



# neTrust



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# Welcome from our CEO, Richard Gill



**A very warm welcome to the latest edition of our ATLP newsletter - an opportunity to share some of what is happening across our family of schools and to celebrate some of the great work that our colleagues, children and young people are engaged in.**

I know that the Easter break is arriving at the perfect time for many of you, who continue to work so hard on a daily basis to put children at the heart of everything we do and drive our Partnership forward.

As we prepare for a well-earned breather, I would like to reflect on what we have achieved in recent times, including the imminent addition of two new schools to our learning family, as well as preparing to celebrate the opening of Dunstall Park Primary in September.

Many of you will have seen the joy on the faces of children pictured on their recent residential in France, where they made memories to last a lifetime. Pupils spoke of how their dreams had been turned into reality, so I thank everyone who pulled together to help give our young people such a wonderful experience.

As we move forward, all of us need to show ambition to meet the challenges we face and I know that throughout our learning family this is what will happen. We can all learn from each other and understand our collective sense of responsibility as we continue to put children first.

The self-motivation, administration, school improvement, learning and development, sense of belonging, curriculum and culture that I see in evidence in our schools on a daily basis are all things that I am extremely proud of and each and every one of you should be too.

**Thank you all for your unstinting efforts and have a wonderful Easter break.**

**Richard Gill CBE - CEO**  
The Arthur Terry  
Learning Partnership





# Harmonizing success: Slade pupils shine in English National Opera scheme



**In a resounding celebration of musical excellence, Year 3 pupils at Slade have achieved a remarkable feat in the English National Opera (ENO) Project.**

Amongst hundreds of entries, the composition crafted by Slade's class 3B pupils stood out as a beacon of creativity and musical prowess. The composition not only secured its place among the best entries, but has also been selected to be animated as a central part of the project's celebration.

The 'Finish This' project brings together opera, film and animation in the classroom and over the 2023/24 academic year 14,000 pupils from more than 200 schools have taken on the role of ENO composer.

Each class – including 3B and 3P at Slade - was asked to create and produce their own music through an invitation to respond to, and resolve, Omar Shahryar's purposefully unfinished operatic piece 'Blue, Red, Yellow'. Each class was tasked with choosing a fourth colour and composing a 60 to 90-second composition that represents their chosen colour and finishes off Omar's piece.

Schools were provided with teacher CPD training, toolkit resources, a suite of digital films and an operatic piece, especially commissioned for young audiences. Class 3B at Slade produced Positivity (Bubblegum) and class 3P composed Sky Blue.

Annie Undzhiyan, ATLP Music Lead (Primary), said: "This collaborative endeavour showcases the children's



Slade's music stars had their efforts recognised.

exceptional musical talents and highlights the Partnership's unwavering commitment to providing high-quality music education in alignment with the recommendations of Ofsted and the Department for Education.

"Our pupils' success is a cause for celebration and pride and will undoubtedly inspire future generations, showcasing the transformative power of dedicated support and the profound impact it can have on the musical landscape of our schools."

Annie and Slade Year 3 Teachers Daniel Preece (Music Lead) and Anita Clare will now visit the London Coliseum on March 26 for a special ENO event for teachers to celebrate the success of the project and watch the ENO's production of The Magic Flute.

Meanwhile, ATLP partner Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (BCMG) - which has delivered exciting composition workshops at Slade and Mere Green – was a winner in the Music & Drama Education Awards.

Nancy: Evans, Director of Learning and Participation at BCMG, said: "Children have musical voices and musical identities which need to be heard and given the opportunity to flourish. Composing provides children with a different way of making sense of the world around them as well as supporting them listen to and perform music with understanding."

[Click to enjoy class 3B's composition](#)



## The small things make a BIG difference

**A recent energy survey revealed that the biggest single thing we can all do to reduce the carbon footprint of our schools and save money is to make some easy behavioural changes.**

A huge 17 per cent saving on annual energy bills can be made by simply turning lights off, knocking the thermostat down a degree or flicking off the screen or projector as you leave the classroom.

Essentially, treating the classroom like your living room can make a significant difference.

Turning off lights and sockets and closing windows is key as we continue to try and reduce our carbon footprint and make important financial savings.

The whole of the Operations and Estates team are looking at how we heat our schools and there are plans to replace all of the lights across the Partnership with more efficient LED lighting.

That will save us six per cent annually once it has been paid for, but the 17 per cent saving, from a cost perspective, frees up tens of thousands of pounds that can be better spent elsewhere.



Supporting outstanding education



## Recruitment advertising change demonstrates greater value for money

**One of the key challenges facing the Partnership is managing budgets to ensure we secure the best possible value for money.**

One area in which a significant change has been made to save thousands of pounds, without compromising on end product, is recruitment.

Recruitment's largest cost is advertising, with the most expensive advertising source being TES Jobs. After some detailed research, Recruitment Manager Vaneeta Tandy has implemented a change in

advertising for our teaching roles by switching from TES Jobs to Guardian Jobs.

She said: "Guardian Jobs has a good reputation, an excellent teacher database and most importantly demonstrated value for money. With the wide audience Guardian Jobs attracts, we will also be able to use it for our leadership and hard-to-fill support roles."



**HUMAN RESOURCES**

## Taster sessions whet students' appetite

**The new summer menu taster days held by catering teams across all schools were very popular and successful.**

Many schools have reported that students were delighted to be involved in helping to shape our menus by sampling the dishes.

Students and leaders are pleased with the healthy food on offer, which is testament to the high-quality meals and service provided by our in-house catering teams.

Thank you to the catering area support managers and chef managers for hosting these sessions, which will become a regular fixture in the ATLP calendar.



**CATERING**



Hill West pupils enjoy taster day.



# Glowing praise for Teaching School Hub

**The Arthur Terry Teaching School Hub (TSH) has received the perfect boost on the eve of its third anniversary with the news that its status has been reconfirmed by the DfE for another four years until 2028.**

This fantastic news means the TSH can continue to deliver first-class teacher and leadership training and development across north Birmingham.

TSH Director Cathryn Mortimer said: "In three years since designation, Arthur Terry TSH has supported more than 2,000 colleagues, many of whom work in the ATLP.

**"Our programmes have had a direct impact on the practice in ATLP schools."**



Cathryn Mortimer, TSH Director.



**Arthur Terry**  
Teaching School Hub  
North Birmingham



**The TSH has five areas of responsibility across the northern half of the city:**

- Delivery of National Professional Qualifications (NPQ).
- Delivery of Initial Teacher Training (ITT) through its own School-Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) and strategic support of ITT across the region.
- Delivery of Early Career Framework (ECF) training both to early career teachers and mentors.
- Appropriate body services supporting early career teachers and protecting their entitlements.
- Delivery of other DfE-approved Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Joe Gavin, Deputy Director of the TSH, said: "As our courses have grown, so has our team. We have had wonderful experiences with

colleagues from our Partnership - not only the participants who benefit from our programmes - but also with our rapidly growing facilitation team.

"We are immensely grateful for the support of our ATLP facilitators who have a direct impact on their participants but also benefit from training and collaboration with partners and centres across the West Midlands and bring that diverse learning into our schools.

"If you, or colleagues in your school, have the skills, expertise and passion to inspire other teachers and would like to be involved in facilitation of ECF or NPQ courses, don't hesitate to get in touch."

John Willmott Headteacher Nicola Gould, pictured below, added: "Our staff have been able to enhance their teaching and leadership pedagogical knowledge and skills by accessing programmes such as the NPQs and Early Career Teachers (ECT) mentoring programmes.



**"The networking opportunities, with schools in similar context to us, has been instrumental in our improvement journey."**

Email [northbirminghamtsh@atlp.org.uk](mailto:northbirminghamtsh@atlp.org.uk) for more details.



# Students enjoy a taste of the creative sector



Jake Fowler.

**More than 250 students from eight ATLP schools had a fascinating insight into life in the creative industries when Arthur Terry hosted the third Partnership-wide Careers Sector Spotlight.**

Nine high-flyers from across the creative sector spoke to both primary and secondary students about their successes and the benefits and challenges of working in their field.

Organiser and Partnership Lead for Careers, Alex Zarifeh, said: "We welcomed students with a passion for creativity, in order to showcase a cross-section of creative roles, as well as exploring some of the unique benefits of pursuing one's dream profession."

Birmingham's beat-boxing Poet Laureate Jas Gardosi got proceedings off to an explosive start by performing her spellbinding poem 'Be Poet', before Vicky Boyce, of Third Kind Games, explained how she had found her natural space in the gaming industry.

Arthur Terry alumni and 'Hunger for the Hustle' podcaster, Jake Fowler, said:

**"It has been a dream to return to my old school after 20 years. Everyone has a story and it was a pleasure to share a little of mine."**

There was a glimpse of life both behind and in front of the camera when news duo Sam Hughes, a producer, and Rosie Dowsing, a journalist, talked to them about their work at ITV.

Finally, a trio of fascinating speakers from Birmingham City University impressed the students with their passion for fashion.

Students came from Arthur Terry, West Coventry Academy,

John Willmott, Hill West, Scotch Orchard, St Chad's, Two Gates and William MacGregor.

Jennifer Aitken, St Chad's Head of School, said: "Our students were really engaged. One of our girls was inspired by Jas' story, the boys were hooked by the thought of getting into game design and another student enjoyed looking through the fashion students' portfolios."



Speakers came from different parts of the creative sector, from TV to podcasting and from game design to fashion.



## Coton Green choir hits the right notes

Members of Coton Green's school choir are celebrating after receiving a Civic Pride award to mark their talent and kindness.

The new annual Civic Pride Awards organised by Tamworth Borough Council honour groups and individuals who have gone above and beyond in making a significant impact and contribution in the community.

After singing in a local care home and at the town mayor's Christmas concert, Coton Green choir were thrilled to be nominated and even more delighted to win the award, which was presented over the recent half term break.



The choir wowed onlookers in church.

Children continued the school's festive tradition of singing carols for hugely grateful residents at Evergreen House and were also invited to sing at the Mayor, Councillor John Harper's concert, in St Editha's Church, where a real donkey also enjoyed the fun!

Choir member Brianna Randell said: "It felt quite scary to sing in front of people at first, but soon it felt like they were a part of our Coton Green family because we were singing with each other

and some of them were joining in with the actions."

Fellow pupil Sophie Hampton added: "I liked how they smiled when we were all singing. It was amazing to see a real donkey in the church.

"I loved joining in with shouting out, 'Oh no, not another one!' each time the mayor told a cracker joke! It was really exciting to go to the awards presentation and I really love all the opportunities that we get."

## Eco Councillors impress on the airwaves

Members of Mere Green's Eco Council spread their sustainability messages far and wide when they were interviewed about their work on Free Radio.

Pupils and Forest School Lead Chris Gordon told of how they are busy protecting the environment and improving sustainability and their comments were heard during



Mere Green's Eco Councillors had plenty to say.

hourly news updates across Birmingham and the West Midlands.

Among a host of actions, pupils grow their own vegetables in school, litter-pick and recycle clothes to help in their local community and beyond.

These initiatives form part of the Services for Education's Health for Life programme, which

Mere Green participates in, with a focus on growing food, healthy eating and cooking and physical activity. This promotes an ethos and environment which encourages a proactive approach to developing a healthy lifestyle.

Well done Eco Councillors and Forest School!



# DAMSEL



Brooke Carter (left) pictured alongside Millie Bobby Brown and Robin Wright, who plays Queen Isabelle, at the London premiere of the film.

## Brooke stars in Netflix drama DamSEL!

**West Coventry Academy student Brooke Carter plays a major part in Netflix film DamSEL.**

Brooke, in Year 9, plays the role of Floria, sister of Elodie, played by Millie Bobby Brown. The plot centres on a dutiful damsel who agrees to marry a handsome prince, only to find the royal family has recruited her as a sacrifice to repay an ancient debt. Ray Winstone and Angela Bassett also star.

Brooke's mother Shauna Carter said: "All of the school and her friends have been so supportive of her!"

Lucy Cole, Brooke's drama teacher, added: "We are all so thrilled for Brooke, who is not only extremely talented but a very friendly, down to earth and funny student.

"She is obviously a fantastic drama student, but also across our school community she is known for being hardworking and charming. We wish Brooke every exciting success with DamSEL and we all have our popcorn ready to watch and hope Floria has a happy ending."

Brooke, who attended New York and London premieres for the film, has previously had some smaller parts in television shows including The Peripheral, The Alienist and The Irregulars.

## Aerial shots show WCA landscape change

These fantastic drone images provide a superb bird's eye view of how dramatically the West Coventry Academy site has changed.

The first image below shows where the old site stood, alongside the astroturf pitch, and the second image provides a close-up of where the immediate outside space will be expanded towards the old pond.

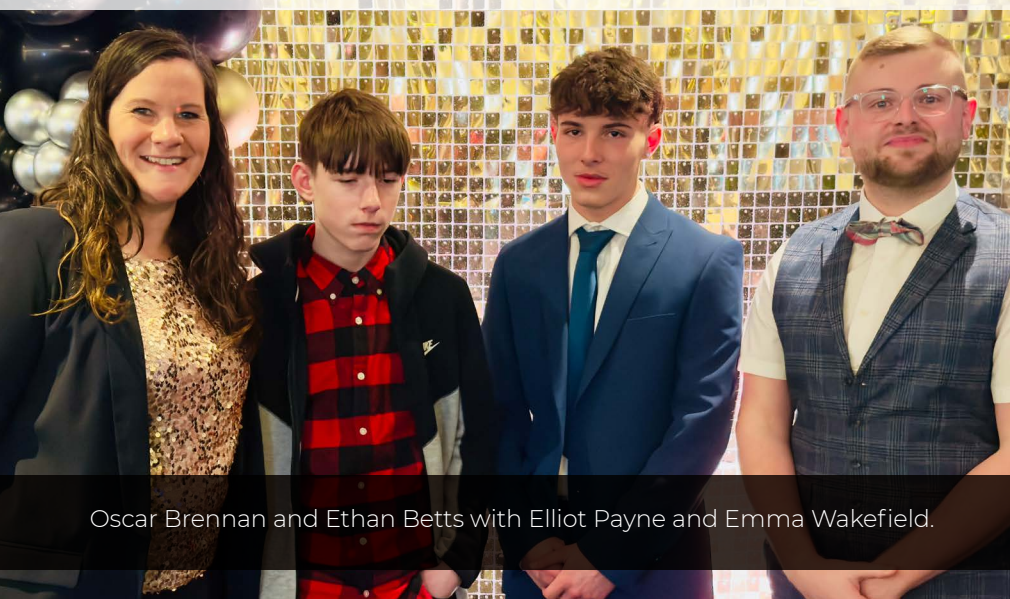
The works are due to be completed during the summer term and everyone at WCA is excited to make use of the expanded outdoor spaces again.

The new outdoor areas include both a large lunchtime area and a second multi-use game area (MUGA).





## The Bridge duo honoured on a night to savour



Oscar Brennan and Ethan Betts with Elliot Payne and Emma Wakefield.

### Inspirational students Oscar Brennan and Ethan Betts had their outstanding achievements recognised at a prestigious ceremony.

The Bridge students joined young people from across the UK at the Joshua Ribera Achievement Awards at The Birmingham Conference and Events Centre.

The awards - set up in memory of Joshua by his mother Alison Cope - celebrate the achievements of young people from alternative education provisions.

Oscar, who is in Year 11 at The Bridge, won in the Academic Achievement category, while Ethan in Year 10 won the award for Personal Progression.

Assistant Headteacher Elliot Payne said: "The staff at The Bridge couldn't be more proud of Oscar, Ethan and all the students recognised at the event.

"Both students have consistently embodied our values and are a true reflection of the

achievements of young people in alternative provision."

The pair were joined on the night by Ethan's mother and Oscar's mother and partner, as well as proud staff members Mr Payne, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator Emma Wakefield, Behaviour Lead Matt Lloyd and KS3 Teacher Cheryl Lloyd.

As a young man, Joshua - stabbed to death in 2013 aged 18 - was excluded from mainstream school but, with support, guidance and love, achieved great success in music.

Since his tragic death, Alison has spoken to more than 60,000 young people in alternative education.



## Sam makes a pawesome impression

Osborne's beautiful school therapy dog Sam is proving to be a revelation among pupils and staff!

Sam has become a popular new classmate since arriving at the Erdington school in February and children and staff look forward to being rewarded with 'Sam Time'. Our CEO Richard Gill also called by to enjoy a cuddle with our four-legged friend.

However, it is not just about being cute and cuddly, as stroking a dog can help improve cognitive performance. Sam loves helping children with their reading, spelling and other learning and activities, including playing catch.

Therapy dogs bring so much to the people and environments around them and pupils and staff benefit enormously from the presence of Sam, who even has his own school uniform.



Children in class 5A were keen to share their work with Sam, who was delighted to give the paw of approval to their narratives!

# POSITIVE vibes in Coventry

**Students at West Coventry Academy are seeing their emotional wellbeing improved thanks to a new positivity wall.**

The great idea is being championed by the school's SID department, explained Education Assistant (Social Emotional Mental Health and Learning Team) Rebecca Gardner-Tildesley from the school's Intervention room.

**She said: "Creating the positivity wall in our room has proved so beneficial to our students.**

"Anyone can add art or quotes to it and our aim is to make someone smile, for people to know that others feel the same at times and that help and support is here.

"Having moved into our fantastic new-build, the children wanted to recreate the character of the old intervention space, so with this in mind we wanted to get them involved in making the room a comforting space that they wanted to be in.

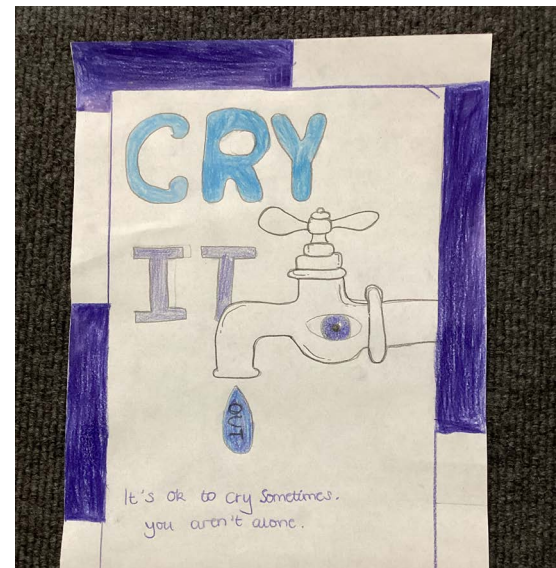
"We run some anxiety awareness groups and Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy (PACE) groups. The students involved began the wall as we wanted them to have something positive to look at when they spend time in here. Some asked to add to it when they have been sitting in here or working

in the room and many have mentioned it and find it very helpful."

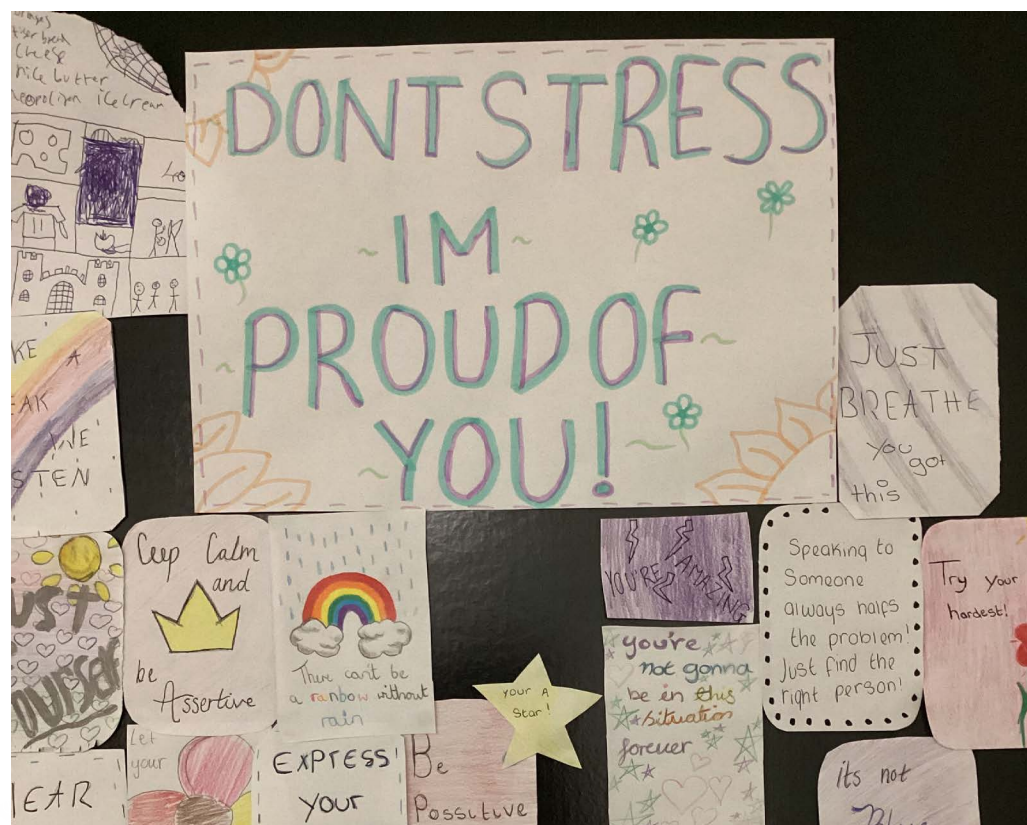
Eloise in Year 10 said: "The wall helps with my mental health and helps me to feel better."

Annabella in Year 9 added to the wall and said: "Never doubt the power of the wall! It works wonders."

Mrs Gardner-Tildesley added: "I am very proud of the students' attitudes towards mental health, our discussions on it and the way they help and support each other. The students can teach us so much and we learn something new from them each week."



Henry in Year 7 produced the cry it out poster.



The positivity wall features powerful messages.



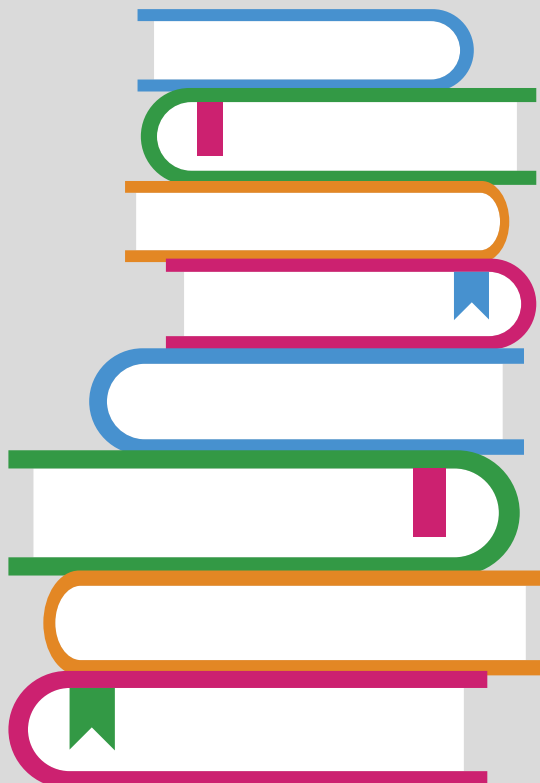
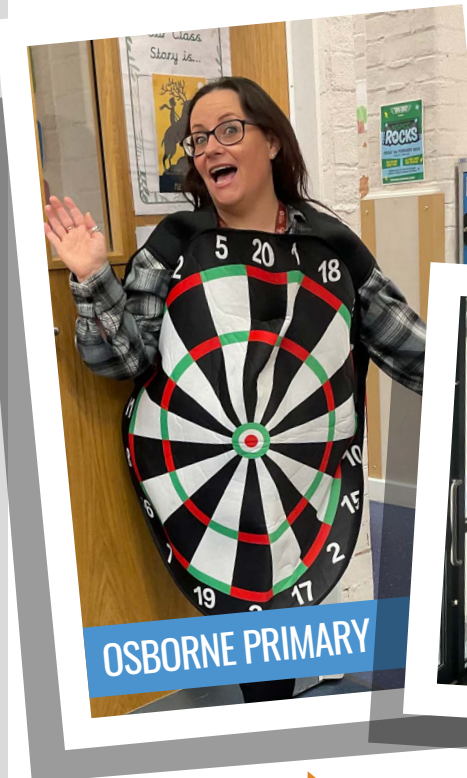
# World Book Day and NSPCC Number Day picture special

World Book Day was greeted with huge enthusiasm by students and staff across our learning family.

Here's just a few of so many great pictures taken which show the joy that books and characters bring to our Partnership.

Thank you to everyone involved for your fantastic efforts to promote the love of reading.

Another special occasion was NSPCC Number Day, during which schools across the Partnership enjoyed a fun-filled day of maths activities to raise money for the charity.







## Kit's cheeky tale is up there with the nation's best

Hill West pupil Kit Naylor's creative talents were rewarded with a visit to Buckingham Palace as his story reached the final of the BBC's 500 Words 2023 competition.

Kit's story 'The Cheeky King' was one of many thousands across the UK entered into the contest last autumn and the Year 2 Kingfisher was thrilled to discover his work had made the final 50.

These stories have embarked on an impressive journey, split into three rounds of judging. Volunteer judges whittled down 44,000 entries to around 5,000 that progressed to round two, during which The Reading Agency selected the top 50.

The final round of judging was held at Buckingham Palace, where judges discussed the stories and seven-year-old Kit and his mother met and enjoyed jokes with Queen Camilla and Sir Lenny Henry.

Camilla hailed Kit as "amazing" and Kit joked to an impressed Sir Lenny: "What did the policeman say to his tummy? Don't move, you are under a vest!"

On his return to school, Kit was introduced as a celebrity in the Key Stage 1 assembly before children enjoyed watching his television appearance on BBC Midlands Today, when Nick Owen interviewed Kit and others before their visit to London.

Kit's class teacher Kerry Lynch said: "Kit's proud classmates were mesmerised by his story and could not stop laughing at all the funny bits. They all agreed he should publish his story and look forward to his first novel!"

[Read and listen to Kit's story here.](#)



Kit and his mother meet Queen Camilla.



Kit was interviewed by Nick Owen on BBC Midlands Today.







## Lottery win puts Pat in top gear

The February winner of the ATLP Lottery is West Coventry Academy's Pat Dickson who will be using the money to help fund a new bike.

Pat explained: "I never do lotteries or win anything, so thought it was a scam when I got a message saying I'd won £125, but once I realised I was delighted!

"I ride my old bike everywhere, weather permitting, but had recently been told by the bike repair shop that I really needed to think about getting a new one as it was reaching its final days, so this money will fund a good chunk of my new bike! Thank you ATLP."

Thank you to Zest Education for their generous sponsorship.

## Hot off the press - first student newsletter lands!



THE  
COLESHILL  
SCHOOL



Coleshill staff and students celebrate the newsletter launch.

**Coleshill's Student Leadership Team have proudly created their very first student newsletter.**

The excellent read shines a spotlight on all the student-led opportunities at Coleshill and thanks go to the school's fantastic media team for taking the lead on this exciting project.

Sections include updates on extracurricular activities, sports leadership, Coleshill's Reading Revolution initiative, apprenticeships, SPIRIT Rewards and house competitions.

**Keep up the great work!**

## Generosity brings theatre to life

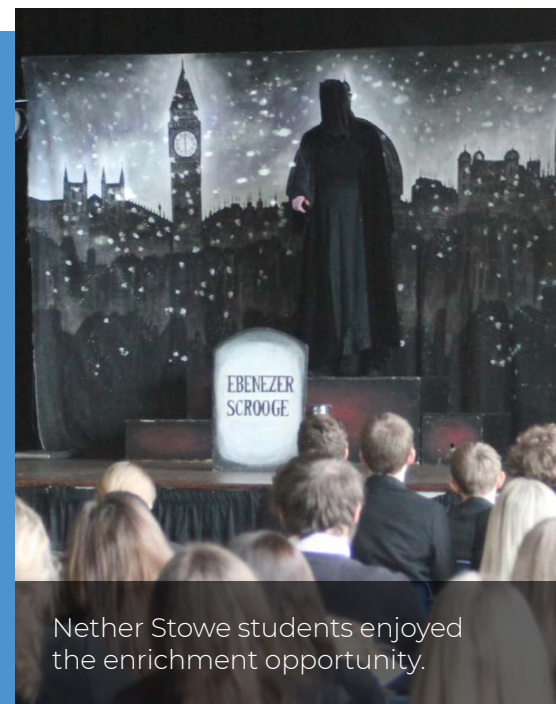
**Year 10 and 11 students at Nether Stowe enjoyed a spectacular theatre performance in readiness for their GCSEs thanks to generous backing from employment agency ABC Teachers.**

The agency pledged £250 which made a key contribution to ensuring students could watch Quantum Theatre's production of A Christmas Carol.

Nether Stowe Office Manager Maxine Morton said: "We are very grateful to ABC Teachers

for partnering with us and helping to enhance the learning experience for students.

"Theatre brings the story of classic works to life, allowing students to immerse themselves in the language, character development and thematic elements. Watching a live performance adds a layer of depth and understanding that simply can't be replicated in the classroom and is an invaluable opportunity for our students to engage with the text in a dynamic and memorable way."



Nether Stowe students enjoyed the enrichment opportunity.

# Chloe Simpson

Teacher and Senior Leader at William MacGregor and Learning Futures Hub Lead (Primary)

**Playing a pivotal role in the implementation of Learning Futures has been an exciting and proud time for Chloe Simpson, who has been at William MacGregor for seven years since arriving as a newly-qualified teacher.**

Chloe, one of five Learning Futures Hub Leads, highlighted the 'digital journey' at the Tamworth school as evidence of the remarkable transformation in teaching and learning that has been made possible by the equitable 1-2-1 device programme.

She explained: "In 2018 there were 60 iPads at William MacGregor and by lockdown in 2020 this had increased to 97. Even at that stage, Showbie (the app that connects students, teachers and parents for assigning and reviewing student work) made a big impact as it assisted us greatly when children learned at home.

"It was great for William MacGregor to be a pilot school alongside Mere Green and Slade in September 2022. Children were generally confident with the devices then and, as they increasingly used apps such as Times Tables Rock Stars, MathShed and Spelling Shed, this confidence soared.

"Once we reached the stage when everyone had access to their own device, the efficiency in working and success in student achievement has been extremely impressive.

"iPad is clearly embedded across the Partnership now and

the devices have transformed learning, notably with parental involvement outside the classroom. As you'd expect, it's been a real learning curve and I'm very proud of the giant strides forward that we've taken."

Chloe added: "There's been a high turnover of staff at William MacGregor due to many becoming leaders elsewhere and this has meant that upskilling new staff has been a key task of mine. Associate teachers from the Arthur Terry SCITT have joined and it's been great that by the time of their arrival they've already been skilled in Learning Futures to a good standard.

**"That embedding of best practice and futureproofing is so important.**

"I work one day a week as Learning Futures Lead and it's fantastic to work in William MacGregor, Curdworth, Two Gates, Hill West and Coton Green and see the impact that Learning Futures is having in all schools.

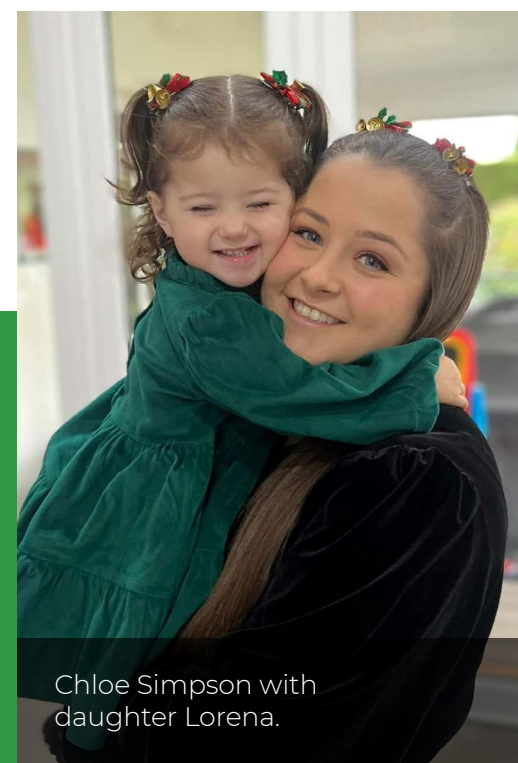
"I try and visit two schools per week and I provide ongoing bespoke CPD in all of them, in addition to running TA surgeries to instil increasing confidence in staff. It's amazing to see the constant progress being made among staff and students. Learning walks provide extra support to staff who require it

and the pupil voice has been extremely positive.

"It's so exciting each time we place a focus on new apps to enhance learning. Our big push at the moment is handwriting app Kaligo which most schools are now using."

When she is not empowering learners and shaping futures, Chloe enjoys holidays and her other 'hobby' of raising her loving two-year-old daughter Lorena.

"She's a beautiful, funny girl and I love spending as much time as possible with Lorena, although at the moment I would say that parenting is my hobby - the 'terrible twos' aren't easy!" said Chloe.



Chloe Simpson with daughter Lorena.



# New Starters



## ATLP - Central Team

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**Kerry Weir**  
Catering Assistant

**Andrew Polymniou**  
Chef Manager

**Natalie Gillings**  
Head of HR

**Christopher Alton**  
Site Manager

## Two Gates Primary School

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**Helen Hopkins**  
Lunchtime Supervisor

## Stockland Green School

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**Jessica Saunders**  
Receptionist

## John Willmott School

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**Judith Howard**  
Administrator

## Nether Stowe School

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**Natalie Shaw**  
Cover and Timetable Manager

**Nabila Qaisar-Aziz**  
Cover Supervisor

## St Chad's CofE Primary School

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**Kirandeep Johal**  
Lunchtime Supervisor

## The Bridge Academy

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**Josie Bennett**  
Teacher

## Mere Green Primary School

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**Hannah Clarke**  
Teacher

**Nicola Cartwright**  
Pastoral Intervention Manager

## Osborne Primary School

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**Maria Bibiloni**  
Lunchtime Supervisor

**Amiee Duggins**  
Teaching Assistant

## St Michael's CofE Primary School

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**Rebecca Murray**  
Teacher



# What did you think of issue nine of 'One Trust'?

If your school has a great story to share, or there is a teacher or member of support staff who is championing our One Trust ethos, then please get in touch about potential coverage in a forthcoming issue.

Share your thoughts and feedback with Communications Officer Liam Moakes by emailing [liam.moakes@atlp.org.uk](mailto:liam.moakes@atlp.org.uk).

