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Unity of Purpose:

Trust | Diversity | Excellence | Transformation

Winter 2020

Welcome

Welcome to the winter edition of the Thomas Deacon Education Trust (TDET) newsletter, where we share information about the Trust and the achievements of those who are part of it.

This edition is focused on the theme of 'Building Back Better'. We first heard this phrase used by Schools of Tomorrow to launch their new research programme. The programme sees the experience of coronavirus and lockdown as a unique space and opportunity for a deep re-think on how we do things and to reflect on much of what we often take for granted. This is something we have been thinking about a lot as a Trust. What can we learn from this time and take with us to improve the education we provide for our pupils in the future?

For us as Trust leaders, one of the most positive things has been the decision to hold so many of our meetings virtually. While this will never replace face to face contact, it has allowed us to get all our colleagues together much more regularly. This important time for collaboration is just one of the many elements we hope to retain following the pandemic. You can read more ideas from our colleagues across the Trust on page 8.

We thoroughly enjoyed reading the section in this newsletter dedicated to our Covid Champions on pages 6 and 7. The nominations for our colleagues are inspiring but we know they show just a small snippet of the talent and commitment we have within the Trust and we are immensely proud of all of you for your hard work this term. It hasn't been easy but just look at what we have achieved together.

One of our key highlights this term has been seeing Richard Barnes Academy settling into the Trust. The achievements that have been made already

across both sites are amazing, including a new state of the art kitchen for the learners and a smart new uniform. We can't wait to see this continue to develop over the rest of the academic year.

Earlier this year, TDET and TDA worked with Citizens UK to set up the Peterborough Citizens Alliance, as a result of funding through the Government's Integrated Communities Strategy. As part of this campaign, TDA Sixth Form pupils organised the Peterborough Digital Mental Health Summit. This has been another highlight of the term, and it was fantastic to see such important discussions about mental health and the services available to young people in Peterborough. You can read more about this on page 5.

We know the holidays will be different this year for many of you, but we hope you get to enjoy some time to relax and look back at what you have achieved this year with pride. We are very excited to see what a new year will bring and wish you all a wonderful break.



Julie Taylor (Chief Executive of TDET)
and Dr Barnes (Chair of the TDET Board)

About Thomas Deacon Education Trust

TDET is a multi-academy Trust and charitable organisation dedicated to raising educational outcomes across a range of primary and secondary phase schools and academies in the East Midlands.





We are a Trust that unites and empowers like-minded schools to achieve the very best for our pupils and communities. At the heart of our vision is a profound belief that difference is a strength to be valued and celebrated.

TDET academies are connected by a common set of values to empower every pupil, every member of staff, parents and the community through high quality education.

We work across all key phases of education to provide every child in our communities with the best life chances and high aspirations. All TDET schools strive to give our pupils the very best education possible and we insist upon the highest academic standards.

Our academies work closely together, taking part in real and meaningful collaborations between teachers, pupils and local business leaders. We value our local communities and actively encourage our schools and staff to share best practice to benefit all pupils within each local area.

All members of our Trust – our schools, members of staff, pupils and communities – are united in purpose through a common set of values and expectations:

-  **Trust**
We are honest and supportive
-  **Diversity**
We embrace individual differences
-  **Excellence**
We want the very best and never give up on doing what is right
-  **Transformation**
We work together to make a positive impact

Through experience, we know that there is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all approach to education. Our academies are individual members of the Trust community and are connected by a common set of values including Trust, Diversity, Excellence and Transformation, but are free to innovate and adapt to the needs of their pupils and the local community.

We firmly believe that the Trust as a whole is more than the sum of its parts. Therefore, all of our schools are equally valued and contribute to the development and direction of the Trust as we grow together.

The Trust currently includes:



We also have two nurseries; one at Gladstone Primary Academy and one at Queen Katharine Academy.

Stories from across the Trust

Pupils cook up a storm in brand new kitchen at RBA

Over the summer, our Property Services Team worked hard to create a bespoke, purpose-built kitchen ready for the pupils at Richard Barnes Academy. At TDET, we want all our pupils to receive a rich and diverse range of opportunities, and facilities are a key part in this.

The pupils at Richard Barnes Academy have already put the kitchen to good use, creating delicious cooked breakfasts, salsa, kebabs and spicy tomato soup with croutons. It has been brilliant to see pupils so highly engaged in learning vital life-long cooking skills.



Celebrating our Mini Cadets

The Mini Cadet scheme is a growing part of TDET and provides a fun, interactive volunteering opportunity for our pupils. We now have five schools across the Trust who have Mini Cadets! After writing letters to Lt Col Chris Thompson about why they want to join, pupils are given a passport that needs to be signed weekly. It contains activities and jobs such as walking the neighbour's dog, doing the washing up or helping tidy up. Mini Cadets learn to 'put their best foot forward' at all times and it's very important that they are a role model to all.

Mini Cadets are new to Welbourne Primary Academy this year. Already pupils have learnt basic first aid and simple cadet commands. They truly value their Mini Cadet status and have thrived with the responsibility and leadership. Some of the pupils said:



"I enjoy being a Mini Cadet because I make my family proud by following in my grandfather's footsteps."

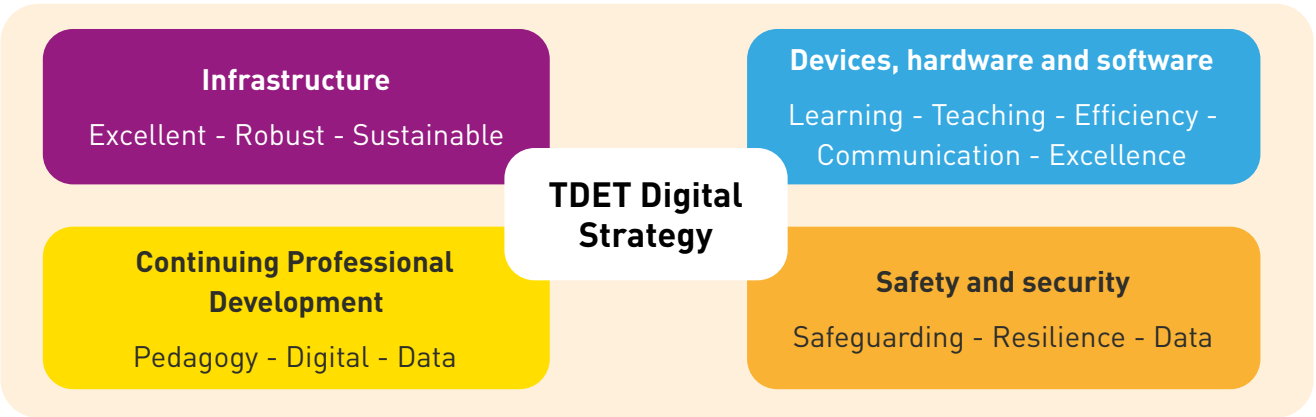
"Mini Cadets is fun. I love being competitive and learning new skills."



TDET launches brand new digital strategy

This term, we have been working on the new TDET Digital Strategy. This is a really exciting piece of work that links our Trust strategic plan and digital projects together. The Digital Strategy hopes to maximise the potential of digital technology to enhance learning, systems and communication and to support the aims and aspirations of TDET.

The Digital Strategy is not about looking at digital projects in isolation but making sure that our digital tools work together to give the best digital answers for everyone in the Trust. There are four key themes to the strategy to help us develop and structure our digital future:



The strategy is being led by a steering group including Jenny Brassington, Simon Smith, Scott Hudson, Martin Byford-Rew, Steve Howard and Jane Wilson.

The team has already completed an audit with schools to evaluate how well TDET is currently meeting the key objectives and has begun working on some big projects, including an exciting 1:1 iPad learning and teaching project for all Trust schools. They have also started working with teams across the Trust on other digital projects and developments. We look forward to seeing what the strategy continues to achieve in the future.

Success at TDA Mental Health Summit

This year, TDET and Thomas Deacon Academy have teamed up with Citizens UK to set up the Peterborough Citizens Alliance, as a result of funding through the Government's Integrated Communities Strategy. The Peterborough Citizens Alliance is now running a listening campaign to ascertain issues and areas for improvement within Peterborough.

As part of this campaign TDA Sixth Form pupils organised a Peterborough Digital Mental Health Summit. Twenty adults and sixty pupils from across eight schools in Peterborough, attended the Mental Health Summit to identify barriers young people encounter when getting support for their mental health.

The event was fantastic and facilitated lots of really important discussions around mental health and the services available to young people in Peterborough. The session also included some incredible pupil testimonies and participants heard from several guest speakers, including Paul Bristow MP, Lydia Crawford from The Mix helpline, and Dr Amaia Robles-Fernandez from the NHS Mental Health Support Team.

As a result of the Summit, pupils have managed to secure a meeting with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group and have set up a Peterborough-wide mental health action group.



Covid Champions

While we appreciate all the efforts of our colleagues throughout this challenging period, there have been a number of people who have gone above and beyond this year. Join us in taking some time to celebrate these members of staff and thank them for their hard work.



For: setting up the first aid/isolation room and supporting the academy with managing the additional pressures of Covid



For: ensuring the quality of home learning was consistent for all year groups throughout the pandemic and ensuring that all pupils have the tools to be able to continue learning at home



For: supporting our academies to continue to deliver high-quality meals and ensuring that pupils eligible for free school meals have access to food when they are isolating



For: providing daily structured PE lessons during the partial lockdown, which had a significant positive impact on the children's mental health, wellbeing and physical wellness



For: incredible work supporting families during lockdown, working very closely with social care to ensure families were safe and had everything they needed and delivering packages to support home learning



For: being key to enabling all staff to access online learning with pupils, including training staff and supporting them with individual issues



For: always following procedures and providing a positive reminder to learners to follow the rules in place regarding social distancing and face masks



For: going over and above in her role to support the work of others, from helping staff to copy resources and stepping in to answer the phones to setting out the site to be Covid safe



For: his knowledge, support and communication with external agencies, being instrumental in our academies opening safely and ensuring appropriate actions were taken promptly and professionally



For: displaying an unbelievable 'can do attitude' in every situation and always going the extra mile to reassure all involved, offer advice and guidance and ensure follow up checks are done



For: co-ordinating the online learning for Warboys when they moved over to remote learning and setting up a technical support helpline for parents off his own back to ensure all families could access the learning platform



For: managing the Track and Trace process in school, ensuring that staff and parents were communicated with and working hard with a number of staff to try and keep Covid out of the school



For: being fantastic during the first lockdown in ensuring that all 'high touch areas' were constantly wiped down and cleaned at the Fitzwilliam campus



For: providing unwavering support to ensure that our academies have been safe and able to reopen from the outset



For: working alongside Harvinder to support the schools physical reopening and receiving positive feedback from the HMI during their Health and Safety Executive Inspection of the school

What we've learned from Covid

While it has been a difficult year for so many of us, this year has also brought with it a wealth of innovation and a chance to try something new. We caught up with members of staff from across the Trust to find out their take-aways from this time and the things they'd like to keep moving forward.



Our People



Amy Warboys –
Head of School at
Upwood Primary
Academy

Can you tell us about your career history?

I started my teaching career as an NQT in Bedfordshire, before moving to Suffolk to teach in a small school. From there, I moved to Peterborough and started to develop my leadership skills within larger schools. While working with Simon Martin, I applied for a position as Deputy Headteacher at Gladstone Primary Academy which really accelerated my leadership development. In September, the opportunity arose for me to apply for a secondment at Upwood Primary Academy as Head of School, which I was successful in getting.

What does your current role include on a day-to-day basis?

Due to the current circumstances, my role is very varied, and I am often unaware of what my day will involve until I arrive at school! Mostly, it is discussing and sharing priorities so that our pupils are able to grow, learn and flourish. In my role, I also think it is important to get to know members of staff, children, and parents as well as possible and to strengthen links with the community. Every day I come to school, I try to achieve that in some way.

"I haven't always wanted to become a Head, but I always knew I wanted to be involved in education. I think once I developed my leadership skills, I realised that was what I wanted to do more of."

What is your vision for the school?

My immediate vision for the school is ensuring that all children remain safe, happy and ready to learn. At Upwood, we aim to create a caring, positive learning environment so that we can educate the next generation of informed citizens to make a difference in society. Long term, I would love to build further on this and increase the depth of the curriculum here.

Did you always want to become a Head?

I haven't always wanted to become a Head, but I always knew I wanted to be involved in education. I think once I developed my leadership skills, I realised that was what I wanted to do more of. I am always looking to progress and push myself, as well as help other people to improve and develop.

How do you feel the Trust has supported your development?

TDET has always believed in my potential, encouraged me to focus on myself and offered me leadership opportunities, such as coaching sessions with John Hinch. I think it is a privilege to have the chance to lead a school and I am really pleased the Trust could see that in me.

Fun fact:

I once did a parachute jump for the Penfold Trust charity! It was the most exhilarating, scary thing I have ever done but it was great to raise funds for a worthy cause.



Our People



Kaye Sheldon
– Finance Manager
at TDET

Can you tell us about your career history?

I joined John Mansfield School as Finance Clerk in 2002, before transferring over to Thomas Deacon Academy when it opened in 2007. Since then, I have progressed and worked my way up to Finance Manager as part of the academy and then the Trust.

What is your role and what are you responsible for?

I am responsible for the line management of a team of four staff in the TDET finance team. I oversee the day-to-day finances, including payment runs and invoicing, and I prepare information and reports for the Senior Finance Manager. I see my role as a support mechanism, always available to answer questions and provide guidance, not only to my immediate team, but for all the schools in the Trust.

"I see my role as a support mechanism, always available to answer questions and provide guidance, not only to my immediate team, but for all the schools in the Trust"

Fun fact:

Sam Fielding at Queen Katharine Academy and I are currently training to cycle 100km at night for Women vs Cancer in May 2021. The money raised will go to three different female cancer charities. I have never cycled properly before and suddenly I had to buy a proper helmet and padded shorts. It's going to be a challenge!



What is the most rewarding part of your role?

One of the most rewarding parts of my role has been the onboarding of new schools. It is amazing to see colleagues transition from being nervous about joining the Trust and the new systems, to flourishing with the additional support and resources. Recently, our team onboarded the Richard Barnes Academy virtually. Apart from one initial kick off meeting, everything was completed via Teams. It was one of the strangest but most rewarding things I have ever done.

What are your experiences of working within a Trust?

Watching TDET grow has been amazing. It is so lovely to work with different schools, each with their own diverse challenges, different characteristics and personalities. Being part of the Trust has allowed me to meet new people, take part in training and to lead a larger team. I couldn't see myself working anywhere else and I don't think I ever want to leave.

School Updates

Richard Barnes Academy

After joining TDET in May, we have been busy working to create an academy that offers enriching experiences for our young people, who are struggling to succeed with their education.



Over the term, our pupils have been able to experience a wide range of exciting opportunities to support them in successfully reintegrating into mainstream education. Some pupils have developed their gymnastic skills during PE, taken part in the Mini Cadets scheme, painted our therapeutic rooms and so much more. It was great to see so much superb concentration, focus and attitude. As a treat, some of our learners were even rewarded with hot chocolate to recognise their fantastic achievements!



As the first stage in this, we have been shaping our values for the next five years. Together we have chosen the values of Respect, Belief and Achievement and we are looking forward to implementing these as soon as possible and seeing our pupils and staff using them in daily school life.

In September, we welcomed our learners back to school at our Fitzwilliam campus and pupils were all wearing our brand-new uniform. Pupils did not previously wear a branded school uniform at Richard Barnes Academy but so far our learners have thoroughly enjoyed wearing their new uniforms with pride.



One of the things that makes Richard Barnes Academy so special is our tailored, bespoke approach for supporting pupils. This has never been easier to see than this term when one of our Year 7 pupils asked if he could learn about coding and one of our staff used her expertise to teach him! There were some really great first creations and we are so proud that we can offer these wonderful opportunities to our pupils.

Queen Katharine Academy

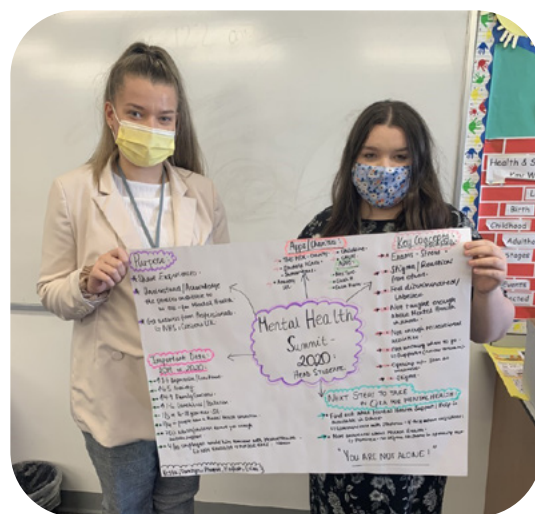


This term, we were delighted to announce that Mrs Anderson had been accepted onto the prestigious Leadership Legacy Project by SSAT, the Schools, Students and Teachers network! The scheme will equip Mrs Anderson with the knowledge and skills to become a future member of our school's senior leadership team. Over the years she has been exceptional and always ensured her pupils achieve the best of their abilities.

In November, our Head Students, Deputy Head Students and Year 10 and 11 Prefects attended the virtual Mental Health Summit organised by pupils of Thomas Deacon Academy and Citizens UK. The event was a fantastic opportunity for young people to express their views on mental health and our pupils had a great time.

This term, we also announced that our English department's PTI Subject Leadership Programme work had been nominated for the Bernice McCabe Award! A big thank you to Mrs Degaris who attended weekend sessions with the PTI, organised weekly uplift sessions for the team with other members of staff and worked closely with other core subjects on a number of projects.

We also launched the Pomegranate Opportunities Trust this term. The charity exists for the sole benefit of pupils who currently study at Queen Katharine Academy. Pupils can apply for funding and the Trust will support any experience which is memorable. It can fund travel, accommodation, project related costs such as equipment and materials, adventures and expeditions.



Upwood Primary Academy



On Monday 7th September, we reopened our doors to all pupils! Our staff worked extremely hard during the Summer holidays to ensure the school was ready to open in a Covid secure way. We were all delighted to welcome back our children and see the school full of pupils actively engaging with their learning and playing with their friends once again.

To support our families, we have also been running a club both before and after school, offering care for the children of working families. The children enjoyed a huge range of activities including crafts and games. We would like to say a big thank you to our staff who committed their time to ensuring the club was safe and successful. We also want to highlight the work of our PTA who have continued to raise money for the school, even though they can't run their normal events. They have sought ideas that can be carried out within the current restrictions and have been a huge help!

Throughout the term, pupils have been able to enjoy a wide range of exciting opportunities. For Anti-Bullying Week, our Year 2 pupils designed their own odd socks to show that everyone is an individual and should be respected. Our Year 4 pupils were also kept busy and as part of their harvest topic, they made wooden spoon scarecrows. For their Egypt topic, they created an Egyptian style picture while Miss Mee's class were hard at work making Gruffalos! They also created a Gruffalo Wood for the Gruffalos to live in, printed a pathway with toadstools, cut out leaves and grass and twisted and scrunched paper for the rocks, tree trunks and branches. We have also been collecting for Ramsey food bank as part of our Harvest celebrations. We had a wonderful collection and were very grateful for the support of our community, thank you to everyone who donated!



Iqra Academy



Like many schools, we remained open throughout the Covid lockdown, looking after the vulnerable and providing blended learning opportunities to prepare all pupils for their future lives and the world of work. We are delighted to say there was a full physical return in September and attendance has remained at 96%+!

In November, Her Majesty's Inspector from the Health and Safety Executive visited Iqra Academy. The Health and Safety Executive carried out site inspections to identify if we were adequately managing the risks of Covid. We are thrilled to say that the HMI stated that he was very happy with the school's compliance to all the relevant regulations and guidance pertaining to Covid. He even made special reference to our Covid risk assessment, stating that, "It was good to see that it was not a common risk assessment and that it was professionally thorough and technical."

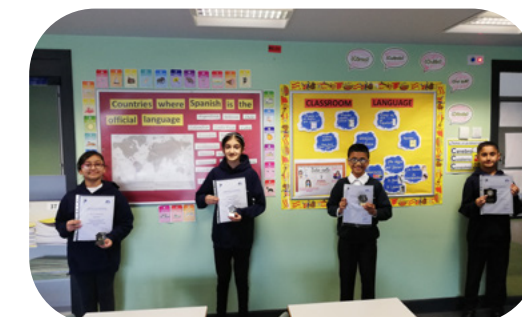
This term, we also welcomed Paul Bristow MP to Iqra Academy! Paul was very impressed with the school, stating: "Great visit to the Iqra Academy. Another Peterborough school thriving after the big return at the start of the month. It was great to hear about the sporting success of the school and the recent pupil elections. I met and heard about some exceptional young people including two Syrian refugees who have just excelled in their GCSEs"

We have also continued with much of our enrichment, health and wellbeing activities from art and poetry to cross country and the CCF. The new Student Leadership team continue to lead the way on fundraising and volunteer work and this term created and equipped a 'chill out – wellbeing room' a calm space in the school for all pupils to use.

Gladstone Primary Academy



This term, we were delighted to take home first, second, third and fourth place at the national languages competition, Primary Bee. So many of our pupils wanted to enter the competition, so we held a mini contest in school to select our contenders. Four Year 6 pupils were chosen, and they all did so well. Moshin won first place, followed by Ali in second, Kianaat in third and Maya in fourth!



This term, we also had our first experience of staff teaching virtually from home and we were so proud of how well our staff and pupils embraced this. Mr Dobbs was our first live stream teacher and our pupils really enjoyed the experience. Our Power Steps group still did the alphabet chant, even when Miss Camara was at home isolating.



In November, we were excited to donate hand-drawn pictures to Gladstone Community Centre. They are now on display in the centre's communal areas and look fantastic. Well done to all of our pupils and staff who were involved.

As part of our Year 3 Enrichment Day this term, our pupils designed and created their own Stone Age tool or weapon out of card and paper. They then had to think about how they turned their 2D drawing into a 3D model. Well done Year 3, they looked great!

Our Mini Cadets were so excited to be back in training this term with Lt Col Thompson, and spent time working on their marksmanship.

Thomas Deacon Academy

Earlier this term, 20 adults and 60 pupils from across eight schools in Peterborough, attended our virtual Mental Health Summit to identify barriers young people encounter when getting support for their mental health. Working with Citizens UK, our Sixth Form pupils ran the summit on Zoom.

The session also included some incredible pupil testimonies and we heard from several guest speakers including Paul Bristow Peterborough MP, Lydia Crawford from The Mix helpline, and Dr Amaia Robles-Fernandez from the NHS Mental Health Support Team. As a result of the summit, pupils managed to secure a meeting with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group and have set up a Peterborough-wide mental health action group!

Despite the many challenges Covid has thrown at us this year, we still managed to support Children in Need and raised £2,100. We were also able to go ahead with our annual Remembrance Day. The service was live streamed via YouTube and was broadcast to staff and pupils in their classrooms across the Trust at 10:45. Our Cadets were at the heart of the service and marched into the school carrying the wreath. At 11am, our staff and pupils stood to observe a two-minute silence, in memory of the fallen. It was a shame we couldn't host our service in person like normal, but it was an honour to still be able to acknowledge the courage and bravery of those who served in war.



The Cadets came together with the Art and Technology Department to create a lovely Garden of Remembrance. The Cadets worked hard to make 42 'Tommys' to represent the 42 ex Deacons pupils who were killed in battle during WW2.

We celebrated some fantastic artistic achievements this term. Last year, Eloise Leer entered the Rivers of the World art competition. Now in Year 7, Eloise's work have been chosen to feature as part of the Peterborough Young Artist entry! In November, our Year 13 Art pupils had the pleasure of welcoming alumni pupil, Sofia Ali, to the academy. She delivered a workshop on how to create a successful personal statement and how to build a great art portfolio to prepare for university applications.



Thomas Deacon Academy Juniors

This term, we felt it was really important to focus on our wellbeing and support was developed throughout the school through the 'Art of Brilliance' programme. This enabled all pupils and staff to return to school with the positivity and resilience to get through these difficult times.

As part of this, pupils watched online webinars and spent time discussing a range of topics. They discussed topics such as, being the best version of yourself, the importance of perspective and the science of flourishing. We found that having these opportunities and discussions really helped support our pupils' wellbeing.

We are also pleased to have supported two charity events this year! Year 6 supported Water Aid and raised over £100 by designing money boxes for pennies and holding a second-hand book sale. In addition to this, the whole school supported Children in Need.

Welbourne Primary Academy

This term, we were so lucky to receive a £3,000 donation from Kingsgate to purchase more digital devices! Thank you to Kingsgate for their help and generous support.

Our Year 1 pupils explored seasons in Science this term. As part of their learning, pupils got outdoors and spent time looking for signs of Autumn. They found a really big one in the form of a ginormous tree! Meanwhile our Galaxy Room pupils celebrated Halloween festivities. They made Halloween moon sand, completed a spooky scavenger hunt in the woods and tried to eat Halloween donuts without using their hands!

We also worked in PSHE to support our pupils with their mental health and wellbeing. Pupils in Year 4 discussed how to cope in new situations. They made comic strips illustrating some of the new situations they have faced and created their own board games demonstrating positive ways to handle difficulty.

This term, we introduced a new initiative - Mini Cadets! Supported by TDET, our Year 5 and 6 pupils began their Mini Cadets training and have recently been learning what to do if someone is unconscious. We can't wait to watch them progress!

In other news, our Year 4 pupils learnt about the ocean as part of their topic Blue Abyss and created 3D models of the layers of the ocean. Meanwhile, as part of the Rocket Room home challenge, Charlie made a fabulous sea monster!



Warboys Primary Academy

This term, our whole school has engaged with and implemented the Recovery Curriculum, published by One Education. The curriculum has supported children's social and emotional wellbeing and ensured they made the most of their time in school by being confident, resilient and ready to learn in the classroom again.

We took part in Anti-Bullying Week and pupils made friendship bracelets for their friends. We also marked the occasion by coming into school wearing odd socks to show our individuality. Our focus was on what forms bullying can take, what children can do if they see others being bullied and ways to respond if it happens to them.

This year we also launched a healthy snack initiative so our pupils could benefit from a nutritious treat on a daily basis. The Government funded the fruit scheme for children in KS1 and we asked KS2 children to only bring snacks to school that align with what the Government provide KS1. It was great to see how creative and adventurous the children were with their healthy choices!

We were fortunate this year to have had specialist support and investment from the Trust, enabling us to carry out important work to improve our premises. KS1 are reaping the benefits of their new and improved classrooms, and the wider footpath around school has certainly made movement around the site much easier. In addition to this, ICT Services also installed fifteen new internet telephones, eighteen new laptops and thirteen new interactive whiteboards. We are incredibly thankful to have the support we receive as part of TDET!





Unity of Purpose

Trust | Diversity | Excellence | Transformation