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# Unity of Purpose:

## Diversity of Practice

### Summer Edition

# Julie Taylor and Dr Barnes' Welcome

Welcome to the summer 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 newsletter also provides a great place to learn more about our vision and values, the people and support networks we provide and the benefits we offer you as members of staff in our schools.

As we approach the end of the summer term, we would like to thank all our staff across the Trust for another fantastic year. Our schools have continued to thrive and work together, benefiting staff and students alike. We would also like to say a special thank you to staff who have supported students with their exams this term. We wish them the best of luck and look forward to seeing the results in August.

We were thrilled to welcome Warboys Primary Academy and Welbourne Primary Academy to the Trust this term. Warboys joined us in April and Welbourne joined us in May. We know they will make excellent additions to our community and we look forward to working closely with them and sharing best practice in the coming year.

This term, we also welcomed some high profile guests and Gladstone Primary Academy was visited by Shadow Secretary of State for Education, Angela Rayner. It was great to hear that she was impressed with the pupils' behaviour and the work taking place across the Trust.

The end of the academic year also means we have to say goodbye and hello to some members of staff. We welcome Rick Carroll as Principal of Thomas Deacon Academy and we wish him the best in his new role. We also say a fond farewell to Angela Boxall, Headteacher at Warboys, and

wish Becky Ford the best of luck as she takes on the position. Three new trustees have also joined our Trust and you can read more about them later in the magazine.

We are very proud of the Trust and all our colleagues for your continued hard work and dedication. We hope you all have a restful and relaxing break before returning in September. We look forward to another exciting academic year ahead as we continue to strive for excellence and grow together as a community.

## Julie Taylor and Dr Richard Barnes



# About Thomas Deacon Education Trust

The Thomas Deacon Education Trust (TDET) is a multi-academy trust that unites and empowers like-minded schools to achieve the very best for their students and communities.

We are unashamedly proud of our links to the city of Peterborough and its surrounding areas. We share the city's ambitious vision for growth and believe that our schools and the education of young people need to be at the heart of these plans.

As a Trust, we work across all key phases of education to provide every child in our community with the best life chances and high aspirations.

Our academies work closely together, taking part in real and meaningful collaborations between teachers, students and local business leaders. We value our local communities and actively encourage our schools and staff to share

best practice to benefit all children within each local area.

All members of our Trust – our schools, members of staff, students 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 schools are individual members of the Trust community and are connected by a common set of values, but are free to innovate and adapt to the needs of its students 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:



**Queen Katharine**  
Academy



**Thomas Deacon**  
Academy



**Gladstone Primary**  
Academy



**UPWOOD**  
PRIMARY ACADEMY



**Welbourne**  
Primary Academy

# Stories from across the Trust

## Staff who train together, stay together

Colleagues from Thomas Deacon Academy and Queen Katharine Academy came together to train for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Staff from both academies volunteered to help with their students' Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and underwent training to prepare.

The group travelled to the Peak District for the weekend and went on their very own hiking expedition. They really enjoyed the experience and it provided a great insight into the challenges their students might face on their treks. They also learnt how to support students and encourage them to build their teamwork, navigation and resilience skills.

The event was a success and a great example of how our schools can collaborate. Our teachers also appreciated the chance to network and form new friendships. Thank you to all our colleagues that took part!



## TDET School Council Network

Last term saw the first of our Trust-wide school council network meetings. The aim of the meetings is to bring student council representatives together to discuss best practice and share new ideas.

Upwood Primary Academy held the first event and welcomed primary schools from across the Trust including Welbourne Primary Academy and Warboys Primary Academy. Year 5 and 6 students from each school shared examples of successful projects and explained their plans for some upcoming initiatives. After the discussions, students were treated to a tour of Upwood Primary Academy.

Students and teachers alike said the meeting was a very positive and informative experience. We look forward to seeing what developments come from the next network meetings.





## Primary football tournament

Gladstone Primary Academy held the first ever Trust Primary Football Tournament. It was a great event with students from Gladstone Primary Academy, Thomas Deacon Junior Academy, Welbourne Primary Academy and Warboys Primary Academy playing in the contest.

There were three rounds in the tournament and the students played well with some very close matches! They really enjoyed making new friends and they represented their schools and the Trust to a high standard. Thank you to everyone for taking part and congratulations to our winning teams.



## Our schools working together to raise thousands for local charity

We launched a huge Trust-wide fundraising programme last term. All schools in the Trust worked together to raise money for local charity, 'Little Miracles'. The charity supports families that have children with additional needs, disabilities and life-limiting conditions. They provide activities and Family Support Workers which act as a lifeline to the families and their children.

It was fantastic to see all our schools getting involved. In total, seven schools took part in ten different events including dance and martial arts workshops, bake sales, badminton tournaments, basketball shooting competitions and table tennis tournaments. Upwood Primary Academy even had a go at zorbing, archery and football, whilst Thomas Deacon Academy sixth form held an exciting 'battle of the bands' competition.

Not only did this provide fun and exciting experiences for our students, it raised vital funds for the local charity. We are thrilled to share with you that we have raised £3,500, exceeding our target by £500! Thank you to everyone who helped to organise and run these fundraising activities as well as those who kindly donated to the cause.



# Our People



**Carlota Camara –**  
Spanish Teacher and MFL  
Primary coordinator

*Carlota studied a Primary education degree, specialising in teaching foreign languages. After*

*university, she worked as an au pair in England and volunteered at a local school, falling in love with the English language and the country. After teaching in Spain for two years, Carlota returned to the UK and now teaches at TDET.*

## **Can you tell us a little bit about what your role entails?**

"I teach Spanish at Gladstone Primary Academy and Thomas Deacon Academy Juniors. I also helped to launch the teaching of Spanish lessons at Gladstone last year. It was really exciting as we started from the beginning. We not only created materials, worksheets and PowerPoints but also designed the curriculum. The way I teach in each school is different because the timetable and schools are different. Coordinating both schools takes time but I love having the freedom to plan my own lessons and curriculum."

## **What do you enjoy about teaching languages?**

"When I learnt English at primary school, lessons lacked cultural background. I now enjoy being able to teach useful structures and vocabulary that are linked with cultural aspects. It is very rewarding when students tell you they have been to Spain and spoken Spanish. I love making them realise they are capable of amazing things. On the first day of term, I show them a text and tell them they will be able to understand, read, write and speak about it. They say they can't do it but at the end of the term, they feel so proud of themselves for achieving their goal."

## **Why do you think teaching languages at primary school is so important?**

"Researchers found that young adults proficient in languages performed better on attention tests and had better concentration than those who spoke only one language. Children have the ability to learn languages more easily than teenagers and as students have to learn at least one language in secondary school, the sooner they understand how languages work, the better."

## **What are the benefits of being part of TDET? How are you collaborating with other schools?**

"As secondary schools teach Spanish, I find collaborating very helpful. I have enjoyed working with Queen Katharine Academy's Spanish teachers, Virginia Alfaro and Irene Hernandez. We arranged for Year 9 Language Leaders to deliver a Spanish lesson to Year 5 students at Gladstone. This was very exciting as the Year 9 students practised their language skills and Gladstone students were encouraged and inspired by how much Spanish they could speak by Year 9."

Jane Driver and Helena Ground are also working on a Language Magician project which I am very excited to be involved in. The programme will be a game for primary-aged students that allows teachers to assess their progress, providing a standardised tool for all primary schools in the city."

## **Do you have any hobbies?**

"I love flamenco dancing and travel. Knowing a variety of languages helps me to travel with more confidence. I enjoy travelling anywhere but in summer I look forward to some sun and a beach!"



**Lynn Mayes -**  
Principal at Queen  
Katharine Academy

*Lynn started her career as a PE teacher in Suffolk, before working as a middle leader in a variety of pastoral and*

*subject roles. Over the last 12 years, Lynn has led school improvement in a variety of senior positions. Lynn is now Principal at Queen Katharine Academy.*

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

"I start the day meeting with my senior leadership team, before greeting the students at the front of the school and talking with local residents and parents. At break and lunchtime, I take the opportunity to speak with our pupils and I often learn a new word in one of the 42 languages that are spoken in our academy. We have students that can speak five different languages fluently!

I spend as much time as I can in lessons so I am able to experience the learning that our students are engaged in. I also meet with a range of staff from within and outside the academy to find out how to improve what we do. At the end of the day, I return to the school gates to say goodbye to our students and talk to members of the local community."

**Did you always want to become a Principal?**

"No, I only realised the kind of contribution I could make when working with the high-quality leaders and governors at Queen Katharine Academy. To be Principal is such a privilege, I do not take it lightly and am inspired every day by working closely with our brilliant colleagues. I feel humbled by our children's positive attitudes and the knowledge that they will go on to touch other people's lives."

**What is your vision for the school?**

"At QKA our core purpose is to be an inclusive centre of educational excellence. Through this, I want to encourage and provide an education that transforms lives and gives every child the opportunities they deserve, regardless of where they are from, or their personal starting point. I want our students to learn how to change their own lives and those of others, to change the future, to shape society and the world."

**How do you feel the Trust has supported your development?**

"TDET has been really effective in empowering leaders and supporting our work. The Trust has a positive and supportive culture so all of our primary and secondary schools work together to support and challenge one another. I have also been lucky to benefit from working with staff who are passionate about raising educational standards. The people who work and learn together make the Trust the force for good that it is."

**What do you enjoy doing when you aren't at school?**

"I enjoy spending quality time with my family and doing simple things like playing in the garden or walking our two dogs, Max the Labrador and Buddy the Pug, who dominates Max despite being a quarter of the size!"



**TDET has been really effective  
in empowering leaders and  
supporting our work**



# HR update

This year, we held a Trust-wide staff survey. The purpose was to give us a broad understanding of how engaged our staff are with TDET and whether you have the resources needed to carry out your responsibilities.

Therefore, the survey focused on two key aspects including engagement - whether you feel aligned to TDET goals and motivated to help achieve these - and enablement - if you have the right opportunities and resources to deliver your best work.

We would like to thank everyone who took part in the survey and helped us to gather this important information. Thirty-one per cent of TDET employees responded to the survey and here is a summary of the results:

**81%** of all responders feel aligned with TDET and their setting

**79%** of all responders believe they have the opportunities and resources to deliver their best work



## Here is a sample of comments on 'What is the best thing about working for TDET?'



- Opportunities to work alongside other schools and opportunities to observe and learn from practice carried out in other schools
- Colleagues
- I enjoy the open and honest relationship I have with SLT and feel free and enabled to get on and achieve whatever I put my mind to
- Being challenged in my role and being pushed out of my comfort zone
- Meeting people from different schools and working together on similar problems
- The opportunity to work with young people and support them with their learning and development
- Opportunities to share and gain knowledge, movement around the trust for job roles



## Here is a sample of comments on 'What could we do better?'



- Communication needs to improve
- More opportunities for progression
- Communication within the trust needs to be more effective
- Greater understanding of TDET vision

This is only the start of our journey. We are committed to using this information to improve engagement and enablement across the whole of TDET. We will do this by:

1. Analysing academy responses to identify any local actions
2. Finalising and sharing the strategic plan including a response to immediate priorities arising from this survey:
  - a. Improving career opportunities across TDET
  - b. Establishing clear well-being practices
  - c. Improving TDET communications between all academies and the Trust
  - d. Ensuring systems and processes supports us all in delivering our responsibilities
3. Re-running the survey in 6 months' time with a focus on raising participation rates



# Meet our new Trustees

This year, we have appointed three new trustees. We caught up with them to find out more about their careers and hopes as Trustees.



## Mohamed Mavani

"I qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 2001. I joined Moore Stephens as an Audit Manager in 2005 and was promoted to partner

in 2015. In my role, I undertake various audits, due diligence and consultancy assignments and regularly advise clients on internal control systems and their effectiveness. I am also the education sector specialist for the East Midlands, acting as Audit Partner for all the firm's academy and multi-academy trust clients.

As a former pupil of Deacons School, I was delighted to be approached by TDET. With my experience working with trusts and living the majority of my life in Peterborough, I believe that I can assist TDET in delivering its strategic aims. I hope that my role as a Trustee will allow me to personally develop and strengthen my education sector knowledge.

In my spare time, I like to play sports especially football and cricket. I'm also a passionate supporter of Manchester United and regularly go to watch their games."



## Eric Winstone

"I have worked in the education sector for 43 years, starting my teaching career in 1974 as a PE and geography teacher at Orton

Longueville School. I went on to become Deputy Head at Bushfield Community College and Sir Harry Smith Community College, before becoming Principal at Ormiston Bushfield Academy. In 2014, I was honoured to be awarded the Pride in Peterborough 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for services to education and the 'Secondary Head Teacher of the Year' award.

I am currently Chair of Governors at Ormiston Meadows Primary Academy. I have also worked previously as the Chair of the Peterborough School Improvement Board. I feel passionate about local

education and community engagement. I strongly believe that everyone can reach their potential with hard work, good teaching and support regardless of their background. As a trustee with TDET, I would like to use my experience to support the development of an excellent Trust who serves the needs of a wide diversity of young people.

My interests include sports and I have run 12 London Marathons and over 80 half marathons. I am the only person to have completed every Great Eastern Run Half marathon in Peterborough and currently represent my age group in Team GB in the Duathlon at the European and World Championships."



## Kelly Peck

"I am a partner in the real estate team at Greenwoods GRM LLP which is a law firm based in London, Peterborough and

Cambridge. I spend the majority of my time in Cambridge but enjoy the opportunity to work in Peterborough and London. I have been with Greenwoods GRM for almost 15 years and I love being involved in the world of property and the different exposure and experience it brings.

I am really looking forward to working as a Trustee for TDET. I am local to the area and attended Walton Comprehensive School which is now Queen Katharine Academy. My job has also given me experience of being involved in academy conversions so I have a good understanding of the education sector and the challenges it faces. This has been furthered in my role as a Governor at my children's primary school for the last five years. I feel as a Trustee, I could lend my skills and experience to support the Trust in its next stage of growth and success.

I am also a busy mum of two to Oscar and Edith and enjoy baking, making slime with my daughter and trying to beat my son at badminton in my spare time."

# Power Learning: A new approach to English and Maths

This year Thomas Deacon Academy Juniors and Gladstone Primary Academy have implemented Power Learning, which is an exciting new approach to teaching English and Maths. The model means students are taught in classes according to their ability rather than their age and lessons are more structured, providing a positive and clear foundation for the students' learning.

We caught up with two teachers using Power Learning to see how they are getting on.



**Ben Wilson** - Year 1 Team Leader and Class Teacher at Gladstone Primary Academy

"Adjusting to Power Learning initially took a big mind-shift as

it was so different from how I had been taught to teach. However, I had complete faith in our leaders and knew that it was the right decision for Gladstone. I had the opportunity to visit schools in Sunderland, Leeds and Peterborough to see the great impact it was having.

Initially my workload increased as I had to understand the approach, however as I become more confident and familiar with the teaching cycle, this is decreasing, and I am enjoying a more systematic approach to planning. Previously we had to set six or seven carefully worded learning objectives to encompass the different abilities of our students. Now, we only need one objective aimed at the higher ability of the class; it is aspirational but also accessible to everyone.

The approach is clear, carefully planned and accessible to all our learners and we have been able to tweak small elements to fit our students. Already, I can see huge improvements with every child making progress in every lesson. We use consistent language across the classes, so students have a clear understanding of what is expected of them. For example, when they finish their work, they put their thumbs up against their chest to show 'job done' and await the next instruction. This has dramatically improved the pace of my lessons. The students love this, and it is also helpful for staff as a form of formative assessment. They are happy,

proud of their progress and engaged in lessons. This is enormously rewarding for us as teachers and provides a real sense of job satisfaction. It is astonishing just how big a difference it has made!"



**Julie Stocking** - Year 6 Teacher at Thomas Deacon Academy Juniors

"Initially, I was wary of change, having seen different models come and go, and I was concerned it

would limit creativity in English. But now that it's embedded, I think it is great! The students are producing excellent work. The presentation of their books has improved significantly and having less variation of abilities in a class means we can move through the content much quicker, covering more topics. I teach top-set English and with Power English in place, I chose Lord of the Flies as our text, which I wouldn't have been able to do previously.

The Power Learning, especially for maths, follows a specific teaching model. You begin by teaching the content and then you support students with examples. Then students work in partners before working individually. I wondered if the students would get tired of working together, but they enjoy working with students from other year groups and are taking more responsibility for their learning. They are even helping each other to solve problems before having to ask for help. Overall, it has been a really positive change and there is no doubting the students' progress."

# Trust ICT Team update

Use of ICT in one form or another is just about everywhere across the Trust. Our users depend on ICT being effective and available at all times. To deliver this essential service to you, the Trust's Business Services has a specialised ICT Department. Our aim is to deliver a continuously improving customer focused service that offers greater reliability and prioritises needs. To achieve this, over the last year we have undertaken a rapid transformation, implementing new initiatives that have resulted in speedier response times and visible improvements. Here is a summary of what we have been up to:



## Implemented a new team structure

To continue to provide the best ICT services possible and keep up with our growing community, ICT teams from schools across the Trust were amalgamated to form a single, trust-wide department. This included a Technical Services team to deliver large scale projects and to drive improvements in systems across the Trust. The Technical Services team enables school-based teams to focus on supporting the specific needs of their individual schools.



## Introduced an ICT support system generating insightful statistics

We know that the availability of high-quality data is an essential element in providing reliable services. We introduced an effective CRM system that monitors trends in users and also predicts when ICT equipment is likely to fail. We use this data to proactively deliver the service you need.



## What we do in numbers

In the first quarter of this year, 3806 tickets were created on the CRM system. Thirty-five per cent of these were closed within one hour and 62% were closed within four. Our objective is to reduce the number of tickets created by preventing common issues from recurring and also to increase the percentage of tickets closed within one hour to 50%.



## Extended the life of our computers by two years

Education budget allocations to schools are on a downward trend. We had significant success in improving the performance of computers by upgrading rather than replacing. When combined with newer software the effective life of many computers has been extended by two years, saving expenditure which can be used elsewhere within the Trust.



## Office 365

We are committed to the continued use of O365 across the Trust. We know that it has huge potential in reducing teacher workloads and improving student outcomes. This is a long journey, but early indicators are positive. We will continue to offer training in key areas to ensure that every member of the Trust is aware of what O365 can offer and how to access it. To support this, we introduced a new Trust intranet to keep everyone better informed and enable true collaboration and communication.



## The future

In line with the strategic objectives of the Trust and as part of Business Services, we will be implementing our own three-year development plan in which we will review all aspects of ICT across the Trust. We will ensure that systems are in place to support a high-quality curriculum and education for all our students.

# School Updates

## Warboys Primary Academy

We had an eventful summer term, joining the Trust and taking part in lots of fantastic activities. Our Key Stage 1 students visited Warwick Castle as part of their topic on castles. They had a great time exploring the grounds including the battle room and the moat!

Our Year 4 students enjoyed a residential trip to Grafham Water. Despite the bad weather preventing water activities, our students took part in exciting high-ropes and even undertook the Grafham challenge where they were blindfolded and followed a rope through the woods. Our students were very brave and worked together as a team, communicating to help each other complete the task.



Our House Captains had a special opportunity to prepare a time capsule to be buried at the David Wilson development on Station Road. Our students were very excited to be involved and put lots of thought into the photos, newspapers and letters they placed in the capsule.

We were also thrilled when 42 of our students sang live in the Birmingham Arena. Eight thousand young people and guests sang songs during the event. It was a brilliant experience and we are very proud of our students for representing the school so well.

We also said a fond farewell to our Headteacher, Angela Boxall. We wish her the best in her future endeavours and are excited to welcome our new Headteacher, Becky Ford.

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## Welbourne Primary Academy

This term, we joined the Trust and had the brilliant opportunity to rebrand. Everyone at school is enjoying our new school logo, which is based on a rose, representing how different parts of the school come together to create a harmonious, well-rounded learning environment.

We celebrated Safer Internet Day this term because it is really important to us that our students use the internet safely and responsibly. Each year group took part in internet-themed activities. Our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children studied the book 'Digiduck' which is a tale about a duck who nearly posts an inappropriate picture of his friend and discovers the consequences of his actions. Year 3 designed a SMART poster, Year 4 used bee-bots to practice consent and Sky Room played games. Year 5 studied a new version of Goldilocks and learnt not to post private pictures while Year 6 created their own stories and poems.

We also experienced a brilliant student production of Porridge. Our students performed the story of Jack Spratt and his investigations into the crimes in Happy Valley. We were amazed at how well the students behaved and it was fantastic to see them enjoying performing to the local community.

Our students also learnt about new cultures, exploring the festivals and food of Mexico. They were fascinated by the new foods at our Family Cafes, where they learnt about healthy eating. Thank you to Michael Dove and his team at TDET for producing some delicious treats!





## Iqra Academy

We are thrilled to share with you that Iqra Academy has been crowned champions of the Association of Muslim Schools' National Football Tournament. After beating Pioneers Academy 2 - 0 in the final at St Georges Park, our talented students raised the trophy. Congratulations to all the students involved!

Our students were very excited to take part in Sadaqa Day this year. The day is about social action where individuals and communities come together to help a wider social movement. We were delighted to welcome BBC News into school and show them what our students got up to.



Sadak Mirza, an international humanitarian and philanthropist, visited our students. She has worked with Non-Governmental Organisations to support poverty-stricken communities around the world. Sadak gave an inspirational and moving speech to our students, sharing her stories and experiences. Through her workshops, she helped the girls to self-reflect and aim high.

Some of our Year 10 and 11 students also enjoyed a trip to London last term. They visited the Houses of Parliament and the National Gallery as well as some of the other big attractions along the way. Thank you to everyone who helped to organise the event.



## Upwood Primary Academy

Our students had a great term, welcoming lots of visitors into school. The Wood Green Animal Charity talked to our Year 3 and 4 students about animal welfare and the five welfare needs of pets. Our students learnt lots about what animals need to be happy and healthy.

Anglian Water came to visit our KS1 students and helped them investigate the cleanliness of water. They examined different samples to see whether Coca Cola, vinegar, tea or sugar had been added. They also learnt how much water and energy are wasted when you leave the tap running.



Meanwhile, KS2 were visited by Amey who held a recycling workshop. The students had a go at sorting different waste products into the correct bins and learnt about which items can be recycled. They also had fun turning old plastic water bottles into bird feeders.

As our students had been learning about the importance of reducing waste in their various workshops, we held our first ever 'Waste-Free Wednesday'. It was a great success and we saw a massive reduction in the amount of cling film, plastic straws, disposable drink cartons, crisp packets and biscuit wrappers used in lunchboxes and by the school kitchen. Thank you to everyone for making the effort to reduce waste.



## Queen Katharine Academy

We are thrilled to have been nominated for the TES International Award for our innovative approach to improving student understanding of countries, languages and cultures. This is a fantastic achievement and we are very proud of all our staff who have made this possible.



Some of our students had the chance to travel to Germany on the Erasmus 'Local Heroes' project. They worked with German and Spanish students to investigate local heroes by visiting museums, touring the area and undertaking research. Our younger students went to Slovakia for their Erasmus trip. They worked with Slovakian and Polish students on STEM-related projects. Both trips were a great opportunity for our students to make new friends, practice their language skills and learn about the culture and history of the country.

Ten of our students trained as anti-bullying ambassadors through The Diana Award. The charity was set up in memory of Princess Diana to reflect her belief that young people have the power to change the world. Our new anti-bullying ambassadors will help to ensure that all students feel positive and supported during their time at the academy.

We also attended the annual Katharine of Aragon service at Peterborough Cathedral. It was a lovely service with hymns and readings in commemoration of Katharine of Aragon. We were very proud of two of our Year 7 students who bravely read a passage at the service. It was a great way to commemorate our namesake.



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## Gladstone Primary Academy

We were thrilled to have the opportunity to show the Shadow Secretary of State for Education, Angela Rayner, and Peterborough's new MP, Lisa Forbes, all the fantastic teaching and learning that goes on at our academy.



This term, we also welcomed Rock Steady into school. The rock band taught our students how to use different instruments and the basics of building a song. The students loved the experience and performing at the school assembly. Even our staff got involved, performing a teacher's song.

The Peterborough Phantoms led a fun assembly at the academy, talking to our students about ice hockey and their team values and respect. Our pupils really enjoyed the experience and learnt lots about the sport.

The Posh Football team also visited and our students had fun learning about the team and meeting Peter Burrow, the club mascot! Both teams kindly gave students free tickets to attend their upcoming matches. Some of our students also got to take part in the Girls Posh Football Tournament.





## Thomas Deacon Academy

This term, we welcomed our new Principal, Rick Carroll. He previously taught in and led at schools across Coventry, Suffolk, Stevenage and St Neots. Rick said he was looking forward to working with colleagues at the academy and across the Trust in the next academic year.

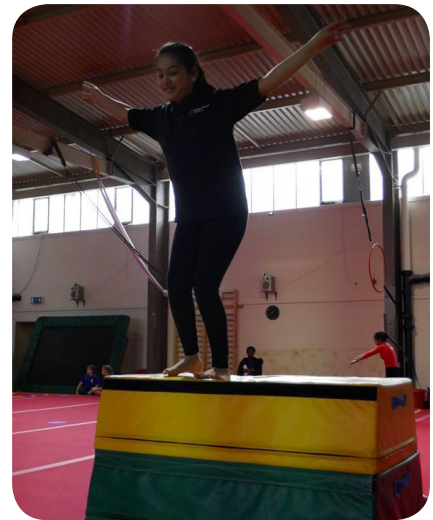


We had a very busy Summer term as our students took part in lots of extra-curricular activities, alongside their studies. Our students were visited by The Apprentice's Kayode Damali. He gave an inspirational speech and talked enthusiastically about his life experiences, from failing his A-Levels to graduating with first class honours. It was very motivational and our students loved his S.W.E.E.T goals metaphor.

Our Army, RAF and Police cadets were honoured to attend the Mayors Wreath Laying Ceremony at St Johns Church in commemoration of the Holocaust. Our Principal Student and Senior Prefect appreciated the opportunity to deliver a reading at the service. The event was moving and our students were grateful to be able to pay their respects.

We were thrilled to be invited to take part in an exciting international art project called 'The Rivers of the World' this term. The two-year programme aims to build self-esteem and artistic confidence in students through working in groups and creating art based on local rivers. We will be working with a partner school in Morocco, who will be doing the same project based on their local river.

As part of The Big Education Conversation 'languages' project, we held our first student meeting. The aim was to celebrate our diverse language community. In the meeting, some of our Polish students discussed ideas on how to improve communications within their community at the academy. It was a great success and during the meeting, we launched the concept of a language champion to help with this work.



We would also like to say a huge well done to our TDA Junior Year 5 and 6 gymnasts who trained and competed in the Peterborough Primary Schools Gymnastics Competition. Every student took part and although the competition was tough, our students demonstrated resilience and sportsmanship, cheering on all participants!



