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Unity of Purpose

Trust | Diversity | Excellence | Transformation

Summer 2022

Welcome



Scott Hudson
Chief Executive
of TDET

Welcome to the summer edition of our TDET newsletter. It is with great pride and pleasure that I am writing this introduction in my new role as Chief Executive of Thomas Deacon Education Trust.

The role of Chief Executive is extensive but put simply, it exists to ensure that all pupils in all our academies receive the highest quality of care and education possible, preparing them for the next steps in their lives and enabling them to play a positive role in society as global citizens.

I have been part of the Trust since its formation; previously as Principal of Queen Katharine Academy and more recently as the Director of Education, with responsibility for overseeing provision and standards across all our academies.

I passionately believe that an effective and engaging education empowers people and changes lives. Thomas Deacon Education Trust brings together a group of like-minded schools to achieve the very best for their pupils and communities. Our work is rooted in our communities and based on our core values of Trust, Diversity, Excellence and Transformation.

We are an inclusive Trust and care deeply about all our young people. We work hard to ensure that systems and processes exist to safeguard them, provide the highest quality of care and education, and enable them to thrive as individual, confident members of our community.

I am committed as Chief Executive to ensuring that our academies provide a truly rounded education for all pupils and will work tirelessly on behalf of the Trust to ensure this is the case - as during all my years as a teacher and leader in education my core belief has always been that every child really does matter.



Mark Potter
Chair of the
Trust Board

I was delighted to be appointed Chair of the Trust Board in January and would like to extend the warmest welcome to Mr Scott Hudson as our new Chief Executive.

Scott seamlessly stepped into the role of Acting Chief Executive in March from his previous role of Director of Education, after the departure of our former Chief Executive Mick Gernon. He has kept the Trust on target to meet its strategic objectives and, following an intensive process with key members of the Trust, our Trustees were unanimous in their decision to appoint Scott to the role of Chief Executive with immediate effect.

Thomas Deacon Education Trust has existed now for five years and our expert teams across our Trust and its academies continue to hold the Trust's values of Trust, Diversity, Excellence and Transformation at the heart of everything they do. This ensures that our academies, and the children and young people we educate within them, continue to thrive. These values drive our priorities and actions, and Scott, myself, our Trustees and wider leadership team are excited to be developing future strategies using these values as a key focus to further develop provisions in our schools.

You will see many fantastic achievements celebrated in this newsletter and yet we also recognise there are so many more achievements, and significant milestones, reached by learners in our academies every single day. I am certain that, under Scott's stewardship, Thomas Deacon Education Trust, our management, teaching and support teams, our children, young people and the communities we serve will continue to go from strength to strength.

About the 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.

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

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.

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.

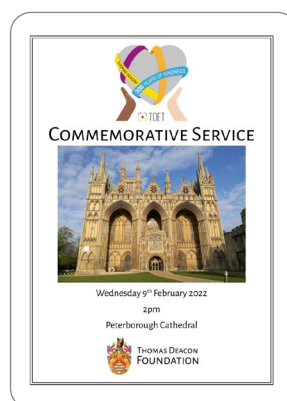
The Trust currently includes:



We also have two nurseries; one at Gladstone Primary Academy and one at Queen Katharine Academy. We also work closely with Iqra Academy.

TDET celebrates 300 years of Thomas Deacon's legacy

This year we're celebrating a special milestone in our Trust's history. The first Thomas Deacon's school opened in 1722, and we are proud to have been transforming the lives of young people across the city through education for an amazing 300 years. We have been working with the charity Thomas Deacon Foundation to mark this historic milestone with a series of special events.



Who was Thomas Deacon?

Thomas Deacon was a wealthy wool merchant and philanthropist born in 1651.

He owned many properties in and around Peterborough, including farms, cottages and Longthorpe Tower.

He was prominent in local government and in 1704 was appointed High Sheriff of the county of Northamptonshire, which then included Peterborough.

Thomas Deacon died in August 1721 and was laid to rest in Peterborough Cathedral.

In his will he bequeathed cottages and land to be set up as a school for 'twenty poor boys', as well as funds towards apprenticeships when the pupils left school.

Deacon's Charity School opened in 1722, and was originally located in Cowgate, in the city centre.

To celebrate this special year in the Trust's history, key members of the Trust as well as representatives from our academies attended a prestigious commemorative service at Peterborough Cathedral.

The service honoured Thomas Deacon's fantastic legacy to education as well as celebrating Queen Katharine of Aragon as an early ambassador for education, as both are namesakes of Trust academies. Peterborough Cathedral is also home to memorial sites for both historical figures.

The service was led by Revd Dr Rowan Williams, and Adrian Peters, Chair of Thomas Deacon Foundation, read an opening speech about Thomas Deacon and his enduring legacy to education in our local area.

Pupils from our Trust academies played a key role in the service. Two Gladstone Primary Academy pupils gave a reading about Thomas Deacon and his achievements, and there were readings from both Thomas Deacon Academy and Queen Katharine Academy's Head Students.

A prayer was read by Rick Carroll, Executive Head of Thomas Deacon Academy. TDET's Combined Cadet Force and Mini Cadets were then brought to attention to honour the laying of a wreath at the foot of the Thomas Deacon memorial and a pomegranate, Queen Katharine's personal emblem, at her burial place.

The service concluded with a reading from Mick Gernon, former Chief Executive of TDET, before the closing prayers.

It was an honour remembering and celebrating these two historic figures and their inspirational legacies in this special year of the Trust's history. We are planning more special events across the Trust from September to mark Thomas Deacon's fantastic legacy, which is going from strength to strength 300 years later.



Acts of Kindness

Earlier this year we held a Trust-wide competition for pupils to design a logo commemorating Thomas Deacon's amazing legacy to education in Peterborough. All pupils across the Trust were invited to enter and we have been using the winning logo to promote our celebratory events.

Our logo competition was won by Kasparas in Year 6 at Thomas Deacon Academy Juniors. Kasparas designed an eye-catching logo featuring two children's hands holding a heart wrapped in ribbons, which perfectly captures the kindness of Thomas Deacon.

Kasparas was presented with a £50 voucher and certificate by John Turner, Vice Chair of Thomas Deacon Foundation, Rick Carroll, Executive Principal of Thomas Deacon Academy, and Alex Lomas, Subject Leader for Art.

Vouchers and certificates were also awarded to two Year 9 TDA students, Tulip and Ayaan, who were runners up in the competition, and to Year 3 pupil, Arlo, from Upwood Primary Academy, who came third.

We have been using Kasparas's logo to publicise and celebrate our events to commemorate and continue Thomas Deacon's legacy to education in Peterborough - well done Kasparas!

Did you know?

Thomas Deacon's school is now the flagship Thomas Deacon Academy, one of TDET's seven academies which educate more than 5,000 children and young people across Peterborough and surrounding areas.

Stories from across the Trust

Warboys pupils mentored by The Mintridge Foundation

Two of our pupils, Alex and Darcie, from Warboys Primary Academy were recently selected to be mentored by English rugby union player Justine Lucas, an ambassador from The Mintridge Foundation. This charity is dedicated to enhancing life skills and confidence in young people through positive sporting role models and increasing participation in sport. Their team of ambassadors includes Olympians, Paralympians and professional sports stars.

Alex and Darcie have thoroughly enjoyed both their practical and online coaching sessions with Justine, where they spent time researching different sports teams together to find out about determination, teamwork and communication.

They received some fantastic Manchester City goodies and also had the opportunity to be mascots at Welford Road Stadium in Leicester for the England rugby match! They were outstanding representatives for their academy and for our Trust and we're very proud of them both.



TDA Sixth Form set up home for refugee family

We're so proud of our sixth form students at TDA, who worked hard to help set up a house for an Afghan refugee family coming to live in Peterborough as part of a resettlement scheme.

The students, along with Executive Principal, Rick Carroll, cleaned all the rooms, mopped the floors, scrubbed the toilets and decorated the house with soft furnishings, even organising a fundraiser to buy essentials for the home such as bathmats and cushions.

This project was part of a joint initiative between Peterborough City Council, Citizens UK and Care Zone, who all helped to furnish the house with beds, sofas, kitchen appliances and crockery.

All the students involved showed amazing compassion in helping to give back to the community. They also learned some new life skills, working hard to resettle the family and welcome them to our community.



QKA staff raise £4,576 for Pomegranate Trust

Eighteen of our brilliant QKA team completed the Derbyshire 3 Peaks Challenge in May, raising an incredible £4,576 for the Pomegranate Opportunities Trust, which provides funding for QKA students.

The team climbed up the three Derbyshire peaks, Black Hill, Bleaklow and Kinder Scout which was over ten hours of walking! In total they walked 27 kilometres with a total ascent of 1,119 metres. The team members worked incredibly hard to prepare for their challenge, taking part in lots of practice treks, and working as a team on the day to achieve their goal. We are so proud of them and their fantastic achievement.

All the money raised will go to the Pomegranate Opportunities Trust, which supports students studying at Queen Katharine Academy through a rolling programme of bids and requests for funding from the students.

A big well done and thank you to Liz, Sergio, Matt, Sarah, Louise, David, James, Olanda, Julie, Lara, Ollie M, Tina, Bryony, Bernard, Irene, Bethan, Janis and Kirsty.



Welbourne receives Food Smart Bronze award

The catering team at Welbourne was proud to receive the Food Smart Bronze Award for their healthy, nutritious school meals.

They've been working in partnership with Healthy Schools Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, an organisation which supports schools to maximise children and young people's health and wellbeing.

At Welbourne this has included focusing on promoting and teaching about healthy foods. The children also now have the chance to be involved with the food choices that appear on the school menus via the student council and will also be able to have a go at cooking different dishes.

The delivery system of school meals has also changed with pupils now eating together in the classroom, instead of in the hall, with the meal delivered via a trolley system that keeps the food hot. Eating in smaller groups has had a positive impact on behaviour and learning, with teaching and support teams able to model meal-time etiquette and cutlery use to pupils.



Our People

At the end of this term we say goodbye - and happy retirement - to our **Literacy and EAL Strategy Leader, Colin Baxter**. Colin has had a long and established career at TDET, making a difference to thousands of pupils' lives through education. We caught up with Colin to celebrate his contribution to the Trust.



How long have you been at TDET – and which roles and academies have you worked in?

My journey goes back to 2006, as Head of what used to be the Deacon's School until it became an academy. From the opening of Thomas Deacon Academy, I was Head of Modern Foreign Languages. I then led Languages, English and Media at Communications College, which was an academic faculty and a house all rolled into one. Following that I became Director of Learning at TDA until returning to classroom teaching with a senior leadership position to continue my work on literacy and EAL. I combined this with my role at TDET when the Trust formed and then moved over to TDET full-time from 2018.

What have you learned from your time at TDET?

That's a really great question! I was attracted by the idea that academies are independent state schools and what I learned was that this gave us much greater autonomy and freedom of thinking than my previous experiences within the local authority. I've also been completely convinced of the central importance of relationships at all levels and how well an organisation like ours can collaborate to the benefit of students, staff and families.

What's been your favourite memory from your time at TDET?

There are so many! One project I'm pleased with was about empowering individuals at Gladstone Primary Academy from different language backgrounds, where we dedicated our funding to the creation of after-school bilingual clubs. We wanted to embrace the children's home languages and culture while providing activities and learning, bringing to life one of our important values - diversity. Leading a project that aims to create a better life for young people makes me feel proud, happy and excited for those individuals.

What's been your best achievement at TDET?

Perhaps my best achievement involves the promotion of literacy across the Trust and reading in particular. I've kept a relentless focus on literacy, especially for older students, and encouraged teachers in secondary academies to reinforce the regularity of reading all the way to sixth form - a culture that has been embraced by leaders across our Trust.

Where do you hope to see TDET in the future?

I hope to see TDET as a trust known more widely, by more people, in the future. I would like to see its reputation grow not simply as a result of better SATs, GCSE and A-Level results, but due to our strong fundamentals by building the characters and resilience of our pupils through the values-led work of our staff.

What are you planning to do in retirement?

My wife and I are both retiring from our careers in teaching and education and, with our backgrounds in languages, we have decided to move to the South of France. We're going to enjoy a new environment and climate, together with the chance to explore and travel. We can't wait!

TDET Transform

Our 1:1 iPad project is continuing to transform pupils' education across our Trust academies.



Jenny Brassington, TDET School Development Lead



Our iPads are brilliant, we love the way that they help us and give us connection to the internet.

Charlie, Year 4
Welbourne Primary Academy

This year we've been rolling out phase two of Transform, TDET's innovative project to boost learning by providing children with their own iPads to use at school and home.

The project, which was launched last year, is being led by Jenny Brassington, TDET School Development Lead, and supported for this year by education technology expert, Mark Anderson, ICT Evangelist. Phase two of Transform has been successful in its aim to successfully supply iPads to a range of KS2 classes throughout the Trust's primary academies.

The iPads are installed with specialist learning apps and platforms, such as Showbie, which maximises their learning potential. Showbie administers learning activities digitally, enabling teachers to provide personalised feedback to pupils online. Parents are also able to easily observe and monitor their child's progress.

A large part of our work is focusing on where the Transform project has had the greatest impact and has been most successful. Our pupils are engaging with the iPads extremely well, using them as a tool to further their learning and absorb feedback.

Transform will continue in September, where we'll be joined by award-winning digital learning educator Olly Lewis, who will take on leading the project. Already, the learning from Transform has fed into developing our digital strategy which Olly will continue to take forward. An example of this includes the introduction of new staff laptops to academies across the Trust. Some teachers will have laptops with iPad functionality, such as touchscreen capability, an initiative that developed from our progress with Transform.

Overall, it's an exciting time for the Transform project and we look forward to updating you on its progress next year!

We can have so much fun and Showbie is great for learning and lessons.

Siena, Year 4
Welbourne Primary Academy



Enhancing TDET's Library Services

At TDET we're dedicated to promoting a love of reading across our academies, and our school libraries are a key part of this aim.



My vision is to have a supportive network of outstanding libraries with equality of provision across the Trust.

As well as helping and inspiring young people to find engaging and stimulating reading material, research has shown that students' scores in reading and English tests increase when libraries are staffed and open for more hours, as well as offering more books, print materials, and electronic access to information.

Sarah Masters, acting Trust Librarian and Curriculum Librarian at TDA, knows first-hand how important libraries are to young people. Sarah specialised in School Libraries and Children's Literature whilst completing her Librarianship degree at university and is currently a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals.

Sarah said: "As Curriculum Librarian at TDA, I develop and promote Library Services that support teaching and learning alongside literacy, reading for pleasure, and reading for research. These include digital library services, reading interventions, delivering national initiatives and collating resources.

"I also visit other TDET academies and assist with improving their library services, giving face-to-face training and support, leading online training sessions, sharing initiatives, and providing advice on library environment, budgets, stock checks and evaluations."

Students in the Trust now benefit from eBooks and audiobooks, and library software and programmes such as Oliver and Sora, which help to increase student motivation, improve attitude, support

vocabulary development and SEN, develop EAL, and help students find a love for learning.

Sarah added: "My vision is to have a supportive network of outstanding libraries with equality of provision across the Trust. I truly believe that if we develop libraries and literacy it will have a hugely beneficial effect on students' achievements, life opportunities and outcomes.

Moving forward, Sarah is keen to develop a Trust-wide Library Team to benefit our young people: "Developing outstanding libraries across the Trust is a challenging but worthwhile aim. My aim is to have a dedicated Trust Librarian leading a Trust Library Team, made up of individual academy-based staff and a centralised team to support across the Trust.

"Working closely with curriculum teams and subject leads, both in individual academies and within the Trust, a Trust Librarian would act as a catalyst for both cross-curricular and multi-academy initiatives. Close working with the leads for the digital strategy and literacy would enable synergy and close collaboration."

Sarah finished: "I love seeing the positive impact of my work upon students. Ultimately, it's so important to develop and enhance library services so we can see more of this across our Trust - and I can't wait to see it progress."

Celebrating TDET's catering team

At TDET, we're dedicated to empowering our young people, and food plays an important role in enabling our pupils - and staff - to achieve their very best.

Our dedicated catering team - led by Michael Dove, TDET Catering Operations Manager - has gone from strength to strength this year and is celebrating a fantastic 12 months of successes. Here's a few of our favourites!

Our TDET catering team was nominated for an award in the Education Catering category of the Public Sector Catering Awards in April, which celebrates catering excellence. We were so proud to have been involved!

This term our catering team at Thomas Deacon Academy featured on BBC Look East for the wide-range of plant-based foods it offers to students.

The team was also shortlisted for the LACA Secondary School Catering Team of the Year Award in July, demonstrating their commitment to ensuring our students receive the very best food provision daily.

It was inspiring to see both Welbourne and Warboys primary academies achieve their Food Smart Bronze Awards! Congratulations to everyone who went above and beyond to make it happen.



At Warboys and Welbourne, pupils have been taking part in **Eat Them to Defeat Them** assemblies - and were joined by Mr Carrot, Mr Chilli Pepper, Miss Carrot and Miss Broccoli! This national campaign encourages children to eat more vegetables and our pupils had lots of fun.

Earlier this year, we launched a new Training Kitchen to help develop and support catering teams across the Trust's seven academies. This provides great training opportunities in a safe and relaxed environment, as well as ensuring we continue offering healthy, nutritious food to our young people.

A focus for our schools this year has been celebrating international food and we have held World Food Days and Culture Days at our academies. At TDA, students had a fantastic day celebrating different cultures and trying food from around the world. At Warboys Primary Academy, pupils enjoyed making African dishes including Egyptian falafel, South African frikkadel and Moroccan couscous.



School updates

Thomas Deacon Academy



We had a fantastic time celebrating our first Cultural Day. Students wore clothes from different cultures, listened to talks on heritage, tried a variety of international food and experienced music from around the world.



Our Year 10 students worked with Aragon Direct Services at Central Park to create beautiful new wildflower beds. Well done Year 10 for being courteous, and showing brilliant commitment and community spirit!



Our students showcased their talents during an outdoor performance at Central Park. The cast of Annie, GSCE dance students and our junior dance club entertained Willow café customers, parents and passers-by!

Gladstone Primary Academy



Our Reception pupils enjoyed using BeeBots to learn about maps and the environment. They programmed instructions into the BeeBots, deciding where they would travel and how they would get there.



Year 5 were the stars of the show in a new theatre production called Epic Fail, a national touring theatre show that debuted in Peterborough. They performed brilliantly, well done Year 5!



The NHS Dental Healthcare team visited to present our Reception team with the MySmile Award 2022! Our pupils are enjoying supervised toothbrushing in school and developing lifelong oral health habits.

Queen Katharine Academy



Well done to our Roma Leaders who had the opportunity to meet different community group leaders, as well as the Czech Ambassador to the UK. They did a great job of representing QKA!

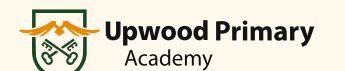


Our Sports Leaders enjoyed their session alongside Paralympian Sam Ruddock, learning skills to set up and run safe sporting events. Everyone in our PE department is very proud of them.



Our Year 9 Food Technology students were inspired by Jamie Oliver's Cooking School to make their own fresh pasta using the food processor and manual pasta rolling machine, to great effect!

Upwood Primary Academy



We had a wonderful time at our May Day event. Year 6 opened and closed the event with a traditional Maypole dance and our other year groups performed their own musical-themed dances.



Our Foundation class enjoyed using natural materials to create willow structures. They then used felt and wool to thread in and around willow cones, making them look lovely and colourful!



Our Year 3 class thoroughly enjoyed their lesson writing instructions for their own magic tricks. It was brilliant to watch them performing their tricks for everyone in the class afterwards.

School updates

Richard Barnes Academy



Well done to our fantastic Level 2 BTEC Home Cooking learners. They worked hard creating a range of delicious dishes from scratch as part of their assessment, which looked and tasted amazing!



It was wonderful to take our Year 10 learners to Hamerton Zoo to provide inspiration for their creative writing task in English. They all enjoyed their day and returned with lots of great ideas.



Our KS3 learners enjoyed a unique learning experience at their Firebreak course. They were shown how to use the equipment and worked hard learning lots of different life-saving skills.

Warboys Primary Academy



Our EYFS children were excited to have a visit from Monarch Farm for our Farmers topic. We petted the goats, sheep and two Shetland ponies, and learned about life on the farm.



Our Year 6 class came first in the Rotary Quiz, beating ten other schools! The team was absolutely brilliant and only dropped two points across all rounds. Well done, we're very proud!



Years 3 and 4 had an amazing time at the Verulamium Museum. We explored the museum, handled real artefacts from the Roman period and even had time to play in the park.

Welbourne Primary Academy



We raised funds to buy some green screen equipment, which we're using to visit and experience new places. Our Sky Room visited the coast and Year 3 travelled virtually to Stonehenge!



Years 5 and 6 enjoyed their Bikeability course. The first part was learning Level 1 safety skills on the school playground, then they practised their new skills on the roads around school.



Our Year 4 literacy group have enjoyed using their Transform iPads to help them learn about poetry. The iPads are a great interactive teaching resource, as well as saving paper and time.

Iqra Academy



Iqra's football team reached their sixth Association of Muslim Schools National Final in six years! They played brilliantly and finished in second place, after winning in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.



Iqra Academy gained the Silver Award from the Global Schools Alliance! The team has been working with schools from China to Mexico on school improvement, teacher development and student transformation.



Iqra is proud of its Young Writer's National Winners. From this year's 10,000+ entries for a national short story writing competition titled 'Twisted Tales - 2022 Wicked Legends', they had 26 winners!



Unity of Purpose

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