



Pages 8-10

Meet our team

Page 12

Celebrating
improvements
at GPA

Page 13

Visit from the
National Schools
Commissioner



Unity of Purpose: Diversity of Practice

Summer Edition

Welcome from Julie Taylor and Dr Richard Barnes

We warmly welcome you to the summer edition of the Thomas Deacon Education Trust (TDET) newsletter, where information about the Trust and those within it are showcased and celebrated. It is also a great place to learn more about our vision and values, the people and support networks we can provide, and the benefits we can offer you as members of staff in our schools.

It was fantastic to see the staff from each of our schools come together at the first ever TDET staff conference in January. The conference was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the values we share and the work that we do to change lives in our local communities. We particularly enjoyed the insightful presentation from Dr Aneta D. Tunariu on positive education, successful leadership and developing ourselves to enable those that we impact upon to fully meet their potential.

Dr Barnes particularly enjoyed visiting Gladstone Primary Academy and Queen Katharine Academy earlier in the year to witness the improvements that have been made at these schools since joining the Trust last year. We were incredibly impressed with the hard work and commitment both schools demonstrated that they provide to their young people. The schools were a hive of activity and were filled with enthusiastic, engaged and attentive pupils where meaningful learning was taking place.

We were incredibly excited and honoured to host Sir David Carter at Queen Katharine Academy in April and enjoyed showing him around the academy. His advice at both the headteachers' meeting and during his walk around the academy was invaluable. You can read more about his visit on page 11.

We are delighted to be expanding with Upwood Primary School in Huntingdon joining the Trust in August. It will be fantastic to get to know them better over the next few months and to begin sharing best practice with them going forward. You can read more about them on page 3.

All that is left to say is we wish you a restful and happy summer break and look forward to another year of excellence in the new academic year.

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.

By focusing on the city of Peterborough and its immediate surroundings, the Trust's schools are in close proximity to one another. This close working partnership and understanding of the local context enables real and meaningful

collaboration between our schools, teachers, students and with local business leaders.

We want to actively encourage our schools and staff to share best practice to benefit all children within the local area.

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



Trust – we are honest and supportive



Diversity – we celebrate individual differences and needs



Excellence – we want the very best and never give up



Transformation – we embrace innovation and collaboration

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 – united by values and purpose, but free to innovate and adapt to the needs of its students and 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:



Stories from across the Trust

Welcoming Upwood Primary School

Upwood Primary School in Upwood, Huntingdon is set to join the Trust in August. Upwood Primary School caters for over 180 students aged 4-11 and has been rated 'Good' with 'Outstanding' behaviour and safety of pupils by Ofsted since 2012. We are looking forward to welcoming the school into our Trust and sharing best practice with them.



Lieutenant Colonel Chris Thompson gets the royal treatment

Lieutenant Colonel Chris Thompson, Contingent Commander for TDET, attended the Royal Garden Party in May accompanied by his wife. On their arrival to the palace Chris said he was faced with one of the largest queues he had ever seen. Luckily, as Chris was dressed in full service military uniform, they were moved to the front of the queue.



After proceeding through security, Chris and his wife were allowed into the hallowed grounds of Buckingham Palace and looked around while they waited, with 7,000 other guests, for the national anthem to play to signify her Majesty's arrival.

When her Majesty arrived, Chris watched as she walked through the crowds, stopping to speak to select members of the public who had done outstanding work for her charities. When her Majesty retreated into the royal tent for tea, Chris and his wife had their own refreshments and were pleasantly surprised with how quickly they were served.

Chris commented "It was a fantastic occasion because I represented the Combined Cadet Associate, of which I am a Trustee, and most importantly Thomas Deacon Education Trust."

Well done and thank you Lieutenant Colonel Chris for representing the Trust and the outstanding work you do to support the Combined Cadet Force.





Queen Katharine Academy student appointed as Peterborough Youth MP

Amy-Leigh from Queen Katharine Academy has been appointed as the Peterborough Youth MP. Amy-Leigh took part in a challenging selection process which included producing a video that highlighted the areas

that she would focus on over her term. Her video was broadcast, along with other candidates', across all schools in the city for students to cast their vote.

Amy-Leigh won by a landslide and has now been appointed as the Peterborough Youth MP. She will represent the local area at the Youth Parliament alongside other Members of Parliament.

The win also marks an achievement for Queen Katharine Academy as a student at the academy has held the Youth MP or Deputy Youth MP position for 7 years in a row. This is a marvellous achievement and one we are very proud of.



Queen Katharine Academy teacher wins national teaching award

Queen Katharine Academy Languages Teacher, Virginia Alfaro, has been recognised for her outstanding teaching by The Association for Language Learning.

Nominated by her Head of Department, Virginia won the national award for 'Promising Newcomer: Secondary Language Teaching'. Virginia was nominated for the award due to her extensive work at the school, motivating and encouraging students to get involved with learning languages.

Virginia has also organised many events including the school's Spelling Bee, Translation Bee and student exchange programmes to Spain and Germany, despite only being in her second year of teaching.

The Trust would like to congratulate Virginia on this wonderful accolade. She is a great example of the high level of commitment and passion of our teachers across the Trust.

Oscar winning former student visits Thomas Deacon Academy

Former Deacon's School student, David Malinowski, visited Thomas Deacon Academy this term. Since leaving school, David has had a very successful career as a make-up and special effects artist and has recently won several awards, including a BAFTA and Oscar for his outstanding work in The Darkest Hour.

On his visit to Thomas Deacon Academy, David talked to drama, media, photography and art students about his time working at Madame Tussaud's and how he broke into the TV and film industry. David also delivered a question and answer session for staff and students across the whole school and showed them his awards.

It was a motivating and exciting visit and encouraged the students to work hard for the career they want.



Introducing TDET'S Business Services Team

All business aspects of TDET's schools are led by our specialised team of experts, who work tirelessly to ensure the safety of the schools, pupils and staff in the Trust. From the safety of the school buildings to the food delivered during lunchtimes, the team provide a safe pair of hands in a variety of areas and are a resource that all schools in the Trust can draw from.

The team will soon be moving to their own offices and will be based in the former TDA Sixth Form building. Talking about the move, Director of Resources, Simon Smith said: "We are excited to have our own hub for the Trust and the Business Services team. This will allow us to collaborate and share best practice in a more efficient way and we are looking forward to having a clearer identity and being more accessible to all schools in the Trust."

Simon continued: "Beyond our own individual roles, the team are united in our passion for providing the best support and guidance to all the schools within the Trust. As the Trust continues to grow, we endeavour to ensure all schools maintain their unique identity and we tailor our support and advice according to each school's individual needs. We also want to facilitate our schools and staff in collaborating and sharing best practice where we can."

Let's meet the team...



Simon Smith, Director of Resources

"I lead Business Services and am also a Trustee and the Company Secretary. I report on Financial and Property related matters to the Finance Committee (the Trustee body specific for Business Services). I am responsible for all legal matters for the Trust, including ensuring that the transition for new schools is seamless."

Fun fact: Simon is a concert enthusiast and attended 37 gigs in 15 months in 7 countries.



Penny Head, Personal Assistant to Simon Smith

"I support Simon and all members of the Business Services team and help to keep them organised."

Fun fact: Despite a fear of heights, Penny did Go Ape for her 40th! She came down the zip wire backwards and couldn't raise her arms above her shoulders for a week.



Mick Crossley, Facilities & Estates Manager

"I look after the buildings and grounds on all of our campuses and make sure they comply with statutory legislation. I also work on future-proofing our buildings and checking they are all fit for purpose."

Fun fact: Mick recently wore odd shoes to work and didn't realise until the TDA receptionists pointed it out to him!



Stuart Overson, Senior Finance Manager

"I look after the financial performance of the three schools, the Trust and a lettings entity. I help plan the budgets and make sure they are compliant with The Academies Financial Handbook and ESFA funding rules."

Fun fact: When first meeting his wife's Spanish family many years ago, Stuart learned the hard way what 'Caracoles' means in Spanish!



Michael Dove, Catering Operations Manager

"I manage the catering facilities across the Trust. I work with all the schools' catering staff to ensure healthy food is provided for our students and staff and I help develop new and exciting menus."

Fun fact: Michael once dressed up as Pudsey bear and ran around Cambridge airport selling cookies for Children in Need.



Harvinder Rajput, Health and Safety Manager

"My role is to insure and safeguard everyone in the Trust. I work on policies and procedures to protect and inform our people. I also check that these documents are compliant with current legislation."

Fun fact: Harvinder once rowed his pregnant wife out to sea in an inflatable rubber dinghy. After losing an oar, Harvinder had to swim back to the shore with the boat in tow.



Jodie McDonald, HR and Organisational Development Manager

"My main role is to support staff. I produce policies, help staff with their development goals and support their wellbeing. In addition to this, I play a key part in the recruitment of new staff."

Fun fact: When Jodie was at university, her car rolled down a hill and hit a wall - to this day she is adamant she left the handbrake on!



Martin Byford-Rew, IT Services Manager

"I deliver IT related projects within the Trust. This includes keeping the school's IT equipment running, handling new data, and the implementation of Office 365. I also monitor and manage the depreciation of our IT systems and consult with our schools to understand their IT challenges."

Fun fact: When Martin was younger, he cycled from John O'Groats to Lands' End in seven days!

Meet our team

In each edition of the newsletter we will catch up with different members of the Trust to find out more about them, their roles and their experiences. In this edition we have interviewed and spoken to a Principal's Personal Assistant, the Trust's Catering Operations Manager and a Governor.



Jackie Dowds

Personal Assistant to the Principal of Queen Katharine Academy

What is your career history?

"After various administrative roles,

in 2006 I started work in the education sector. Initially I worked at Bretton Woods Community School to support the senior leadership team as the school merged with Walton Community School to become the Voyager Academy. I also supported the Post-16 bursary offer and worked as a PA for the Deputy Headteacher.

I continued to work at the Voyager Academy and became PA to Principal Scott Hudson when he was appointed in 2015. Then in 2017, we joined the Thomas Deacon Education Trust and rebranded as Queen Katharine Academy."

What does your role include day-to-day?

"My role varies enormously. I work to support Scott and all staff at the academy with issues from HR to administration. I upkeep staff files, social media and our email system as well as writing letters, taking minutes and acting as a meet and greet for interviewees and other guests.

I am also a Clerk to the school's Governors, booking hearings for them and liaising with the relevant people. As well as this, I act as a link between the school and the wider Trust and am the main point of contact between our school and the Trust's Business Services team, particularly for human resources and health and safety issues."

How would you summarise the main benefits of TDET for individual staff?

"I particularly like our close proximity to other schools.

It means I can easily share best practice and work closer with other individuals from across the Trust, who I would otherwise not have met.

The Trust also provides lots of support including training days. This has really helped me to develop my skills and keeps me up to date with Trust news. The training events also allow me to network with other members of the Trust which is not only great for my profession, but has allowed me to develop friendship too, especially with other PAs!"

Tell us something different or surprising about yourself?

"I don't know how many people know this, but I love running and have recently completed my first marathon in Milton Keynes. I had an injury and hadn't been able to fully complete my training but somehow managed to complete the run. It was a marvellous 'out of body' experience and I still have to pinch myself that I finished! I started running about five years ago with my colleague, Carol Hobbs and built up my stamina with her over each of the summer holidays. I also have a new puppy, Ozzie, who I adore, and I love taking him for walks in the countryside to tire him out!"

I can easily share best practice and work closer with other individuals from across the Trust, who I would otherwise not have met





Michael Dove

Catering Operations
Manager at Thomas
Deacon Education Trust

What is your career history?

“After finishing school, I
trained to become a chef

through a four-year apprenticeship at the Great Northern Hotel in Peterborough. This was the start of my career in hospitality and I eventually progressed to become Head Chef.

I thoroughly enjoyed my experience of working in hotels but after eight years I moved into the contract catering sector, covering various locations as a Chef Manager.

During my time in the contract sector, I have had the privilege of catering for members of the Royal Family, including Princess Alice, the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Andrew and the late father of Princess Diana. I have also managed large Ministry of Defence contracts and contracts within the education sector.”



What is involved in your role as Catering Operations Manager at TDET?

“I manage the day-to-day catering services for TDET with the support of a dedicated team of staff. We provide a high quality, varied daily food menu to the schools within the Trust.

We are currently supporting both sites for Gladstone Primary Academy and have just taken on board the nursery provision for Queen Katharine Academy. I also try to go along to parent evenings showcasing our food offer and talking to the parents. This is really important as it is a vital way for us to get feedback to learn where we can improve and find out what we’re doing well!

I am also part of the Peterborough Catering Association in conjunction with Peterborough

Regional College. I love being part of this team as it allows me to support other trainees who are looking to come into the hospitality sector, whether that be through apprenticeships or work experience placements.”

Can you tell us more about TDET’s catering?

“All the food is freshly prepared on our sites by our trained staff. We strive to provide well-balanced, healthy and nutritious meals in line with the Schools Food Standard. Our menus are seasonal which allows us to maximise the seasonal fresh products that are available from our suppliers – reducing our carbon footprint and making sure we are using the freshest, most cost-effective ingredients.”

What is your vision going forward?

“My vision is to continue to improve the food and service we provide to our students and to ensure that we continue promoting a healthy eating lifestyle to our staff, students and visitors to TDET.

I am also mindful of our impact on the environment and I am currently working with the schools to reduce the amount of plastic used within the catering department. We have recently introduced a complete new disposable range which is all biodegradable.”

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

“I am a keen sports fan and take part in a couple of sports outside of work, including golf and badminton. I enjoy my holidays to different countries as well as going out for meals, but I am very critical about the food - I guess that’s due to my background!”



**We have recently introduced a complete
new disposable range which is
all biodegradable**





John Turner

Governor at Gladstone Primary Academy and Thomas Deacon Academy

What is your career history?

"I work in the charity sector and my first job was at

Railworld in Peterborough. I worked there for nine years, initially as a volunteer and then a member of staff. It was a great experience and I really enjoyed it. Now I work for the Carers Trust Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Norfolk as an Impact and Improvements Officer which is very rewarding and allows me to support young carers from across the city."

How long have you been a governor at Gladstone Primary Academy?

"I became a governor at Gladstone Primary Academy in February last year when the school became an academy and joined TDET. I also became a governor at Thomas Deacon Academy in July last year. This was partly due to my role as a Trustee and Vice Chair of the The Foundation. The Foundation awards and manages scholarships to students at Thomas Deacon Academy and are the custodians of Thomas Deacon's legacy. As part of our duty we provide two governors to Thomas Deacon Academy."

Why did you want to become a governor at Gladstone Primary Academy?

"I am a former student of Gladstone Primary School and so I have a nostalgic link to the school. At the time, the school had a great reputation and I really enjoyed my time there. Following the Ofsted inspection in 2016, I wanted to be involved in helping the school to get back on its feet. It has been so rewarding to be a part of Gladstone's journey!"

What has been your favourite part of being a governor so far?

"I have loved being a part of Gladstone Primary Academy's progress. Every time I visit I see a new development! The academy is unrecognisable from its 2016 Ofsted report and there have been improvements across the board, from teaching

standards to pupil engagement.

Also, as a governor of Thomas Deacon Academy, I am able to watch some of our Gladstone pupils advance to secondary education and it is nice to witness their journey as they grow and develop."

“

It has been so rewarding to be a part of the school's journey!

”

What makes TDET special?

"The diversity of the Trust makes it very special, as well as the commitment of all members of staff to improving young people's lives. Their passion is commendable. The Trust's schools work well together and all schools are keen to share best practice and learn from each other as much as possible. Sharing best practice is a great time-saver and means no one is trying to reinvent the wheel! As the Trust's schools are all currently based in Peterborough and serving the same area and demographic, brilliant advice can be shared about the challenges that face our community."

What are your thoughts about the future of the Trust?

"I think the future looks really exciting! No doubt with the ever-increasing pressure on school places, the schools and the Trust will continue to expand and face new challenges, however I am excited to see how we work around this issue. I am also interested to see how technology advances as I think it will begin to play a bigger role within education and it will be exciting to see how this develops."

Tell us something unique about you

"I am the Chair of Fairtrade Peterborough and recently won the Peterborough City Council Civic Award for my work there. I also enjoy getting out and about with my camera, spending time with friends and family and travelling when I find the time!"

A new era for TDA Sixth Form

Over the last year, Thomas Deacon Academy has undergone a £2 million expansion. Part of this expansion will become a dedicated Sixth Form Study Centre and permanent new base for our sixth form students from September.

This new space will provide our students with an ideal study environment within easy reach of their sixth form advisers and course tutors, so the students can access the support and guidance needed to achieve their highest possible grades. It is also a place that will be an excellent stepping stone on their journey towards acquiring the independent study skills necessary to gain a place at university.

There will also be a number of new developments to the sixth form from September. To mark this, the sixth form will change its name from TDA6 to TDA Sixth Form and we will be introducing a brand-new uniform. We will also be strengthening our partnership with Cambridge University's outreach team, Insight+. Insight+'s offer includes workshops and lectures from Cambridge University staff and students, in addition to bespoke and intensive visits and support for potential Oxbridge applicants.

We will be introducing a tailored Learning Skills Programme run by Challenge 6 staff in conjunction

with the sixth form team. The Learning Skills Programme is designed to assist our learners in their preparations for Higher Education and work by ensuring core academic, soft and work-related skills are developed over the two years students spend with us.

In addition to this, we will be offering increased academic coaching and exciting Personal Development sessions which will now become high-impact conferences and events. We will also be introducing our Ownership of Learning (OWL) scores, tracking and interventions to better support our students to become independent learners and prepare them for university study or the world of work. Finally, we will be launching a Norwich City Football Academy here at TDA Sixth Form.

These exciting developments will help to build on the successes we have already enjoyed in the sixth form. Last year, our Post 16 results showed further significant improvement, with 42% of students achieving grades A* to B and the overall pass rate rising to 98.7%.



This new space will provide our students with an ideal study environment but within easy reach of their sixth form advisers and course tutors



Successful first year for Gladstone Primary Academy

Last term, Gladstone Primary Academy were inspected by two independent school inspectors, Tania Nightingale (Luscina Education Limited) and Louise Soden (Soden Education Ltd). Using their many years of experience, Tania and Louise validated and investigated the quality of learning and teaching and the impact of the new leadership structure we provide. During their visit, Tania and Louise conducted learning walks to observe all classes and held meetings with senior and middle leaders as well as pupils. From this, they identified the strengths of our school and agreed areas for development.

The inspectors said they felt that the Academy had invested heavily in developing leaders at all levels and that this was a long term, sustainable strategy for school improvement. The inspectors also praised the progress that has already been made in the quality of teaching in phonics and reading. They felt senior leaders have provided support to staff to improve the quality of their teaching.

The inspectors applauded the creation of a central art gallery in the academy and the library spaces in year-group shared areas. They felt these enabled pupils to celebrate their artwork and remind them of the fun of reading as they move around the school. The inspectors felt that the displays in classes really encourage reading for pleasure and that the simultaneous use of visual and oral



clues mean that classes are really unpacking the meaning of words in specific contexts and widening their vocabulary. They said:



The structure and consistency that has been developed for the teaching of English is working well and improving rates of progress.



The inspectors also praised our newly created SEND team, who they said were “extremely proactive in assessing learners’ needs and helping teachers to overcome identified barriers to learning for the children in their class.” They felt the SEND team’s work is already having an impact on the overall provision for pupils.

In order to continue to improve, the inspectors suggested we could work on producing data to prove progress is accelerating, work on balancing our dedication to English with mathematics and provide targeted support to ensure consistency with marking and feedback for pupils.



National Schools Commissioner visits Queen Katharine Academy

The National Schools Commissioner, Sir David Carter, visited Queen Katharine Academy in April. Sir David Carter's role is to work closely with the eight regional schools commissioners to support school leaders, teachers and governors. He is also responsible for ensuring consistency in the decisions made across the eight regions, developing and sharing the best school improvement strategies and promoting the benefits of being a member of multi-academy trusts and free schools.

Sir David Carter visited our academy to witness first-hand the significant improvements in the school's academic results and increase in first choice places that have taken place since we joined Thomas Deacon Education Trust in January 2017.

During his visit, Sir David Carter toured the Academy and met with staff and students, before attending a meeting of headteachers from across the city at Thomas Deacon Academy to discuss best practice and local issues.



**Queen Katharine
Academy**

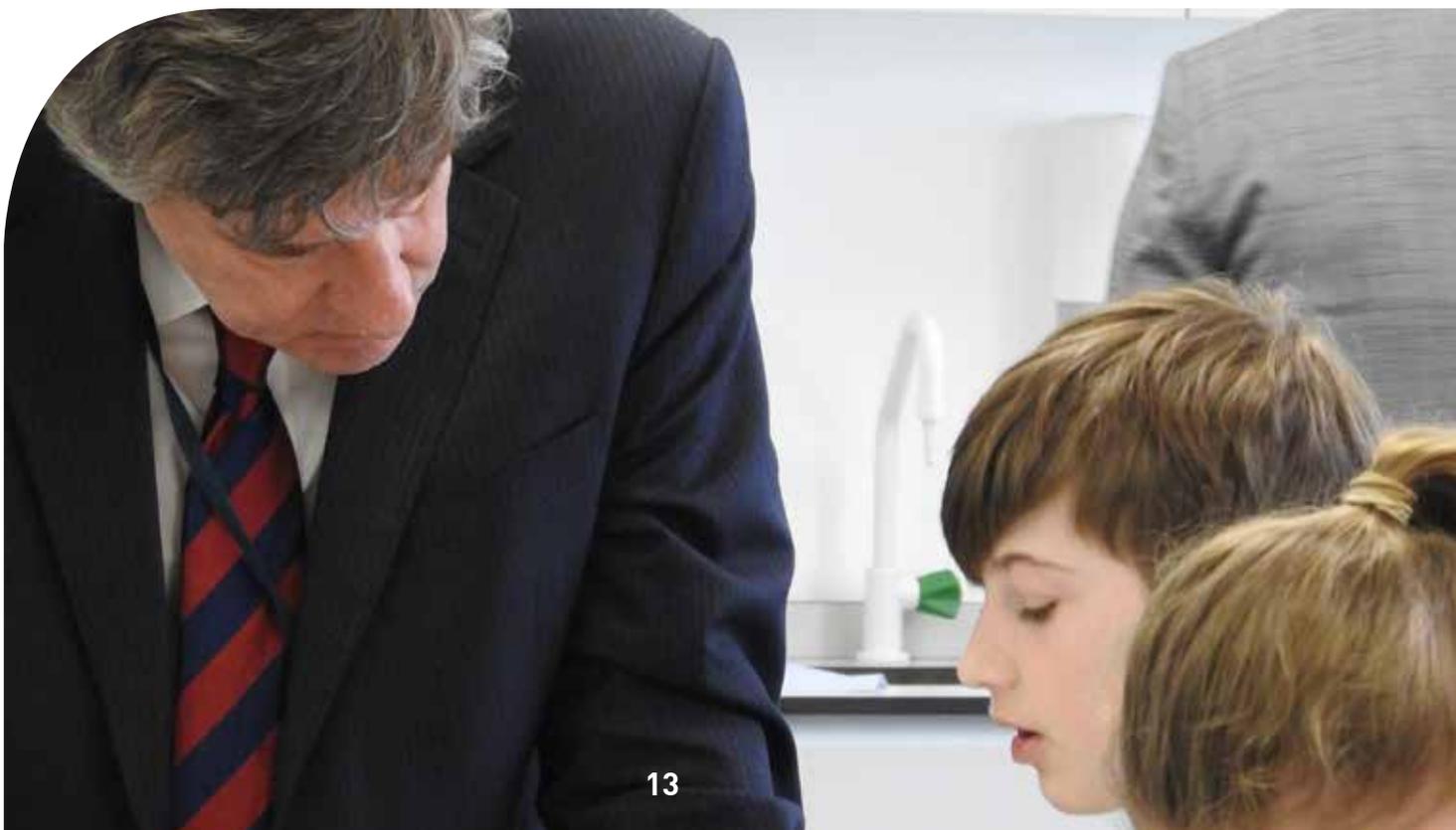
We were incredibly excited and honoured to host Sir David Carter at Queen Katharine Academy and enjoyed showing him around the academy. His advice at both the headteachers' meeting and during his walk around the academy was invaluable.

Sir David Carter even took to Twitter following his visit to praise the school. In his tweet, he said:



Inspiring visit today to Queen Katherine Academy and @TDAeducation in Peterborough. Impressed by behaviour and quality of support and challenge for most able.

@Carter6D



Iqra Academy wins two major National Interfaith Education Awards

We are proud to announce that Iqra Academy's headteacher, Michael Wright, and teacher, Tom Wright, were awarded two national awards at the Association of Muslim Schools (AMS) Annual Interfaith Education ceremony in March. Michael was recognised with the Headteacher Award and Tom won the Health and Wellbeing Award.

The AMS' vision is to provide high quality services and support for the development of excellence in Muslim schools; nurturing the love of knowledge, continuous pursuit of taqwa (God consciousness) and Ihsan (excellence) in all spheres of life for learners and educators.

The award ceremony, which was held in Birmingham, is an annual celebration to acknowledge and reward outstanding contributions in the field of education from all faiths, beliefs and cultures, with the aim of celebrating similarities between cultures but also respecting their differences.

Julie Taylor nominated Michael for "the way in which he has tackled the range of challenges at Iqra Academy and how he has announced himself on the Peterborough educational scene as a man of commitment and professionalism. Having previously worked as an education advisor in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Michael has used his extensive knowledge to develop Iqra Academy, resulting in pupil numbers almost tripling since his arrival and fantastic praise from Ofsted."

Tom was nominated for setting up a variety of school clubs and teams to promote physical activity and a healthy lifestyle for the students at Iqra Academy. It is through these clubs that Tom has helped support and integrate four Syrian refugee students into the school.



It is wonderful to see the school is improving its health and fitness credentials. This would not have been possible without the work of Tom who has gone above and beyond to create fun and interactive ways for the students to engage with their health and wellbeing. He is a true credit to himself and the school.

It is fantastic to see the academy grow and expand providing education and important life skills for our pupils. We hope that this national award recognition is another stepping stone in supporting community integration in Peterborough.