

Winter
Newsletter
2023

Welcome J

Throughout this year we have had a real focus on our approach to collaboration. We firmly believe that Thomas Deacon Education Trust exists to provide an added value to our pupils and staff; ensuring that they receive a better quality of education than if they attended a stand-alone school.

To that end we have been working really hard to develop our internal partnerships and further enhanced opportunities for our staff to work together in order to improve educational experiences and provision for all. We have established our Principals' Round Table which creates opportunities for key leaders across our academies to work together to develop, shape and refine practice; we are not interested in having identikit schools and firmly believe that schools should meet the need of their context. However, we know that aspects of practice and provision can be aligned and replicated where it is right to do so.

We have also created a number of Communities for Improvement which bring teachers and support staff together around particular aspects of our work such as safeguarding, special educational needs, Post-16, and early reading, with a view to our staff working together to share practice and work collaboratively to learn from each other and make further improvements. Of course, it is one thing to talk about collaborations as being positive, but it is essential that we see tangible benefits of this work. Two such examples are the Good Ofsted outcomes at both Welbourne Primary Academy and Gladstone Primary Academy – whilst of course we recognise the hard work and efforts from all staff at the Academies, they are quick to acknowledge the impact that being part of TDET has had on their improvement journey.

In order to provide a flavour of the nature of our collaborations and their impact we have produced a short video which can be found at www.tdet.education.

At the start of the autumn term we welcomed two new Principals to our team – Philip Masterson at Queen Katharine Academy and Stuart Mallott at Warboys Primary Academy. They have both relished the opportunity to be part of the Trust and are working extremely hard alongside all their staff to further develop the quality of educational provision in their respective academies. More detail about our new colleagues can be found later in the newsletter.

Our Trustees have also had a very busy term and we are working together to refine our self-evaluation model – we must understand the strengths and areas for development of the Trust as a whole if we are to take the right actions to deliver against our vision of becoming one of the leading Multi Academy trusts in the country. Alongside this, we are considering the principles of our growth strategy – we wish to grow further in order to develop our educational provision but know that any further growth must be carefully considered and only take place when it supports the opportunity and progress of pupils in our existing academies.

It seems hard to believe that the festive break is fast approaching but we hope that you find the articles in this edition of the newsletter enjoyable and informative. May we take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



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:



Gladstone Primary
Academy



Queen Katharine
Academy



Richard Barnes
Academy



Thomas Deacon
Academy



Upwood Primary
Academy



Warboys Primary
Academy



Welbourne Primary
Academy

We also have a nursery at Welbourne Primary Academy.

A partnership approach to physical education

Providing high-quality physical education can be challenging for primary schools and at Thomas Deacon Education Trust, we believe in the importance of specialised knowledge and a heartfelt passion for teaching physical education.



“This is a great example of how we can work together to make a really positive impact, whilst embracing our individual differences”

Over the last four years, we have set up a partnership of PE professionals made up of five members of qualified teaching staff that work across three of our primary academies. We have designed this team with diversity in mind, to create a really varied range of skills and experiences, with teachers who specialise in areas from dance to football to SEND, and those who speak different languages. This helps to provide inspirational role models for **all** our pupils.

The team works across Gladstone Primary Academy, Thomas Deacon Academy Juniors, and Welbourne Primary Academy, supporting schools with running extra-curricular activities, from activities at lunchtime to weekly clubs and cross-trust competitions.

Sports Lead, Dave Cope, said “We’re excited to continue developing this important partnership which provides a high-quality learning experience for our pupils and places physical education at the heart of our schools. Moving forward, we’re keen to get more of our Trust secondaries involved to support the transition of our pupils from Year 6 into 7 and give fantastic opportunities for both our younger and older pupils. Our secondaries already get involved as sports leaders but there is always more we can do.”

Principal at Welbourne Primary Academy, Tracy Lawson, said: “It has been amazing to have the support of the TDET PE team. This is a great example of how we can work together to make a really positive impact, whilst embracing our individual differences and the things that make us unique.”

This vital partnership has seen dramatic improvements in behaviour during PE lessons as children become really engaged in the quality of the provision and has helped with attendance across the Academy as there is always something for pupils to enjoy and look forward to. It has also been recognised in recent Ofsted inspections at Welbourne Primary Academy and Gladstone Primary Academy.

In the subsequent reports, inspectors shared that the curriculum was “enhanced by a wide extra-curricular offer that includes, for example, music and physical education (PE), both delivered by specialists. Pupils appreciate and access these wider opportunities.” They continued: “the school and the trust work well together to promote the effective learning and welfare of pupils.”

To find out more about our sports partnership, get in touch with **Dave Cope** via info@tdet.education.

A partnership approach to diversity

In the ever-evolving landscape of education, addressing the needs of marginalised and migrant communities presents unique challenges. Academies across the Trust have identified the importance of specialised support and genuine dedication in fostering equality, diversity, and integration.



Over the past five years, Queen Katharine Academy has embarked on a transformative journey by partnering with COMPAS, a charity committed to promoting equality, diversity, and the integration of marginalized communities into British society. The cornerstone of this partnership has been the creation of the ROGA (Roma of Greater Ability) programme.

Led by Compas professionals, ROGA aims to provide Roma students with essential role models from their own community who have triumphed over adversity. Through a multi-faceted approach, including inspiring talks, university tours, and career exploration, the programme aims to be holistic – addressing not only academic challenges but also social and cultural barriers.

Helena Ground, International Lead and Spanish Teacher, said “Our ROGA initiative has been so successful that we have since introduced the Roma Leaders programme. This identifies exceptional students who have completed the ROGA programme and demonstrate the potential to become positive role models for their peers.”

Katherine Bangurah, International Projects Co-ordinator, explained “Roma Leaders participate in events, share their experiences with primary school pupils, and play a pivotal role in organising the International Roma Day celebration; a vibrant annual community gathering.”

The partnership’s impact has developed beyond the classroom walls, with community workers in place to act as liaisons between families and the academy.

These community workers bridge any cultural and communication gaps to ensure that family needs are met and understood, and teachers are aware of the context of each student’s upbringing.

Queen Katharine Academy staff have also embarked on visits to Roma settlements in Slovakia and the Czech Republic, gaining firsthand knowledge of the challenges students faced. With this insight, the Academy makes every effort to address gaps in literacy and language proficiency, so that every student can thrive.

The partnership between Queen Katharine Academy and COMPAS exemplifies true collaboration, with both entities contributing resources, materials, and support to amplify their impact. The success of the partnership extends beyond the Academy, where other schools, including Gladstone Primary Academy, have been inspired to embrace a similar approach - sparking a movement of positive change within the educational landscape.

Petr Torak MBE, Chief Executive Officer of COMPAS Charity said “The partnership with TDET, and in particular with Queen Katharine Academy, has been an enriching opportunity for our organisation and staff. It has enabled us to implement an idea that started in 2013 as a small community project and to improve it by having dedicated colleagues from Queen Katharine Academy on board. The project is going from strength to strength and the methodology has been now shared with over 25 schools in 4 different countries. We are very grateful to the Academy for this opportunity and support.”

Stories from across the Trust

Gladstone gets gold!

The team at Gladstone Primary Academy celebrated receiving their Artsmark Gold Award with a special exhibition at St Barnabas Church, Peterborough on 6th September.

Artsmark supports schools to develop and celebrate their commitment to arts and cultural education by developing a broad, ambitious, and creative curriculum across all subjects. This enables all pupils to have the opportunity to be creative and have access to a diverse, high-quality cultural education which helps develop character and increases children's knowledge, curiosity, and skills.

The celebratory exhibition featured a wide variety of artwork by pupils from Reception to Year 6 and included clay figures, colourful butterflies made from textiles, as well as artwork in a variety of mediums inspired by artists such as Van Gogh, Joan Miro and Wassily Kandinsky. The event included a presentation where the Artsmark Gold certificate was awarded to Claire Pope, Art Lead at the Academy, by Scott Hudson, Chief Executive of TDET.



Welbourne and Thomas Deacon academies become Music Mark Schools

This term both Welbourne Primary Academy and Thomas Deacon Academy were nominated by Peterborough Music Hub to become Music Mark schools for the 2023-2024 academic year in recognition of their commitment to providing a high-quality and very varied music offer available to all pupils as part of a broad and balanced curriculum.

Music Mark is a UK Association that champions a diverse and accessible music education provision to inspire and enrich the lives of young people by supporting music educators to deliver high-quality musical and social outcomes for all children and young people.

This membership gives each of our academies access to valuable resources, webinars, events, latest national and regional sector news, and training opportunities, which will enable our dedicated and passionate music teachers to enhance our music offer even further this year and provide pupils with opportunities they may not otherwise have had.



Queen Katharine Academy wins national award

The Academy was named 'School of the Year' at the UK's Social Mobility Awards (SOMOs) in October in recognition of its impact in supporting all its students to realise their full potential regardless of their background.

Social mobility is critical in ensuring everyone has equal opportunities irrespective of their background and the SOMO awards honour organisations who actively promote this and demonstrate the effectiveness of their initiatives. Queen Katharine Academy is passionately committed to improving social mobility in innovative ways and places a strong emphasis on instilling a culture of ambition and academic excellence for all its pupils to achieve their very best.

The award reflects the Academy's role in creating a positive and transformative educational environment for children in Peterborough and comes in the light of a milestone for Queen Katharine in having supported its 1000th first-generation student to gain a university place.



TDET's Community Work with Peterborough Citizens

TDA are proud members of Peterborough Citizens – a local chapter of Citizens UK – a people-power association of diverse local community members working together to overcome injustice and win change on issues that communities care most about across the city.

In October, a TDA team of pupils, staff and parents met with MP Shailesh Vara and Andrew Pakes, the Labour Parliamentary candidate, along with other leaders from across Peterborough. They raised concerns around the lack of diversity in the National Curriculum and spoke about homelessness, the housing crisis and lack of affordable housing in the city.

The TDA team has subsequently attended a community Homelessness and Housing Action Campaign meeting to support driving change forward. The team is determined to effect change and will continue to work with Peterborough Citizens to campaign for progress on both the curriculum and homelessness.



Acts of Kindness Awards ceremony

TDET celebrated 300 years of Thomas Deacon's legacy to education in Peterborough at an award ceremony in July.



“It has been inspirational to hear about all the acts of kindness that have been carried out across TDET throughout the year to honour Thomas Deacon's memory, and which have made a real difference to our academies and local communities.”

John Turner, Chair of Thomas Deacon Foundation

Pupils and staff from across the Trust attended the TDET and Thomas Deacon Foundation Acts of Kindness Awards at St John the Baptist Church in Peterborough on 11th July. The service was a wonderful event, and the church was packed out as the families of award winners were also invited. The event also included musical interludes provided by pupils from across the Trust's academies.

The award ceremony was the culmination of a year of events across all academies in the Trust, commemorating 300 years since its founder, Thomas Deacon, left a legacy in his will to open and maintain a school to educate 20 disadvantaged boys in Peterborough so that they could 'read, write and cast accounts'.

Pupils and staff across TDET have been carrying out acts of kindness during the year within their academies and local communities to honour Thomas Deacon's original act of kindness.

Shortlisted students and staff members from across our seven academies received awards and commendations for their kind deeds, which included charity walks, cake sales, teaching after-school English lessons to parents and carers, and supporting younger children and those with additional needs.

Trophies were also awarded to the overall Student Winner and overall Staff Winner. Winning student, Ismail Ahmed, from Thomas Deacon Academy, led a group of Sixth Formers to raise funds for a family of refugees claiming asylum in the UK, helping them to find accommodation and furnish their home with essential items. Rozina Fazil, from Gladstone Primary Academy, was the overall Staff Winner, going above and beyond in her role as Family Liaison Officer to care for the families in Gladstone's community.

John Turner, Chair of Thomas Deacon Foundation, who presented the overall winners with their trophies, said: "Our ethos is to promote the legacy of Thomas Deacon and his incredible generosity in funding and setting up a school in Peterborough 300 years ago. It has been inspirational to hear about all the acts of kindness that have been carried out across TDET throughout the year to honour Thomas Deacon's memory, and which have made a real difference to our academies and local communities. Each kind deed adds up to transform the lives of our young people, their families, and our community."

The Trust will continue to encourage pupils and staff to go that extra mile to show kindness and we are already planning our next Acts of Kindness award ceremony for July 2024!

Welbourne celebrates 'Good' Ofsted report

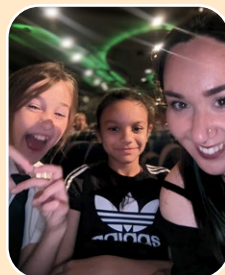
Staff and pupils at Welbourne Primary Academy were delighted with the results of their latest Ofsted inspection which judged the school to be 'Good' across all areas.



The Academy received commendation for its “inclusive and nurturing environment,” and was noted for being a place where “pupils enjoy attending” and feel “safe and well-cared for.” Quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management, and early years provision were each rated 'Good', acknowledging the Academy's continuous efforts to ensure a quality education for every student.

Tracy Lawson, Principal at Welbourne Primary Academy, said: “We are thrilled with the positive feedback in this Ofsted report, which recognises our commitment to delivering learning experiences that prepare our children for the future. Creating a safe environment where pupils feel valued and enjoy their learning is essential for their success and paramount at Welbourne. The praise we received for our wellbeing-focus reinforces the importance we place on nurturing our students' social, emotional, mental, and physical health. I am particularly proud that these efforts have been recognised.

“We are extremely grateful to our community, parents, pupils, and dedicated staff for their contributions to this achievement. The Academy's values of honesty, excellence, aspiration, respect and teamwork radiated throughout the report which is a testament to the collective efforts of everyone.”



TDA pupil using British Sign Language wins prize in writing competition

Natalia, a Year 6 pupil at TDA, has been working 1:1 with Emma Smalls, a Specialist Teaching Assistant for Hearing Impairment, for three years. Natalia was born deaf, and Emma has been supporting her at school using British Sign Language (BSL).

Natalia's learning experience has been transformed with Emma's support, and they were both very proud when she came runner-up for her entry in the recent Wicked Writers 'Be the Change' writing competition. Natalia's entry was presented in BSL and outlined her experience as a deaf student in school.

Explaining why 10-year-old Natalia was chosen, the judges said, “It was a very emotional piece, speaking from the heart. Natalia tells us that our “hands are like superpowers” and asks us to all learn sign language as a call to action.”

Natalia hopes to keep inspiring others, telling us, “Being a runner-up in this competition has made me feel so proud. It has given me confidence and shown that deaf people can do anything. I hope my success will encourage others to learn BSL and inspire other deaf children and young people to go after their dreams.”

As a prize, Natalia received free books for the Academy and 30 tickets for her class to go to London and watch the musical, Wicked! Following the competition, Natalia was approached by BATOD (British Association for Teachers of the Deaf) to ask her to write an article for their official international magazine, which provides opportunities for deaf young people to share their experiences and opinions, which was published in September.

Our People

At the beginning of the academic year we were delighted to welcome two new principals to our Trust: **Philip Masterson** and **Stuart Mallott**. This issue we're taking the opportunity to get to know them both and discover how they're finding their new roles.



Philip Masterson



My aim is that QKA becomes the Academy of choice for children, and also teachers and support staff.

Principal of Queen Katharine Academy

Can you tell us about your career history?

I have had a long and successful career serving communities in West London including a wonderful experience being Headteacher in two successful secondary schools. I am also the proud co-author of the book, *'ASK: How to Teach Learning to Learn in the Secondary School'*.

What are you enjoying about your new role?

I am really enjoying getting to know the Academy and local area, in particular the wonderfully diverse cohort of children who attend the school and their families. All staff are working collaboratively on making sure every lesson is an excellent opportunity for pupils to learn and make progress.

What made you want to work with TDET?

The Trust is at an exciting point where it is looking to collaborate across all its academies so that we can provide the very best education for the 5,000+ children in those schools. It is an honour and a pleasure to be here as the Principal of one of the two secondary schools in the Trust.

Where do you hope to see QKA in the future?

I hope that QKA will become the Academy where pupils make the most progress in Peterborough. My aim is that QKA becomes the Academy of choice for children, and also teachers and support staff. I hope to achieve this by making sure that we fulfil our vision to be an inclusive centre of educational excellence where everyone develops the skills to be a lifelong learner.

What has been your favourite aspect so far of being Principal of QKA?

Getting to know staff and children, and the families of the children.

What do you enjoy doing outside work?

I enjoy writing, poetry, stories, and ideas about education. I love reading and have promised myself that I will join a gym!



Stuart Mallott



I am fortunate to work with a team that is enthusiastic about implementing positive changes for the best interests of the children.

Principal of Warboys Primary Academy

Can you tell us about your career history?

My early career started in the civil engineering industry. Whilst studying day release at college, leading onto university, a college lecture sparked my interest in teaching. Although I was unsure which age group I wanted to teach, I took the opportunity to teach in KS2 and mathematics at KS3 whilst completing my PGCE.

As I progressed in my career, I found my passion in teaching primary school pupils. For the last 12 years I have been a senior leader in three primary schools in Cambridgeshire, with seven of those years as Headteacher of a rural one form entry school in Peterborough.

What are you enjoying about your new role?

As Principal of WPA I feel fortunate to be part of such a welcoming community. The parents, staff, and pupils have been supportive since I started in September. I am grateful for the strong, forward-thinking, and supportive SLT, who are committed to ensuring that all children at WPA receive the best education in a safe and inclusive environment.

What made you want to work with TDET?

TDET provides an excellent support network, extending valuable services to WPA and facilitating collaboration between academies. This has enabled me to be strategic in the direction of the school, focusing on teaching, learning, and investing in the continuous development of all at Warboys Primary Academy.

Where do you hope to see WPA in the future?

In the future, WPA will be a place where children's learning journey from EYFS to Year 6 shows consistently good progress. We will ensure that children transitioning to secondary school are well-prepared and ready for the next phase of their education. WPA will radiate a nurturing environment where all pupils are happy and safe, with all needs fully supported. The values of warmth, pride, and aspiration will be like a gold thread running through our school community, fostering a sense of unity and excellence.

What has been your favourite aspect so far of being Principal of WPA?

It's the opportunity to make a significant difference in the learning journey of the pupils and further develop a supportive and committed staff. The school exudes warmth, with a community of pupils, staff, and parents who genuinely care. I am fortunate to work with a team that is enthusiastic about implementing positive changes for the best interests of the children.

What do you enjoy doing outside work?

I enjoy playing golf, running, and spending quality time with my family, including being the father and taxi service for two teenage children!

Academy updates

Gladstone Primary Academy



Gladstone was delighted to be awarded 'Good' in all areas following an Ofsted inspection this term. Inspectors praised the ambitious curriculum, behaviour expectations and children's positive relationships both with classmates and adults.

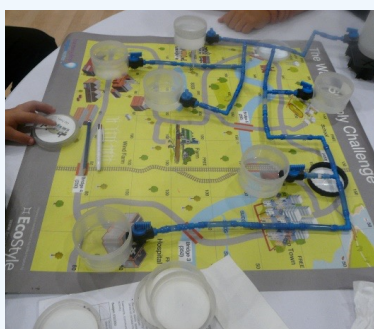


The preschool was visited by Zoolab which helps educate about animals and the natural world by providing hands-on animal encounters. The children enjoyed holding different exotic animals and learning about the animals' habitat and diet!



Gladstone held its first Family Café in December for parents of Year 5 children, focusing on Maths. The Café's aim is to engage parents in their children's education, and different Cafés will run termly in future.

Queen Katharine Academy



Anglian Water visited Year 9 to introduce students to careers opportunities when choosing their options. Students enjoyed planning, creating, pricing and then testing out their own waterpipe network!



Over 50 QKA KS3 students who entered this year's Young Writers' national poetry competition, were delighted to have their work published in the 'Power of Poetry' book!



This term, QKA's weekly Community Café has held various themed celebrations of other countries' national holidays including Korean Harvest Festival and Angola, Brazil and Guinea Bissau's Independence Days.

Richard Barnes Academy



Pupils in our Endurance Class visited Sunset Lake for fishing lessons with Hampton Angling Association. The coaches showed students how to set up their rods and how to practise fishing safely. Pupils caught over 50 fish in total!



Our Sharman class have been completing 100 Lego block challenges. There have been some amazing creations including a creature (imaginary or real), vehicles and tall towers!



Pupils at Trinity Campus took part in a MasterChef challenge. They were given a selection of ingredients and 40 minutes to create a meal. They did a fantastic job cooking some delicious dishes without using a recipe!

Thomas Deacon Academy



Year 9 Tall Ships students were awarded their Royal Yachting Association Level 1 yachting qualification after a residential at Portsmouth which included sailing the ships to the Isle of Wight in very choppy seas!



Year 11 Media Studies students enjoyed a visit to UCP's Media and Television Centre to plan out and record a TV programme. They had the opportunity for hands-on activities with industry-standard equipment, including camerawork and sound mixing.



TDAJ pupils participated in the East of England Sumdog Maths Contest during which pupils correctly answered an incredible 451,903 maths questions! The competition involved 225 classes from 34 schools, so Newton class were proud to come 14th.

Academy updates

Upwood Primary Academy



Year 5 children had a behind the scenes tour of Thalia Waste Management in Waterbeach where they learned all about the recycling process, thanks to an Upwood pupil's winning design for a competition organised by Thalia.



Our Foundation class enjoyed investigating pumpkins. They used some fantastic vocabulary to describe what they saw inside them, created some wonderful pictures, researched the largest pumpkin in the world, and made some amazing pumpkin soup!



Year 3 had an incredible day – 'Extreme Earth' – where they explored natural disasters and designed and erupted volcanoes. The day concluded with creative structure-building and an exciting test with a jelly earthquake!

Warboys Primary Academy



Children enjoyed an evacuee day as part of their Enrichment Week. They wrote postcards home, made carrot buns and spam sandwiches, and held a 1940s tea party in the afternoon!



Year 5 and 6 children enjoyed visits to both the Imperial War Museum Duxford and Ramsey Rural Museum this term which really supported their learning about World Wars 1 and 2.

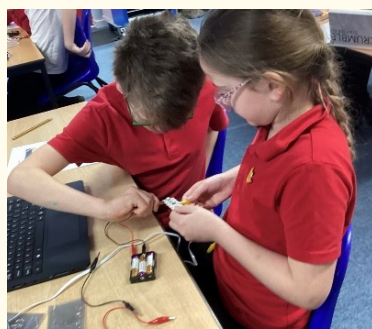


Our football teams have had great successes this term – the boys are through to the next round of the Walter Cup after a 4-0 win. Our girls team won their match in the Henson Cup 8-1!

Welbourne Primary Academy



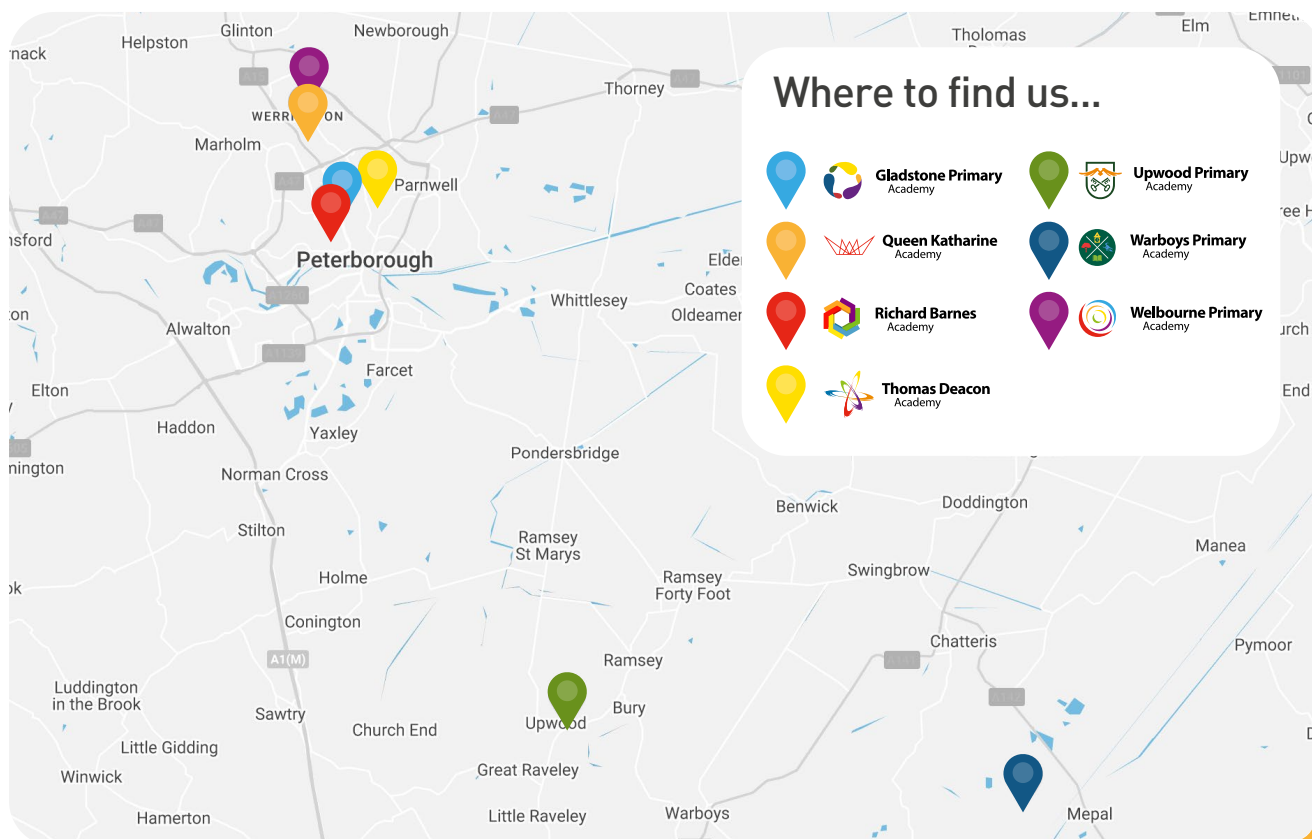
The children enjoyed wearing their jeans to school for Jeans for Genes Day in September. Pupils raised awareness and funds for children with genetic conditions.



Year 5 learned how to use 'Crumble' controllers in their computer science lesson. They worked in groups to program the devices so that they turned on a set of lights!



Welbourne Primary Academy Nursery enjoyed a visit to Werrington Green Post Office to learn all about sending letters and parcels. This also gave staff an opportunity to discuss and practise road safety with the children.





Gladstone Primary
Academy



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Welbourne Primary
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