

Trust Newsletter

Term 3 | 2023/24

Working together to build a community of successful learners

Inclusivity • Dignity • Respect • Ambition



YOUNG VOICES

Primary schools across the Trust join the annual Young Voices concert at The O2.

PLUS | Governance Conference • National Apprenticeship Week

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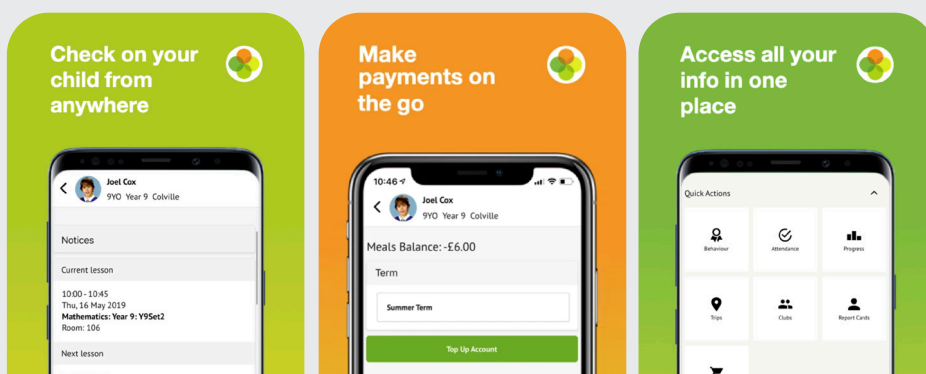
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A Message from our Chief Executive

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues,

Welcome to the third THAT Newsletter of the academic year. After returning to school after the Christmas break, staff and students launched back into another engaging term, full of trips, school visits and activities. Our primary schools visited museums, whilst our secondaries took trips which allowed them to consider their prospective futures, running in line with National Apprenticeship Week.

The running theme of this term proved to be 'collaboration'. Many of our primaries came together with other schools across the country to engage in this year's Young Voices performance at The O2, joining a choir of nearly 9,000 children to revel in the joy of music together. Temple Mill and Deanwood welcomed parents and grandparents into school for afternoon teas and forums to hear their opinions about the school. Students at The Howard School took their collaboration overseas, meeting with The Muhyiddin School in The Maldives, to discuss their environmental approach and what schools could be doing to counter the effects of Global Warming. A few students also attended a Student Conference, working with other children from local schools to discuss topics which matter to them, including racism, immigration and homophobia.

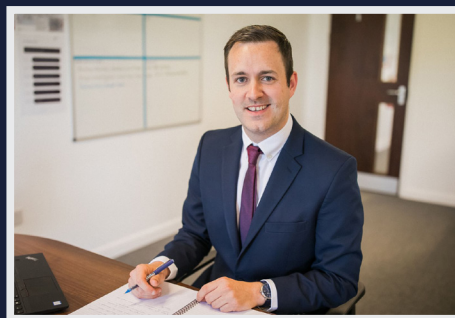
Meanwhile, staff at Waterfront UTC welcomed employers into school for a business breakfast, to discuss skill challenges, T-Level programmes, apprenticeship opportunities, and ways to bridge gaps to benefit both education and employment. The role of external visitors and partner employers has a huge impact on our students and the education that we provide, and I would like to give my continuing thanks to all those that give their time to visit our schools to inspire and educate the students within our care.

I would like to finish today by highlighting some of the fantastic work happening centrally within our Trust. This term, we held our first THAT Governance Conference at Chatham's Historic Dockyard. This was an opportunity for governors from across our schools to meet together to discuss our wider Trust approach, and how we can continue to work together to positively impact our students. I would also like to congratulate our executive team on their MAT Excellence Award nomination for Trust Executive Team of the Year, and their commitment to improving our Trust and ensuring that children that attend our academies have the best possible life chances.

Best Wishes,



Owen McColgan
Chief Executive



SHORTLISTED 2024



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MAT EXCELLENCE
AWARDS

Trust executive team of the year

THAT Governance Conference

On Friday 19 January 2024, we held our first THAT Governance Conference at Historic Dockyard Chatham. The conference brought together Members, Directors, Local Academy Board Members, Headteachers and members of the Trust Senior Leadership Team. During the course of the day we focused on “Securing Impact” which was the theme of the conference. The event proved to be very successful, allowing governors to share their thoughts on our wider Trust approach, and to discuss methods for ensuring we positively impact our students in every avenue of education.



We are proud to be shortlisted for a



MAT EXCELLENCE AWARD

matexcellence.co.uk • [@OptimusEd](https://twitter.com/OptimusEd)

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Young Voices at The O2

"On the 15th of January, the Miers Court choir travelled to the O2 Arena and joined 8,537 children to become the Young Voices 2024 choir. This was the most rousing singing festival we've experienced. We had learnt over ten different songs (without the words) and learnt lots of funky dance moves. Guest artists included: MC Grammar, who makes educational songs fun and memorable, Nandi Bushell - a 13 year old drummer, who performed at the Queen's Jubilee and Nathalie Williams, a well-known jazz singer. One of the best and buoyant performances we saw were the Urban Striders.



Conducted by a man named Andy, the Urban Striders are a dancing team whose dance skills consist of hip hop and street dance. Before the performance, we rehearsed and practiced all the songs and learnt two new songs called 'Extraordinary' and 'Fix You'. After we had our tea, it was time for the performance. The lights came down and the parents came to enjoy what we had been practicing for months. This experience was absolutely insane! Anyone who is passionate about singing will love Young Voices." - Rajni and Venus

"I am incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, singing, dancing and behaviour of the choir at Young Voices this week. They truly were a credit to the school. They worked so hard to be ready for the concert so should be really proud of themselves. Well done Choir!" - Mrs Townsend

A Brilliant Book Swap

All the children had a brilliant time during their book swap. They had the opportunity to meet someone new, share the book they're interested in and add any thoughts or predictions. We even had some siblings who were eager to read with each other and really enjoyed it. We look forward to doing another book swap with a different year group next term!



Natural History Museum

Year 4 had the amazing opportunity to visit the Natural History Museum in London!

They were able to explore the Attenborough Wing and take part in an interactive workshop all about the oceans, linked to their geography work this term. After that, the children explored the museum, seeing marine life, all sorts of creepy crawlies and even some dinosaur fossils!

Holiday Extras

Students with a keen interest in software development were invited to attend an online coding apprenticeship event hosted by Holiday Extras.

Speakers provided background information of the industry and the business, which included details of current positions available and the types of duties involved in positions such as these. We also heard from two apprentices within the business who provided insight of their time and experiences since being employed.

These types of targeted webinars are really useful to ensure students are aware of the various positions available within their chosen industry. Thank you to Holiday Extras representatives for hosting such an informative event.



Employer Business Breakfast

This term saw us host our employer business breakfast chaired by Rt Hon Kelly Tolhurst. A selection of employers participated in this event to discuss skill challenges, T-Level programmes and apprenticeship opportunities. The room was filled with enthusiastic and passionate discussions surrounding these areas, looking at ways of improvement to bridge gaps to benefit both education and employment.



We always appreciate the time taken by employers to hold discussions such as these to improve and develop the best chances for the younger generations. Special thanks go to all the representatives from Baker Dearing Educational Trust, BAE Systems, Clague Architects, O'Halloran & O'Brien, CITB, FM Conway Ltd, Kent Chambers, Gallagher Group Ltd, Redrow and Willmott Dixon.

After our employer business breakfast, Geoff Kempt from Willmott Dixon volunteered to stay behind and hold discussions with a selection of our pupils regarding the industry, the opportunities and pathways available, as well as offering advice on student CVs. He kindly offered for students to send their CVs directly to him for his professional opinion, to ensure they're employer ready when students begin applying for apprenticeships and employment. The students grasped this opportunity with both hands and made the most of Geoff's time, help and support. It's positive interactions like these that really inspire students as well as build their confidence.



Material Testing at UoG

Our Year 13 Engineering students were able to visit the Faculty of Engineering and Science at University of Greenwich to carry out various material testing.

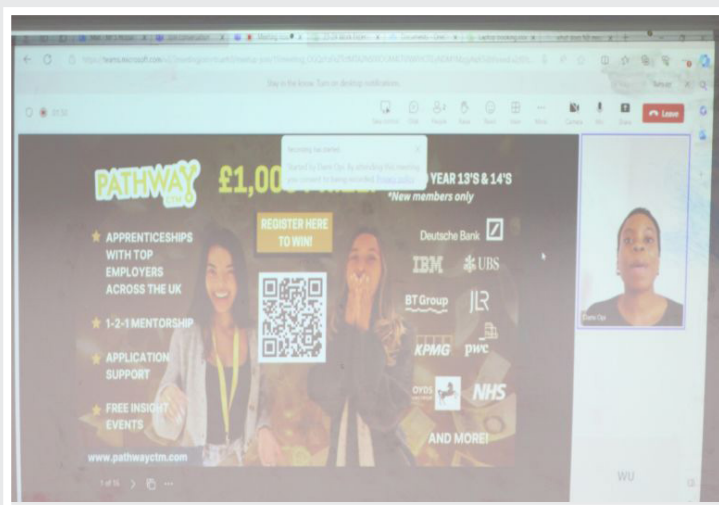
The students thoroughly enjoyed this visit and were engaged throughout. They appreciated the time staff took to organise and deliver this session and we hope to return with the same students to complete tensile and hardness testing at a later date. Thank you to those staff members who helped arranged this informative and productive visit.



Online Learning Webinars

Pathway CTM hosted a webinar to our Year 13 students, discussing the apprenticeships currently on offer with the various employers they work with and support all over the UK. This event provided the opportunity for students to connect with Pathway CTM representatives and to receive event and news updates, as well as virtual work experience opportunities, 1-2-1 mentoring, application support and CV building and tips.

Students even had the opportunity to enter a prize draw with the chance to win £1000 cash, which proved a great sweetener for the students who attended. Thank you to the representatives for delivering this opportunity, which held so much useful information for our young adults.



We also delivered the Kier Group apprenticeship webinar to our students through company time, where they heard from Shannon Park regarding her journey before Kier and how she managed to secure her degree apprenticeship and graduate.

During the recording, staff were able to go into deep discussions with students surrounding the topics Shannon was delivering. These webinars are very useful, especially when recorded, as this allows schools to fit them around their timetables and support National Apprenticeship Week without too much disruption. Thank you Shannon for your insight and for sharing your journey with us all.



Travelling the Continent

Year 4 have been on a fantastic journey, exploring the many countries in Europe!

From the UK, to France, The Netherlands, Germany and Spain, the children took a deep dive into the continent, by comparing the capital cities, looking at some famous landmarks and learning all about Germany's Berlin Wall, comparing it to Hadrian's Wall in the UK.



Exploring the Stars

Year 5 have been learning all about Space, by incorporating this theme into their Science, Writing and History lessons. The children have really enjoyed learning about the solar system, planets, moon phases and constellations.

They learnt a mnemonic to help remember the order of the planets from the Sun, and were fortunate to join Oak Class in visiting the Astrodome. The children absolutely adored the Astrodome and were in awe of everything. Some of their questions about space were phenomenal and it was a brilliant experience for both the staff and the children.

Our journey into space continued by reading the captivating book 'Cosmic', which had the children on the edge of their seats!



A Heartwarming PTA Tea

This term saw us hold our very popular Grandparent's Tea with sandwiches, scones and cakes galore. Thank you to all the children who brought their Grandparents along, we hope that you all had a good time.



National Apprenticeship Week

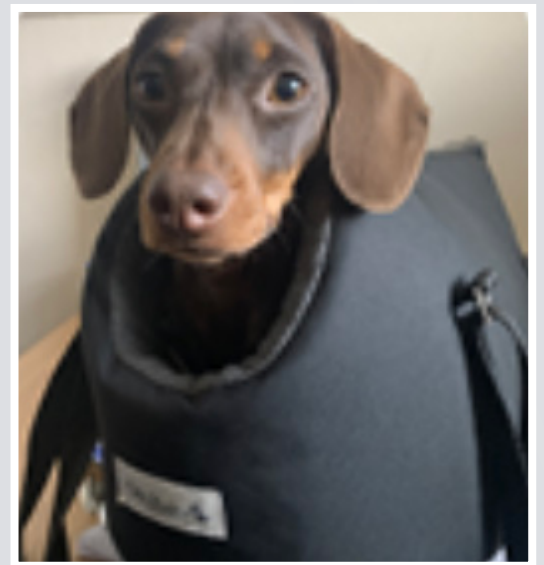
To celebrate National Apprenticeship Week, a range of employers from the Construction industry came in to talk about career opportunities including apprenticeships to targeted students across Years 9, 10 and KS5. We were also fortunate to be visited by the University of Kent and Canterbury, who spoke to some selected Year 9 students about university life and the range of courses available to them.



Lottie the Therapy Dog

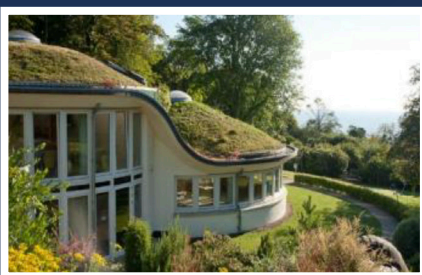
Lottie the Therapy Dog from Meadow Fields comes to visit The Abbey school once a week. Office staff were pleased to welcome this new addition to our specialist interventions. Lottie is much loved by staff and students, spreading joy wherever she goes.

Lottie spends lunch time socialising with our more vulnerable students, and this has been for them a wonderful calming experience. Therapy dog intervention helps improve mental health and well being. Students will be encouraged to gently pat and walk the dog, helping students to calm and regulate. It also improves social and emotional functioning, regulates stress and provides a sense of connection in difficult situations, helping to reduce anxiety.



The BIG Chill

On Tuesday 6th February, Miss Mahmood took a group of 10 students to Pines Calyx in St Margaret's Bay, to experience The BIG Chill, run by EKST. The day was designed to give students the chance to get away from their day-to-day stresses in this beautiful location. During the day, students were introduced to skills and techniques that will help them deal with times of stress and pressure in their lives, and left the day feeling more resilient and self-reliant.



Students took part in four workshops: Yoga and Breathing, Mindfulness Art, Map of Life and 'The Big Chill Back to Nature Walk'. Students reported feeling calm, relaxed and 'lighter' at the end of the day - feedback from parents was also positive, with many saying their children slept well that night! The students all had a thoroughly good time and were a real credit to both their families and our school community. There will be further workshops of this kind run in-house over the coming weeks.



Lord of the Flies

Our Year 9 Drama students took part in their performance of 'Lord of the Flies' - the story of a group of school boys stranded on a desert island with no adult supervision having to fend for themselves. The play explores themes such as civilisation, law and order, innocence and inherent evil! William Golding's 1954 novel has been adapted for the stage in this production, seeing our students play roles including Ralph, Jack, Piggy, Simon and twins "Sam'n'Eric". The school is immensely proud of our GCSE Drama students, having performed this to parents, friends and family, and we look forward to all upcoming productions they produce!



Geodesic Dome Challenge

Students took part in the second of three events running throughout the 2023-24 school year with MEBP.

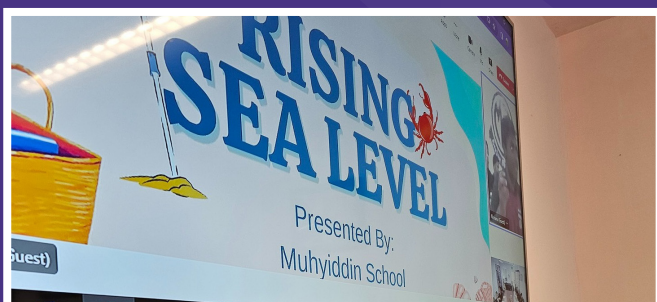
Thirty students were selected to take part in a Geodesic Dome challenge, where they had to use their knowledge from Maths on shapes to make triangle and pentagon based domes.

They started off with a presentation from a MEBP representative on famous structures which make use of domes and triangles including local bridges and famous domes such as the Taj Mahal, before getting the opportunity to make their own.



Global Collaboration

Our students embarked on a virtual journey this term, with The Muhyiddin School in The Maldives. Together, we delved deep into the urgent topic of Global Warming. From brainstorming innovative solutions to discussing the power of collective action, our young minds are ready to make waves!



A Visit from Steve Eadon

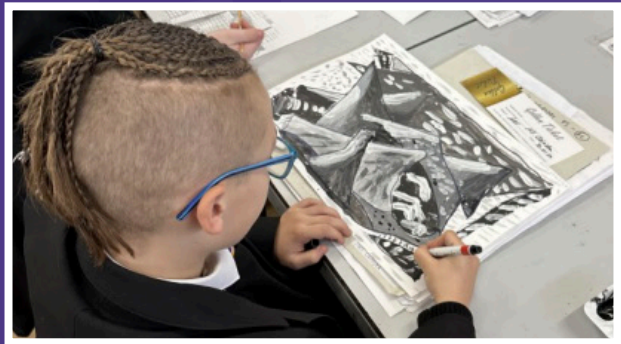
Steve Eadon, who worked with Arsenal Premier League Football Club for most of his life, was keen to interact with a few students in a hour session to share his passion for languages and football via a practical session, and delivered a whole school assembly to Year 8 in the morning.





Colour Theory

Our talented KS3 students have been immersed in artistic exploration and creativity during their recent Art lessons. The focus of their endeavours centred around the intricate skill of painting a tonal scale, allowing them to refine their grasp on the nuances of shading and depth.



Our budding artists also delved into the fascinating realm of colour theory. The vibrant world of primary, secondary, and tertiary colours came alive as students engaged in in-depth studies to comprehend the harmonious relationships within these colour families. They eagerly sought out complementary colours, discovering the magical interplay that enhances the visual appeal of their artworks. This captivating journey not only nurtures their artistic talents but also cultivates a deeper appreciation for the principles that underpin the world of art. We are incredibly proud of the dedication and enthusiasm our KS3 students bring to their creative pursuits.

Student Conference

On Friday 26 January, students from the Ambassador Team at The Howard travelled to Mid-Kent college to attend a conference with other schools on the theme of "Identity" as part of a wider scheme to understand the challenges young people face in Medway. Their day started with different icebreakers to settle the students in; including a game of Human Bingo.

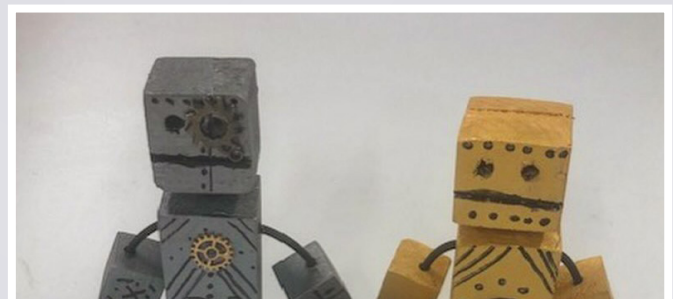


Students then took part in live political debate on topics including homophobia, racism and immigration, with all suggestions being taken into account by the organisers, who will compile a report to present to Medway Council. The conference was very productive, with students also being given the opportunity to meet and discuss one-to-one with Vince Maple, leader of Medway Council.



Blockbots!

Our Year 7 students have been working extremely hard to create their wooden desktop figures/toys known as blockbots! This is their first timber-based project and is a great introduction to working with timber: designing it, manipulating it and cutting it, learning and developing their cutting skills using saws!





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Therapy Dogs Awards

The Inclusion Team attended the National Dog Conference, learning how to support our therapy dogs and how they can be of most benefit to the children in our school.

We are so proud of our well-being co-ordinator Mrs Flynn, who won the most confident canine trainer award. Our dog mentors won their rosettes from the National Dog Conference for being expert dog mentors and supporting our families!



To Infinity & Beyond!

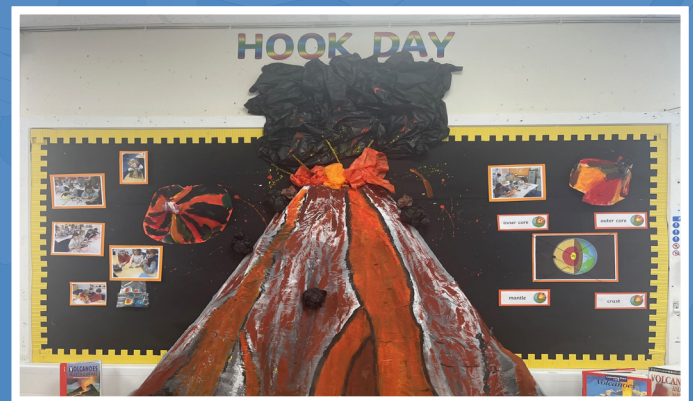
Year 1 had fun at Greenwich Planetarium, learning all about space and how to be an astronaut! They visited the space dome, where the astronomer in the show was highly impressed with the learning that the children had already done in school. They were very knowledgeable and could remember and recall so much!



Hook Day Roundup

Another term brought another Hook Day, where children engaged with their learning through exciting activities, to help prepare them for their upcoming topics.

Year 6 launched their Mexico topic, exploring the Geography of the country using maps, learning about Mariachi music and researching the 'Day of the Dead'.



Year 4 journeyed to Greece, trying Greek food and learning about the culture, whilst Reception did some drama and hot seating, exploring the new shoe shop set up for their learning about the traditional tale 'The Elves and the Shoemaker.'

In Year 3, children enjoyed making volcanoes and watching them erupt, and Year 2 had an arty day, designing and painting Flanimals out of clay.



A Visit from Zoolab

The children in EYFS thoroughly enjoyed their recent Zoolab visit. It was a hands-on and interactive session that further enhanced their understanding of our connection with the world around us.

This experience allowed them to further explore their role in caring for the environment, including how to care for different animals and sea creatures.



British Red Cross

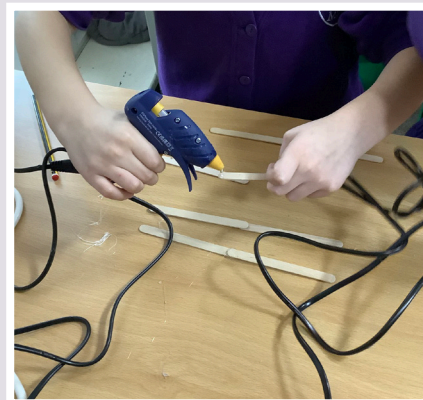
The Red Cross visited Year 6 to teach them vital first aid skills. The children learnt how to look after someone hurt and how to complete chest compressions.

Some Year 6 children shared a rendition of 'Staying Alive' at lunchtime to impress us with how much they had remembered. The lady delivering the training was very impressed with the children's knowledge and their interest to know more, and will be returning later in the year to complete more workshops with them, as she enjoyed it so much.

Slingshot Cars

Year 4 have been creating their own slingshot cars. They used lolly sticks and a hot glue gun to begin building the chassis for their car, then adding wheels and using their planned designs and annotations to finish their product.

The project ended with a slingshot car race at the end of the week!



Parent's Forum

We had our first Parent's Forum with an invited group of parents, Mrs Champness and the Head Pupils. We discussed teaching and learning at Temple Mill, especially home learning! We're hoping that this will become a regular event.

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

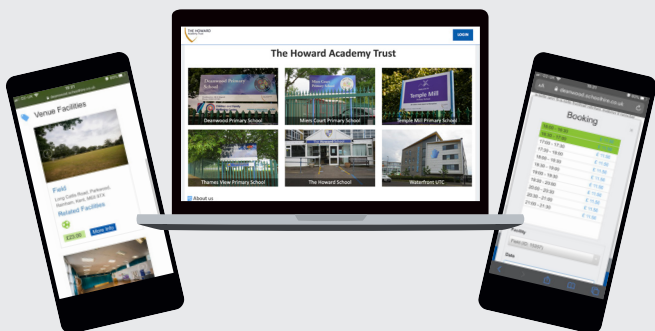
support, as well as opportunities to progress in your career with access to Middle and Senior Leadership Courses, role specific training courses for associate staff, and career stage CPD.

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



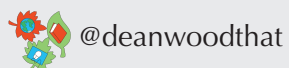
Hire Our Facilities

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



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*Working together to build a
community of successful learners*



Our Academies

