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Unity of Purpose

Trust | Diversity | Excellence | Transformation

Summer 2023

Welcome

It seems quite incredible that we have come towards the very end of another academic year; so much has happened across our academies and the Trust in the last 12 months, only a fraction of which is captured in this edition of our newsletter.

The Trust has made great strides in refining its overarching strategy under the three components of Provision, Partnerships and People. We are very much looking forward to implementing our plans next year as we really focus on bringing the benefits of being part of a wider organisation to our staff and pupils. We are focusing on our collaborations and improving the quality of education for all our pupils, through our network events and professional development programme for staff. Undoubtedly this is a work in progress, but through our collective efforts we are realising the purpose of the Trust as a family of academies which together is better than the sum of its parts.

In the current climate of political and social unrest, it is easy to think that selfishness and a lack of consideration for others are the prevailing behaviours and mindsets. At TDET, we believe in making a difference to people's lives and are driven by our values which shape our behaviours. Our spirit of generosity is shown in many ways; through the compassion and care we show to our community but particularly to those less fortunate than ourselves, those who are more vulnerable or suffering particular hardship. We can genuinely look back with pride over the last year on our focus on Acts of Kindness, in recognition of our 300-year anniversary as an education provider in the city of Peterborough. Working in partnership with Thomas Deacon Foundation, we thoroughly enjoyed our recent celebration event and were blown away by the work of pupils and staff in our academies, and their generosity in supporting others.

At this time of year, it is usual for us to see staff move on to pastures new and we would like to thank all those colleagues for the work they have done in our academies and across the Trust, and wish them all the very best for their future. We would like to pay particular tribute to the work of three of our leaders, who are moving on to promoted positions in the new academic year. Becky Ford, Jane Driver and Lynn Mayes have provided outstanding leadership in their settings and undoubtedly leave their academies in a better place than when they started - their contributions to our collective work will be sorely missed.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you a safe and happy summer and I look forward to what the new academic year will bring for TDET and its academies.



Scott Hudson
Chief Executive
of TDET



Mark Potter
Chair of the
Trust Board

About the Trust

TDET is a highly successful multi-academy trust and charitable organisation that aims to be one of the leading MATs in the country, dedicated to providing a truly world-class education for our communities in Peterborough and the surrounding area.

We are a trust that unites and empowers like-minded academies to achieve the very best for our learners, and at the heart of our vision is a profound belief that the Trust as a whole is more than the sum of its parts. All our academies are equally valued and contribute to the development and direction of the Trust as we grow together.

All members of our Trust - our academies, members of staff, students and communities - are united in purpose through a set of shared common values and expectations:



Trust

We rely on honesty as the basis for developing meaningful relationships



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, whatever their background or starting point.

All TDET schools strive to give our pupils the very best education possible and we insist upon the highest standards in all that we do.

Our academies work closely together, taking part in real and meaningful collaborations between teachers, pupils and other key partners including parents, business and other education providers. 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 these collaborations we strive to ensure that TDET:



Offers the highest quality educational **Provision** so that every child is empowered to be a confident learner, successfully prepared for their future.



Develops meaningful and high-leverage **Partnerships** that actively and directly support our goals as a strong multi-academy trust.



Becomes an employer of choice by investing in our employees so that we have the best **People** working for us, who are fully engaged and empowered to achieve our collective goals.

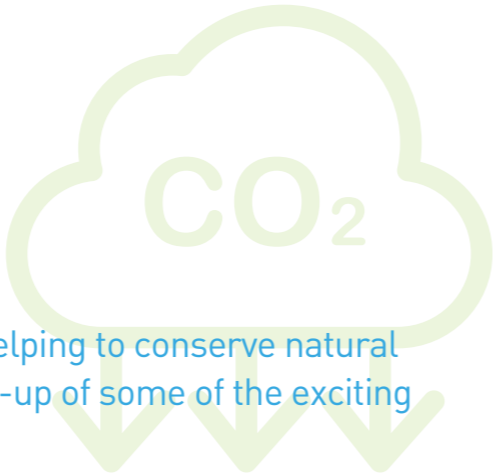
Through experience, we know that there is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all approach to education. Our academies are individual members of the Trust community and are empowered to innovate and adapt to the needs of their pupils and the local community.

The Trust currently includes:



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

Sustainability focus



As a Trust, reducing our environmental footprint and helping to conserve natural resources is extremely important to us. Here's a round-up of some of the exciting sustainability initiatives taking place across TDET...



Did you know?

TDET is aiming to achieve net carbon zero, where the amount of carbon the Trust emits into the atmosphere is no more than the amount removed by our sustainability measures, by 2030.



The Trust's Sustainability Strategy Steering Group has been working hard this year to progress our sustainability strategy into a three-year action plan.



Fantastic progress has been made this year on replacing lighting across the entire TDET site, from fluorescent lights to LED lighting with sensor controls. Compared with fluorescent bulbs, LED lights are up to 80 per cent more energy efficient.

For 2024, the Group is currently focusing on producing a timetable of sustainability activities across our academies and central office. Plans are still in the early stages, but could include introducing academy and student Eco-Committees, appointing Sustainability Leads and implementing a climate action plan.



These measures would help to engage staff and students across all our academies and further develop a culture of environmental conscientiousness - key to our sustainability success. We will also be exploring ways to increase recycling across the Trust, as well as undertaking a staff and student travel survey and campaign. We are looking forward to exploring external partnerships with environmental companies who assist organisations in making a positive impact on the planet.



Moving forward, we hope to explore other ways to minimise our impact on the environment and look forward to bringing you further sustainability news in the future!



Meat-free Mondays

TDET's Catering Team, led by Michael Dove, Catering Operations Manager, introduced 'Meat-free Mondays' across the Trust this year, as part of a sustainability initiative with Cool Food Pro and PECT (Peterborough Environment City Trust).

As well as being better for the environment and helping to reduce carbon emissions, the students love the new recipes - and are eating more vegetables too! We have also implemented waste audits to reduce food waste, resulting in a 20 per cent overall reduction in costs.

Promoting healthy eating to children across our academies has also been a priority this year, with initiatives such as Eat Them to Defeat Them also encouraging the children to eat more vegetables.



Michael explains more about the Catering Team's sustainability work in this video. Please scan the QR code to view.



TDET employees can save money on a bike to cycle to work!

To encourage sustainable travel to work, TDET has signed up to Cyclescheme - an employee benefit designed to help employees save money on a new bike.

Staff pay nothing upfront, then spread the payments for their bike and accessories over monthly tax-free instalments direct from their salary, saving 25-39 per cent of the cost.

They can choose their bike from any of Cyclescheme's 2,000+ retailers nationwide, or shop in-store, online, by click and collect or directly from the brand.

The bikes are then 'hired' for an agreed length of time, through regular payments, with the opportunity to buy it for a fraction of its original value at the end.

Staff can visit cyclescheme.co.uk for more information. To check your eligibility for the scheme, please email our Payroll team, at payroll@tdet.education.



Stories from across the Trust

Warboys goes global!

The team at Warboys was delighted to be awarded the Bronze Level Global School Award from the Global School Alliance for their fantastic work developing global communication and collaboration.

As part of this partnership, Year 5 pupils at Warboys Primary Academy had the opportunity to experience a life-changing, fully-funded trip to their partner school, Colegio Alameda International School, in Madrid, Spain.

In preparation for the trip, children engaged in shared projects and presentations over Zoom, delivering presentations about their schools, practising their language skills and creating tour guides to celebrate localities they're proud of.

They then spent five days in Madrid, sightseeing, taking part in activities and learning alongside their peers in their partner school. This was a fabulous way to show the children more of the world and teach them the skills they need to be independent in another country, as well as raising their aspirations for the future.



Gladstone Primary Academy awarded Artsmark Gold Award

Pupils and staff at Gladstone Primary Academy are celebrating after receiving a prestigious Artsmark Gold Award, accredited by Arts Council England, which is the result of the academy expanding and embedding an impressive curriculum of creative activities, including acting, singing, dancing, filming, lighting, and sound and advertising.

The children have been exploring these subjects during lessons as well as in events such as the academy's Enrichment Week. They've enjoyed having more opportunities to use their creativity in school, taking pride in creating their artwork and in their chances to perform. Simon Marton, Principal, said: "We're extremely proud of achieving our Artsmark Gold Award. The children benefit so much from using their creativity in school and it is wonderful to see their enthusiasm for the new activities."

The Academy was supported in its activities by Festival Bridge, a regional organisation connecting children and young people with arts in their area.



Richard Barnes Academy students mentor younger learners

TDET's central offices were visited this term by Key Stage 3 students from Richard Barnes Academy, who have been taking part in a tailored mentoring programme to support younger pupils at their academy.

The students completed structured mentoring sessions with John Hinch, TDET's Leadership and Pupil Premium Lead. They all focused hard on learning new skills such as effective body language and facial expressions, and active listening, which they will use to mentor the academy's primary pupils.

By the end of the programme, the students had taken part in a variety of different activities to learn about the positive effects of mentoring, such as how to listen effectively to their younger peers and how to support them with a range of problems that might be affecting their well-being. We are very proud of these students for showing great leadership skills and for taking on this responsibility.



Thomas Deacon Academy celebrates Cultural Day

Thomas Deacon Academy students enjoyed celebrating diversity and the many different cultures in their school community on TDA's Cultural Day 2023.

Students and staff were invited to wear their cultural clothes and enjoyed a day of different activities, such as a fashion show where they modelled and shared their traditional cultural dress and flags.

The TDA dance team showcased a mesmerising South African Gum Boot dancing performance and students also enjoyed clapping along to the melodious, joyous beat of South Asian Dhol drums.

Students also learned about different cuisines in communities, sharing tasty Mexican treats while creating Carnival Masks and listening to different genres of cultural music.

They also discovered Brazilian Martial Art, explored their English heritage by designing and crafting Coronation Crowns and took part in a fantastic African Drumming session with the Amazing Abas and Mo – where they participated with boomwhackers. It was a fabulous day for both students and staff!



Our People

This issue we meet some of TDET's 'homegrown talent', members of staff who attended our academies as students and now work for, or on behalf of, our Trust.



John Turner

“Not many organisations can trace their history back 300 years and continue to support students' achievements in education. I'm proud to be one small part of a proud history.”

Chair of Academy Committee for Gladstone Primary Academy and Chair of Thomas Deacon Foundation

Which TDET school did you attend?

I attended Gladstone Primary for Years 4 to 6, and then Deacon's School from Years 7 to 13 - which was one of Thomas Deacon Academy's predecessor schools.

Can you tell us about your career history?

I've spent 20 years working in the charity sector. Firstly, I volunteered for Railworld following my Year 10 work experience and they offered me a job when I finished Sixth Form as their first paid employee, managing the visitor attraction. I then went on to work for Peterborough Young Carers project, supporting young carers and their families, before moving to Caring Together when the project transferred to them. I had different roles within Caring Together, finishing as their Compliance Officer. I've recently moved to Disability Huntingdonshire, as their Compliance and Impact Manager.

What does your current role as Chair of GPA's Academy Committee involve?

My role involves getting to know the academy, meeting staff and students and supporting where I can. I have regular catch-up meetings with Simon Martin, the Principal, for updates on what's happening and to plan for the future, along with preparing agendas for, and chairing, meetings.

What made you want to work with TDET?

When Gladstone Primary Academy was joining TDET in 2017, they were looking for members to join their new local governing body. So, I applied. Being a former student, I wanted to give back to the school and community. I'm also on TDA's Academy Committee as one of Thomas Deacon Foundation's appointed members. The Foundation can appoint two trustees to sit on the Academy Committee, keeping their links as a sponsor of the academy when it opened.

What do you enjoy most about your role at Thomas Deacon Foundation?

Our heritage and impact in supporting students. Not many organisations can trace their history back 300 years and continue to support students' achievements in education, in keeping with Thomas Deacon's ethos. I'm proud to be one small part of a proud history.

What are the benefits of working alongside TDET?

Being a local Trust enables collaboration and support for others, as well as at local organisations and events. The other benefit is the fantastic staff that work across the Trust, and within its academies.

What do you enjoy doing outside work?

When I'm not working - paid or voluntary - I enjoy getting out and about on my bike or walks and, when inside, I enjoy baking delicious treats.



Tina Page

“Being part of TDET, I know there is always someone available to support me when needed in my new role.”

Early Years Manager & Nursery SENco, at Welbourne Primary Academy

Which TDET school did you attend?

I attended Queen Katharine Academy, formerly The Voyager, from 2007 onwards and was in the first cohort to complete the secondary school journey. I had a passion for Early Years and went on to complete my GCSEs and A-levels.

Can you tell us about your career history?

After Sixth Form, I successfully secured a role at QKA's nursery after a work placement and volunteer work. I achieved a Level 2 Team Leading qualification through City College and then a Level 5 Early Years Educator qualification. I studied a BA (Hons) in Childhood Studies, which provided me with the knowledge, experience and qualifications to progress in my role. At the nursery I progressed internally, becoming a Room Leader, then Assistant Manager and, at our new setting at Welbourne, I'm Nursery Manager and SENCo.

What does your current role involve on a daily basis?

I am key practitioner in Pre-School, supporting children to be next-stage ready, for primary school or another academic year of nursery. I'm Room Leader for both the Pre-School and Toddler rooms, working closely with the Baby Room Leader/Assistant Manager. My main role includes staff development; I hope to empower the staff team to deliver the best quality of care and education within the setting. My role also includes promoting the setting, registering children and managing finances.

What made you decide to stay within TDET?

When first leaving school, Early Years was initially planned to be my 'gap year', however, I found a love for the age range. I'm passionate about watching the children blossom within a nursery setting and was inspired to continue to work and support this. The Trust enabled me to work alongside studying to enhance my own knowledge and share this within the setting. The staff and environment encouraged me to stay as I was so comfortable in my role and keen to progress. Our recent OFSTED inspection motivated me even more to stay within the Trust as it really showcased who we are, our values and how happy our parents and children are.

What do you enjoy most about your role?

I relish the opportunity to review the impact our setting makes on the children we work with. It's always pleasing to receive positive feedback from the community, and from primary schools, about how prepared the children are for their transition.

What are the benefits of being part of TDET?

I like being able to work closely with other settings, for example with Gladstone Preschool and Welbourne Primary Academy. The Trust really supports positive collaborations, and we share knowledge and best practice. Being part of TDET, I know there is always someone available to support me when needed in my new role.

What do you enjoy doing outside work?

I'm keen to socialise with friends and family and to relax in my down time. I really enjoy family days out in the sunshine, or watching a new TV series.

300 Years of Kindness

This year, pupils and staff across our academies have been marking 300 years of Thomas Deacon's legacy to education in Peterborough by taking part in Acts of Kindness.



TDA hosted a wonderful charity cinema evening, raising £635 for the charity Little Miracles. The theatre was packed and plenty of popcorn was sold!



Well done to Sophie in Year 6. She created a charity treat stall for a UPA open evening which raised a grand total of £290 for The Malcolm Whales Foundation!



Well done to Kian at RBA for making popcorn for staff members at Ferry Meadows, and to Sam for helping Mason start his kite flying before his own.

It has been fantastic and heart-warming to see many different Acts of Kindness taking place throughout the year, from our youngest nursery and pre-school children, through to our sixth formers and staff.

From cake sales, charity walks, teaching after-school English lessons to parents/carers, supporting younger children and those with additional needs to raising money for refugees, every Act of Kindness makes a

real difference to people's lives and we are so proud of everyone who has contributed to this special year.

Our Acts of Kindness award winners were announced at a special awards event at St John the Baptist church in Peterborough. We look forward to bringing you news of our winners in the next issue!

Meanwhile, we look back at some of the wonderful Acts of Kindness carried out across our academies.



At Welbourne's country dancing event, Jaxson had no partner. Angel happily partnered up with him, without being asked.



A big thank you to everyone in the Warboys community who generously donated to fill shoeboxes for children in Ukraine for Easter.



QKA's Roma Leaders led workshops about Roma History and the Romanes Language at a local school. They did a great job and really engaged the Year 6 students.



Our Key Stage 1 Stars of the Week awards were presented to the whole class, for helping a new teacher feel warmly welcomed and part of GPA's school community!

QKA team wins three national awards

Staff at Queen Katharine Academy are celebrating after winning two prestigious Pearson Silver National Teaching Awards, as well as a TES award.



The Silver Awards were received by José Ros, Head of Modern Foreign Languages, in the category of Secondary Teacher of the Year, and by ECT (Early Career Teacher) Julie Howard, for Outstanding New Teacher of the Year. Following their successes, In Wha Kim won Teaching Assistant of the Year at the recent TES awards event in London.

These incredible achievements are well-deserved. José Ros and his team are pioneers in developing QKA's Languages curriculum with energy, originality and positivity to meet the diverse needs of its student population, who truly enjoy their learning.

Meanwhile, Julie Howard has set up a Bilingual Excellence Scheme for migrant EAL students, collaborated with local universities to provide the academy's young people with further opportunities, and mentored team members both inside and outside QKA.

Teaching Assistant, In Wha Kim has independently created, funded and delivered the academy's Korean Club, where students share Korean culture - from traditional cuisine to performing K-Pop - as well as helping vulnerable students develop their language and literacy skills.

In addition to winning these coveted awards, QKA was also shortlisted for a further two Pearson National Teaching Awards; Community Engagement Initiative of the Year for its Community Hub, a unique feature of QKA where students and families can access linguistic and social support as well as a food bank, and for Subject Leader of the Year - again for José Ros.

Head of School, Miss Jane Driver, said: "For Queen Katharine Academy to be shortlisted for five awards, and to win three, in a single academic year is a truly outstanding achievement, and testament to their inspirational work and QKA's culture of excellence and inclusivity. I am so proud of all the individuals and teams involved and the incredible work they do every day, which transforms the lives of our students."

The academy held a celebration event on National Thank a Teacher Day, which featured exhibitions, cultural performances and flamenco workshops, and was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Peterborough, Nick Sandford and Bella Saltmarsh.

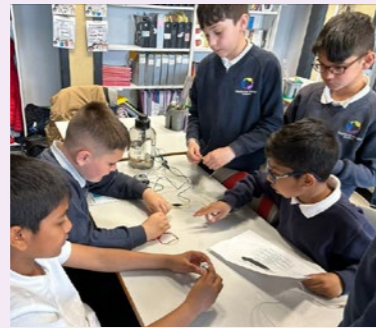


Academy updates

Gladstone Primary Academy



These Key Stage 1 children have been reading at home every night, some have read 100 times, and some as many as 200 times! They were excited to receive their free books as rewards.



Year 6 enjoyed using switches, motors and bulbs to investigate how to create a circuit with the greatest brightness. They then used this knowledge to create circuits of their own. Great work everyone!



Our Reception children have really enjoyed looking for minibeasts in the garden this term. Using their observation and investigation skills they were able to identify insects such as worms and woodlice.

Richard Barnes Academy



Our Primary students enjoyed their trip to see the difference between a village setting and Peterborough town. They used their map skills and scavenger hunt cards to find different landmarks and locations.



This brilliant free-hand artwork has been completed by Key Stage 3 learner, McKenzie, who has been experimenting with coloured pencils and depth by adding paint to pencil colours. It looks amazing!



Some of our students have been working with Peterborough College in the 14-19 schools program, learning and developing a range of construction skills such as brickwork, carpentry, electrical studies and plumbing.

Queen Katharine Academy



Our Geography students enjoyed a fantastic day at Hunstanton. They completed a field sketch of the fabulous cliffs, watched demonstrations of long-shore drift and studied samples of the sand, rocks and silt.



Students were excited to see a rocket at QKA! The Skybolt 2, built by Starchaser Industries to aid their research on taking people into space, inspired our students and encouraged their scientific curiosity.



Our Korean Club students took part in a fun photoshoot at Peterborough Cathedral for the Global Hanbok Contest, organised by the Daegu Metropolitan Office of Education in South Korea.

Thomas Deacon Academy



A group of Year 5 and Year 7 students attended the Eco Awards, winning the Milestone Special Award for TDA's commitment to eco-development. They received a beautiful trophy, certificate and £200 voucher.



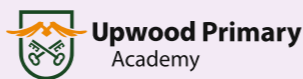
This fabulous artwork was created by our extremely talented students. Well done to Max in Year 11 for his very creative ceramics sculpture, and to Anna in Year 12 for her incredible portrait.



Our Year 9 Bronze DofE students completed their combined training and expedition, practising map reading, compass work, First Aid, tranguia cooking and pitching tents - as well as camping overnight and walking 20km!

Academy updates

Upwood Primary Academy



Our Year 6 children have been sharing their phonics knowledge with Key Stage 1, listening to them read and practising blending sounds to form words. It's lovely to see them helping their friends!



In Science, Year 2 have been learning about living things and their habitats. The children enjoyed looking at micro-habitats and going on a mini-beast hunt!



The children all practised so hard for our May Day celebrations! Their dances were brilliant and it was lovely to see so many parents and carers attend to watch them perform.

Welbourne Primary Academy



Well done to our Safer Internet Day winners, who enjoyed a fantastic visit to Peterborough United as a prize for their brilliant work on our online safety digital challenge earlier this year.



The children had an amazing time at the Country Dancing Festival! Thank you to Mrs Tilson for teaching them the dances and to Mrs Minnie and Mrs Vaughan for making the costumes and banner.



Reception looked fantastic dressed up to celebrate World Bee Day! The children were busy bees, making bee-related crafts to develop their fine motor skills and developing their maths knowledge by making honey sandwiches.

Warboys Primary Academy



Our EYFS children enjoyed a Messy Play session with their grown-ups, which was a fantastic experience for the children to share some of the wonderful opportunities we have in Early Years.



Our Year 5 and 6 children took part in an athletics competition, competing in vortex throwing, standing long jumps and 75m and 500m sprints. The children did fantastically well, coming joint fourth place.



A group of children enjoyed a trip to Wicksteed Park, an annual event sponsored by the Ramsey Rotary Club, who hire the park for the whole day! The children had a fabulous time.

