



TEAM
MULTI-ACADEMY
TRUST

SPRING 2024

NEWSLETTER

A letter from TEAM Multi-Academy Trust's CEO Ian Thomas



Dear Parents and Carers,

As the vibrant season of Easter unfolds, I find myself reflecting on the collective journey our trust has undertaken. This season, we extend our warmest wishes to every family within our community, celebrating the spirit of togetherness and the shared achievements that have illuminated our path.

This term has showcased the tremendous growth of our students, not only in academic areas but also through life-enriching experiences that serve to build character and enhance unity. At the forefront of these experiences was the ambitious undertaking of not one, but two week-long residential trips to London. The meticulous planning for these excursions began as early as September, a testament to the dedication and forward-thinking of our staff. During the term, over 100 Year 5 students from across the trust embarked on this adventure, immersing themselves in a planned itinerary that brought our ethos of Life, Love, and Learning to the Full to life in the historic and vibrant city of London.

These trips were a rich tapestry of cultural, historical, and scientific exploration, designed to not only educate but inspire our young learners. The experiences ranged from the magical corridors of Harry Potter Studios to the hallowed halls of the Houses of Parliament, each stop carefully chosen to align with our four key drivers. This London residential was a remarkable endeavour that showcased the trust's commitment to providing our students with opportunities that go beyond the traditional classroom setting, embodying the essence of our educational philosophy.

A special highlight was the magnificent Proms event, which saw over 300 talented young performers from Pilton Bluecoat Academy and Swimbridge Primary School grace the historic stage of the Queen's Theatre. The flawless organisation of this event allowed our students to showcase their incredible talents in singing, dancing, gymnastics, and more, reflecting the exceptional quality of our music curriculum. The dedication and skill of our music teachers shone brightly through each performance, leaving no doubt about the enriching musical journey our students are privileged to experience. In anticipation of the continued success and the wonderful opportunity it presents to our students, we have already secured the theatre for next year, eagerly awaiting the participation of other TEAM schools.

The challenge of the Maths competition, the creativity sparked in the KS1 Art Workshop, and the empowerment through sports during International Women's Day, each event stands as a tribute to our shared commitment to nurturing hope, aspiration, and a profound sense of community.

This Easter, let us recommit to supporting our young learners in a journey filled with hope, curiosity and a deep appreciation for the bonds that unite us. May this season bring joy, peace and countless blessings to all our families.

Our journey this term has been made possible by the dedication and hard work of our staff, whose commitment is the cornerstone of our achievements. Without their tireless efforts, the enriching experiences that our students enjoy would remain but dreams.

Thank you for your continuous support and belief in our vision. Wishing everyone a joyful Easter and a future brimming with promise.

Best wishes,

Ian Thomas



TEAM WIDE EVENTS AND TRIPS

TEAM MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST LONDON RESIDENTIAL

More than 110 Children from Beaford Community Primary School, Brayford Academy, High Bickington Academy, Horwood and Newton Tracey Primary School, Pilton Bluecoat Academy, Umberleigh Academy and Witheridge Academy went on a 4-day residential trip to London this term.

The adventure was created to enrich students' understanding of history, culture, and science while fostering collaboration and creating lifelong memories. The itinerary was packed with immersive experiences, transforming the young explorers into wizards at Harry Potter Studios, aspiring leaders at the Houses of Parliament and curious adventurers at iconic landmarks across London.

The children also had the opportunity to engage with Selaine Saxby, North Devon's MP, and Matt Hancock, a former Health Minister, during Q&A sessions. The trip continued with the children enjoying views from the London Eye, an underwater adventure at the Aquarium and exploration of the Natural History and Science Museums. The historic Tower of London gave the opportunity for the children to learn about the secrets and legends of the past too.

The highlight of the trip was a night out at the theatre, where students were transported into diverse narratives, sparking discussions about standing up for what's right, celebrating individuality and the importance of leadership and community.



FOREST SCHOOL MORNING AT UMBERLEIGH

Building community is an important part of our trust vision. Children from various TEAM trust schools took part on a Forest School morning at Umberleigh Academy this term. They worked together to complete team building activities, teamwork, cooperation and problem solving. Those that took part grew in confidence and met some new friends.

FOOTBALL

Girls from across the Trust attended a football event at Tarka Leisure in Barnstaple. This coincided with International Women's Day and over 465,000 girls across the country were also playing football that day to celebrate. The children have had a wealth of sporting opportunities this year and we will continue to work with the schools across TEAM Multi -Academy Trust to keep providing these going forward.

EXETER CHIEFS MATCH DAY EXPERIENCE

Brayford and Umberleigh children enjoyed a tour of the stadium, trained with the professionals, were guards of honour and even met some of the players.



YEAR 3 AND 4 MATHS CHALLENGE

Year 3 and 4 children from around the trust went to Pilton Bluecoat for a maths challenge where they worked in mixed teams with other children from across the Trust to solve some very tricky maths puzzles. Their enthusiasm to problem solve and work as a team was excellent. This occasion developed their confidence and gave them a chance to work with other like-minded mathematicians.



EXMOOR CHALLENGE PRACTISE WALK

On Tuesday 5th March, Mr Manning and our aspiring Exmoor Challenge participants from Witheridge and Pilton Bluecoat combined with Petroc College's Outdoor Adventure students for a day of navigation skills. An enthusiastic group of second year students tested their teaching skills on our eagerly anticipating children which was mutually beneficial for everyone involved. The children learned about grid references, mountain safety, compass bearings and pacing whilst working in small groups to replicate how the Exmoor Challenge is set up. A huge thank you to Mike Bazley, Jo Bazley and the students from Petroc Barnstaple for helping us out and we are looking forward to developing this working relationship in the future. The children were FANTASTIC and Mr Manning, Mrs North were so impressed with their perseverance, politeness and cheerfulness on the walk. Well done to all the children - we are so proud of you.



PROMS

Over 300 children from Pilton Bluecoat Academy & Swimbridge Primary school joined together to perform at the Queen's Theatre.

We had singing and dancing, group performances and solos, gymnastics and majorettes and many other talents on display. All our children have worked extremely hard under the direction of Mrs Brayley our Music Co-Ordinator to produce a fantastic show that wowed the sold-out theatre.

We had children in the hosting roles as well as helping out backstage and amidst great excitement and nerves they all managed to get up on stage and under the glare of the hot lights they put on an emotional show!

Well done to all, you have made us so proud and a big thank you to Mrs Brayley for all her hard work and attention to detail.





My name is Adam Northmore and I began my journey through TEAM back in 2015 in my second year of university. I was given the role as a 1-1 with a child in year 6, however as they needed more than I could support, I decided to volunteer. I then became a teaching assistant in a year 3 class at Pilton Bluecoat Academy, leading phonics at the time and building a pathway of taking small groups and classes. I was then offered the chance to complete my teacher training while at Pilton Bluecoat Academy. It has always been my dream to become a primary school teacher, so I jumped at the chance. While completing this, I got married and had my first child, no one can ever tell me I do things by half! One of my best memories of this was teaching the year 5s about carbon dioxide with vinegar and bicarb. Needless to say, those children who are in year 11 now, still remember letting the balloon go and covering themselves in vinegar!

As a fresh faced NQT, I was lucky enough to go and run the Foundation Stage Unit at High Bickington Academy with Mr Norton. The 6 months or so was lovely as Lockdown had a lot to answer for during my time there! Having then 3 incredible years at Pilton Bluecoat Academy as a teacher where I was able to take my teaching to new levels. Surrounding myself with some very clever people who use big words that I have no understanding of nor can sound out phonetically! I am now on my next adventure at Beaford Academy, helping to run the Early years provision. Here I have so far learned about the Opal project, how to create and begin embedding a curriculum, along with learning so much about tractors names, colours and what they are for.

Being able to be a small part of TEAM has been a fascinating time, learning from some of the best people in the business and making life-long friendships. I am so immensely grateful for the opportunities and belief people within TEAM have had in me and hopefully I have and am giving back as much as I can to the children and staff.

Quick Fire Questions

Q. Tea or Coffee? A. Anyone who knows me well, tea is my thing. I love the smell of coffee; however, it doesn't like me.

Q. Smarties or M&M's? A. Unpopular opinion, neither of these. However, if I have to pick, smarties.

Q. Dogs or Cats? A. Dogs all day long. Syd has been a new addition to our family and we love him dearly.

Q. Rugby or Football? A. Another unpopular opinion, Rugby use the wrong shaped ball! Football has been in my life since I can remember and having coached for 13 years, now as a UEFA B coach, easy winner here.

Q. Upper School or Lower School? A. Having done Foundation Stage Unit and Year 4, I would say I love both for different reasons. I would love the opportunity to teach in all year groups.

Q. Travel back in time or forward to the future? A. Definitely travel back in time, first being to sit with my nan and grandad again as they were a big part of my world. Second, being a child with no responsibilities, only worrying what was for tea and being home before the streetlights came on.

Q. Summer or Winter? A. Summer all day long. Longer, warm (ish) days when it's dry.

Q. Night In or Night Out? A. If you were to ask me this 10 years ago, I'd have said night out. However, definitely now, night in all the way, especially when the children are being looked after by grandparents.

Q. Sunrise or Sunset? A. To me, there's something very special about a sunset. The colours in the sky are just mesmerising.



OUR KEY DRIVERS

Building Self Esteem

At TEAM Multi-Academy Trust, we feel it is very important for all of our children to feel safe, happy and emotionally secure. Children's mental health and wellbeing is at the forefront of our thinking and we recognise that it is our responsibility to ensure we promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school. Through our broad and balanced curriculum, we promote British values and prepare our children for the future.

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued.

For more information on TEAM's Key Drivers please visit our website www.teamacademytrust.com

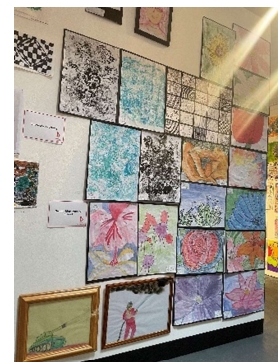


International Women's Day Y3/4 football event

As part of our enrichment provision, we organised for our Year 3 and 4 girls to attend a special girls' footballing event to celebrate International Women's Day. It was organised by the FA and Romar Sports. The girls spent the morning learning about ball skills and playing matches. We'd like to send a big thank you to Mrs Roberts and Miss Facey for transporting the girls to and from the event - we really appreciated your help- this event wouldn't have run without your support.

Easter Experience

Our Discoverers and Inventors visited St James Church this week to visit the interactive Easter Experience- 'The Stations of the Cross'. This event organised by Reverend Cathy and led by volunteers shared the Easter story with an interactive and experiential retelling of events. All of the classes at Swimbridge will get a chance to visit the church for this event.



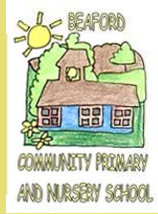
SWIMBRIDGE C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL



Hinduism Session

The KS2 team organised a visit by Ravindra Nathwani who gave the Inventors and Explorers a presentation on Hinduism religion and culture. He built a Hindu shrine for the children and led an interactive session exploring many aspects of the Hindu faith. We were so proud of the children for taking part fully in the session and asking thought provoking questions. This was a great opportunity to gain knowledge about other cultures' ways of thinking.

BEAFORD COMMUNITY PRIMARY



Tennis & Football Sessions

We have Ark Tennis and Exeter City football sessions that are running until the end of the year. The Otter's tennis was excellent, all the children got to develop their hand eye coordination and racquet skills through a number of warm up games, then they played different tennis variants using the nets. The football session was six different activities that the Owls did on a rotation.

Reading Focus

We're having a big focus on reading this term. Reading is the most important academic skill the children will learn at school. Reading to a high standard improves the children's outcomes across the curriculum, empowers the children by allowing them themselves and most to teach themselves and most importantly opens up the world of literature to them.



Animal Encounters

Mr Northmore and the team organised an animal encounters experience for the children in Ladybirds, which linked into their learning on minibeasts. The children got to hold centipedes, millipedes, stick insects and spiders and learnt about their habitats and habits. Rich, in-depth learning experiences like this are exactly what Beaford school is about and I know the children learnt a lot and had a really memorable morning.



World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day and we loved to see the children dressed up as their favourite characters and have a day devoted to the enjoyment of books.

Adventure Fridays

This term the Junior children have enjoyed their Forest School sessions at Hakeford Woods for adventure Fridays. Every Friday the children have 2 hours in the amazing woodland led by Stuart Young and supported by Mrs Ashcroft and Mrs Ward.

They walked around the site to visit the quarry, the blacksmiths and other areas of woodland. The children spotted animals tracks and a variety of flora. This term they have learnt how to use tools, took part in teamwork games, building shelters, fire lighting, cooking and lots more!



Harry Potter Book Day

The children took part in science experiments, writing activities and forest school wand making! Our new school pets also arrived and there was lots of excitement! Thank you to Miss Robinson for planning a magical day for our children.



World 'Comic' Book Day

This year we have decided to have a comic book day. The children dressed up as a comic book character and took part in a variety of comic book activities throughout the day.



OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

The older and younger children have been working together to problem solve and be creative in their play. The OPAL project transforms playtimes for children and it is exciting to see how the children are enjoying their play in a variety of ways.





Newquay Zoo with Class Two

We enjoyed our school trip to Newquay Zoo where we got to take part in a workshop all about penguins. We found out lots of new facts and had the chance to look at some real penguin feathers and eggs. We even had a go at walking like a penguin and were challenged to balance an egg on the tops of our feet and shuffle just like the penguins do in Antarctica. It was really difficult! After our workshop, we were so excited to watch the penguins being fed and we listened carefully to a talk from the zoo ranger. We then ate our packed lunches and had enough time to walk around the rest of the zoo and see all of the animals. We had a great day.

Science Experiments

This term in class four, we have learned many exciting things. We had a visit from a scientist who teaches at West Buckland Secondary School. She came to teach us about variations in animals and she also brought two amazing snakes!



Antarctica Zoom

We were absolutely blown away when we had the chance to Zoom video call two scientists who are currently working in Antarctica. They told us all about their jobs, shared videos with us about life in Antarctica, answered loads of our questions and even showed us the amazing Antarctic view out of their window! We were so lucky to have such a special opportunity and it was truly inspirational for the children. A once in a lifetime moment.



Let's Investigate

In class one our 'Let's Investigate' topic has led us to investigate all things wiggly... worms! We've read books about worms, written worm facts, created worm art, dug and found worms to put in our class wormery and even EATEN flavoured mealworms too. We're excited to see how our wormery will develop over the coming weeks, it's already very popular. Of course, we couldn't miss the opportunity to read 'Superworm' by Julia Donaldson, it's been a big hit.



SGH Residential

The children from Class Three have been away on residential. They have taken part in many events including rock scrambling, canoeing, a treasure hunt, archery and fencing. I popped in to see them on Wednesday evening and they were all having a wonderful time. The SGH staff spoke so highly about all of the children and were clearly very impressed by them. We are really lucky to have such a long-standing association with SGH and feel blessed that we are able to have the time with their amazing staff. Thanks to Baz and his team for making it such an anticipated event every year. Massive thanks also to Miss Trofa, Mrs Kennard and Mrs Scowen who have fed and looked after the children so well - not least at bedtimes!












BREAKFAST CLUB!

Lots to do!

Exciting!

Arts and Crafts!

MEMBER CARD

OUR RULES

- We take turns to speak.
- We use kind and positive words.
- We listen to each other.
- We wait for everyone to finish eating before activities begin.
- We are respectful to staff and each other.



SPRING 2024

The Pilton Mile

The Pilton Mile event for Red Nose Day was a highlight, with all participants demonstrating great enthusiasm and sportsmanship. It was a joy to witness the sea of smiling faces at the finish line.



School Gardens

A group braved the rain and mud to do some gardening at the allotments as well as planting 50 strawberry plants in the school gardens which was fast work with 15 pairs of hands. Huge thanks to Simon the gardener for taking the group out.



Netball

We have some positive news from the netball tournament held at Park School this term where a group of our upper school students, led by Mrs. Coombe, showcased remarkable team spirit. Their commendable 7th-place finish is a testament to their hard work, mutual support, and exceptional sportsmanship. We are extremely proud of such exemplary behaviour.



The Magic of Theatre

The wonder continued at the beginning of the Spring Term when M&M Productions brought the pantomime "Aladdin" to our school. This event was not just entertaining but also educational, showcasing the synergy of lighting, sound, acting and props in a theatrical production. Such experiences are vital in inspiring and motivating our students.



Rosemoor

Some of our year 5s spent some time at Rosemoor in February. They took part in a sculptor workshop which involved making sculptors out of things they found in the gardens, they also spent some time exploring and playing in the grounds.



World Book Week

The theme for this year's celebration was 'Read Your Way.' On World Book Day itself we encouraged the children to come dressed as a 'word'. The children needed to know the word and what it meant. Our staff and students delved into the joy of storytelling, creating an environment where literature truly came to life. We were thrilled to see such enthusiastic participation in family reading sessions and the creative flair displayed during the dress-up competition, where students embodied their favourite literary words. These moments not only brought our school community together but also showcased the transformative power of reading.

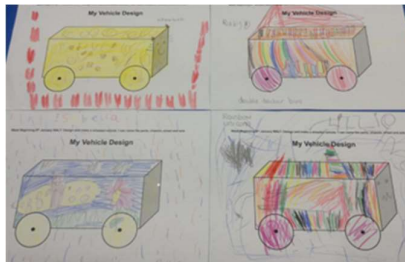


PILTON INFANTS' SCHOOL



Art Week

There has been lots of fantastic artwork taking place including printing in reception, collage in year 1 and sketching with pen and water colours in year 2. We have linked art to books by focusing on authors and illustrators and the children's pieces will form big displays in our main corridor.



Vehicles

"We're going on a journey" is our new topic in Reception. We have been learning about vehicles and have looked at lots of different types. We learnt how they travel differently on land and in water and designed our own.

Structures

For DT, Year 1 have been creating our own structures using different joins. We folded card to create a crease and cut out a flange join and stuck them onto our bases.



Visit from Emily Hamilton

Author/ Illustrator Emily Hamilton visited all children this term to share a book she illustrated: The World Made a Rainbow. We explored how to create our own art based on her illustrations.



Sing and Sign

Our most recent group of Sing and Sign Club have worked really hard this term and did an amazing performance for parents of 'Tomorrow' from Annie in their final session.





Farm Visits

Fox and Owl class visited Emmets Farm to gain an insight into the working life of a farmer. Thank you to the Warne family. The children learnt so much and we even witnessed a lamb being born which we had 'US' sprayed on for Umberleigh School!

Squirrels and Hedgehogs enjoyed a visit to Caffyns Farm to learn about food and farming. We explored the farm and fed the animals.



Pond

A huge thank you to all the helpers who gave up their time to come down to the pond over their weekends to lay slabs around the edge meaning the pond is fully prepped and ready for planting! We'll be putting the pond plants in over the next few weeks, as well as a few buckets of sludge and spawn, to kickstart the wildlife ready for some forest school sessions later in the year.



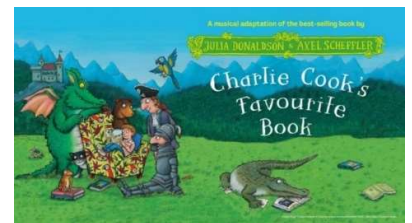
School Council

The School Council cake sale raised £140.



World Book Day

The Squirrel and Hedgehog classes really enjoyed their trip to the theatre yesterday to watch 'Charlie Cook's favourite Book' by Julia Donaldson. Thanks to the FUS for supporting this event. This was a great way to start thinking about our own favourite books and today the children look fantastic dressed as their favourite book characters for World Book Day.





Visit to the Farm

The children in Class 1 were fortunate enough to visit the farm, as part of the Farm School provision we offer here at Wetheridge Academy. A huge thank you to Farmer Olly for your continued support and for delivering such wonderful sessions.

Forest School

Mr Wiggans' Forest School sessions looked closely at leaves. They examined a range of leaves, discussing colour and shape, learning the importance to plants/trees of leaves for breathing and turning sunlight into energy. They created their own unique tree pictures with leaves.



Building Communities

Our theme for DT week is 'Building Communities'. In our classes, we have worked together to create a project that gives back and enhances our school community. In the FSU, the children have been working hard to create bird feeders. In Classes 1 and 2, the children have been designing and making a new playground and in Classes 3 and 4, the children have made soups and bread to run their own soup kitchen.



Special Delivery for Reception Class

There was immense excitement amongst our Reception Class children before half term when a huge box was delivered from the Zoo! The Zoo had received the children's letters requesting a pet, which they had written after having enjoyed the story of Dear Zoo by Rob Campbell. The Zoo had sent us a giraffe, which the children have cared for very diligently, in our Zoo Vet's role-play area. The children have had a fabulous couple of weeks investigating zoo animals and were delighted to complete their beautifully painted zoo animal masks.



World Book Day - Elmer

We celebrated World Book Day across the school. This year, our theme for the day was 'Elmer'. The children loved creating Elmer shaped biscuits and Elmer artwork. They also had the opportunity to play some Elmer themed games and to write about Elmer. A theme of the story is that it is ok to be different; in fact, it is great to be different! We loved seeing all the different Elmer and book themed costumes in school this year.



INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING

TRAIN TO TEACH IN NORTH DEVON



Working in partnership with



Did you know we're offering Initial Teacher Training in our primary academies in partnership with the University of Exeter, with support from experienced teachers and subject leads across Team Multi-Academy Trust.

TEAM Multi-Academy Trust are proud to be the lead partner for The University of Exeter North & Mid Devon Initial Teacher Education (ITE) hub.

TASTER SESSION:
THURSDAY 18TH APRIL 2024
9AM – 12PM AT PILTON BLUECOAT ACADEMY, BARNSTAPLE, NORTH DEVON

Are you considering training to teach? Would you like the opportunity to meet the course leaders and to learn more about training in North Devon. To book your place, please email the contact lead Dan Polak via: dpolak@team-mat.org.uk
Experience a vibrant learning environment in our classrooms with teachers who have travelled this training route.

Life, Love and Learning to the Full



We're Recruiting!



Job positions available:

- **Director of Inclusion** at TEAM Multi-Academy Trust
- **0.4 FTE SENDCo** at TEAM Multi-Academy Trust
- **Mobile Catering Assistant** at High Bickington C of E Academy



For more information, please visit our Vacancies section on our website: www.teamacademytrust.com