeleton may look like, before we looked at pictures on the computer to compare our ideas.



Vile Victorians

Lions Class dressed up and had an experience day as Victorians. Children were given new names, chalk and chants to learn. Mrs Champness played the part of the strict school mistress; inspecting cleanliness of hands, teaching the rules, taking drill, making gruel, and walking about with the cane!

The class played as factory workers, watched scenes from the movie 'Oliver!', and listened to tales of a school room. Costumes intrigued children from other years and adults on school tours were thoroughly entertained! Year 1s had time with Year 5s at the end of the day to share their knowledge about Charles Dickens and listen to facts about the 1800s.

What Is Sound?

Leopards Class have been exploring "What is Sound?" this term, and this week they have learned about how sound travels and how vibrations are linked to this. We used tuning forks to see how strong vibrations can be when they are in water (this caused quite a splash!) and we banged on drums to see how the vibrations made rice jump.

We also made our own box guitars and pan pipes, and investigated how we can change the volume and pitch of a sound. Leopards Class have all been excellent scientists and great team members this week.





Carol Concert

Congratulations to the incredible Year 7 and 8 students on delivering a spectacular Christmas carol concert that filled our hearts with joy and festive spirit! Their enthusiasm and talent shone brightly, creating a magical atmosphere that truly captured the essence of the holiday season. Their hard work and dedication to putting on such a wonderful performance did not go unnoticed, and we applaud each and every student for their outstanding contributions.

A special recognition goes to the music students from Year 9, 10, and 11 whose musical pieces added an extra layer of brilliance to the concert. It's inspiring to witness the growth and proficiency of our older students, setting a high standard for the younger ones to aspire to.



Community Donations

Over the past term, The Howard School community, comprising students, parents, and staff, has demonstrated commendable generosity by actively participating in donation drives for One Big Family. This initiative aims to support the local community during the festive season by providing essential items to those experiencing homelessness.

The collective effort of students, parents, and staff in contributing items reflects a strong commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of those in need, as we donated over 125 Christmas boxes and bags! Huge thanks to everyone for their support!



Students Amaze in 'A Christmas Carol'

What an incredible achievement for our 'A Christmas Carol' cast, who performed to all of Year 7, then all of Year 8 and finally to parents, friends and family. As always, our students did themselves and the school very proud - well done! Here are just a few of the reviews we received from our audiences.



"The participating students and staff should be very proud of their performances and hard work tonight. So many lines that the boys had to learn and they all presented them very well."

"The boys all did so well. Was fantastic to watch and look forward to tomorrow night's performance too."

"Thank you so much and very well done to all the boys. What a fantastic production"

"Made me cry - a moving story brought to life tonight"



Trip to Iceland

40 of our Geography students took a 5-day visit to Iceland. They landed just as the sun had started to set, and begun with a night-time tour to spot the aurora borealis (Northern Lights). Unfortunately, the search proved unsuccessful.

Day 2 saw our Geographers venture on a South Shore Day. They started the day with a 3 hour glacier walk with the most amazing views. Their journey then took them to the black sand beaches with some strong winds and even stronger Atlantic waves. They finished the day with two famous waterfalls, having visited Skogarfoos where Game of Thrones was filmed, and then Seljalandsfoss, where they could walk all the way around the plunge pool. An amazing day with some amazing memories for these students!



After a disappointing search on Monday evening, on the second night, students were rewarded with a spectacular display of the aurora borealis. Students stayed up late with staff to watch this incredible moment and they all captured many beautiful images, videos and memories of this event.



Day 3 started at a geothermal power plant, learning about Iceland's sustainable use of renewable energy. Students visited Gullfoss (the golden falls), Geyser and then Thingvellir National Park to see a tectonic plate boundary. It was a day full of tectonic activity, but we managed to visit a geothermal greenhouse and try some samples of fresh cherry tomatoes. The last journey of the day returned everyone to Reykjavik for dinner and a relaxing evening.



The fourth day was interrupted by the earthquakes on the Reykjanes peninsula, but that didn't stop our Geographers! They arrived at the Sky Lagoon and were in the geothermal spa for sunrise at 10am! Students enjoyed the ice plunge pool and spending 2 hours in this geothermal infinity pool overlooking the Reykjavik bay. The afternoon was then spent on a walking tour of Iceland's capital city, finishing with the Viking boat statue overlooking the harbour ahead of an evening of bowling, before setting home the following morning.

Professional Development

Well done to some of our Year 12 students, who have received their Professional Development Leadership certificates this morning after successfully completing the course in Term 1. Congratulations to EW and EO who both received the Gold Award for their contribution to school life!



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

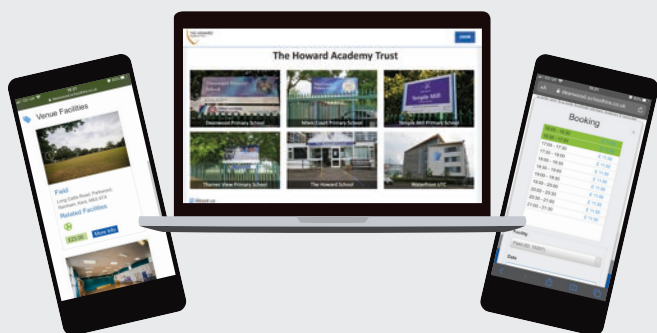
support, as well as opportunities to progress in your career with access to Middle and Senior Leadership Courses, role specific training courses for associate staff, and career stage CPD.

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/ectregistration>

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in Working at THAT**

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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/>

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Our Academies

