



‘Learning Beyond the Classroom’

Welcome to our first Trust newsletter of 2023 in what has been a busy Spring term across our Trust schools.

The focus of this edition of the Trust newsletter is ‘Learning Beyond the Classroom’. Of course, our staff are involved in ‘learning beyond their classrooms’ too. Recently, five members of our Teaching staff from across our schools began a master’s qualification in School Leadership with the University of Birmingham. The Masters qualification is being undertaken by teachers voluntarily and is suitable for both primary and secondary colleagues. It is a two-year taught course, that finishes with a dissertation. We are very pleased to be able to offer this to our teachers as a fully funded course.

Below image is our five members of staff with Colin Diamond, the course lecturer with guest lecturer, Dr Herminder Channa, who shared her own leadership journey. We wish all the teachers taking part every success, and we look forward to seeing their school-based research and reading their dissertations.



From left to right: Mr Parmar (Oldbury Wells), Colin Diamond, Dr Herminder Channa, Mr Wise (Church Stretton), Mrs Gajny (Church Stretton), Miss Boulton (St Leonard’s) and Mr Archer (Castlefields)

Staff Collaborative Training Day

January’s PD Day hosted all 280 members of teaching staff as a networking day. The day was held at Oldbury Wells School and gave staff the chance to meet with colleagues from other schools within the Trust, and work together on joint projects. Staff were also able to take part in activities that were designed to ‘challenge’ them. In these activities staff were required to work outside of their usual areas of expertise, and experience for themselves, some of the challenges our pupils face in the curriculum.

TrustEd CSAT Talk



Alveley Primary School

Mindfulness Afternoon

On Friday 10th February, Alveley Primary celebrated and encouraged conversations around mindfulness and mental health with it being Mental Health Awareness Week. Mental Health Awareness Week sets out to promote talking and challenging the silences between individuals to remove the taboo that people may face in difficult situations. During the afternoon, the whole school enjoyed activities aimed to calm, paying attention to the present moment by doing yoga, making personal connections, mindfulness art, sensory exploration, and a mindful game of bingo.



Oak's Planetarium Experience

On Friday 17th February, Oak Class had a brilliant day exploring space in an immersive planetarium experience, where they were presented with entertaining and educational information all about astronomy, the wider exploration of space and the night sky. All children were invited into the dome where 'space' as a wider topic was discussed through videos where special projectors create a simulation of the night sky on the dome ceiling. Oak discussed the planets and each of their compositions, whilst debating whether they believed there was other life forms and if so, where would be best suited for life as we know it to survive.



Planting Planters

Children have been helping Mr Bates plant the planters ready for the year ahead. He explained the importance of planting certain flowers at specific times of year and why we should keep them hydrated once newly planted. Children helped to plant a heather in each of the wooden planting beds and then helped to plant pansies to add colour to the outside of our school. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Bates for all his support and cannot wait to see the flowers bloom later in the year. Mr Bates will be returning to plant vegetables with all the children at a later date. We cannot wait to see the results of the children's efforts when the flowers bloom soon.



TrustEd CSAT Talk



Stokesay Primary School

Goblin Car Challenge

Jim Halcro-Johnston, the chair of South Shropshire Engineering Ambassadors has challenged a selection of Stokesay students to work together to assemble a Greenpower Goblin car. The end aim is for the children to be able to race the car they have built once it has been assembled. The children are already showing great team work as the beginning stages. They have had to show perseverance and craftsmanship.



Road Safety

Year 4 have recently received their road safety certificates for their maturity whilst travelling around Craven Arms. Well done to Year 4!



Art in Forest School

In their Forest school sessions Year 1 have been exploring Art, learning about the primary colours and which primary colours mix to make secondary colours. They also created different shades of green and matched them against a colour chart.



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Belvidere School

Belvidere Ski Trip

On Thursday 15th December 95 Belvidere students visited the Italian Alps for 5 days of snow and ski lessons. Students and staff had a warm welcome from staff at Hotel Girasole after a very busy and tiring day of travel! The first lessons were in very snowy conditions, a great introduction to alpine weather! Each day consisted of a 3-hour morning lesson, followed by a hot lunch at the hotel and then another 2-hour lesson in the afternoon. Each evening the students had time to relax before dinner and games of pool, air hockey and some fantastic DJ entertainment from Mr Edwards. Students got to explore the main village by taking the cable car and enjoying pizza! As the week progressed confidence levels rose, speed increased and Bambi legs disappeared. Thank you to all the students for their encouragement of others and exemplary behaviour and to all staff for giving up their own holiday time to make this fantastic trip happen, Mr Gregory for his dedication to running the whole trip!



Annie

The Expressive Arts department at Belvidere School was extremely proud to present Annie Junior over four evenings at the end of January. The students worked tirelessly to produce such a professional and heart-warming performance of this classic musical. From singers, dancers and actors to technicians, costume designers and front of house, this group effort provided them with opportunities to support and encourage each other as a team and to learn how to solve challenges as they arose. Participating in the arts provides young people with a chance to explore their creativity and imagination in a structured and safe environment. Musical theatre is specifically remarkable because it is the only art form that combines all areas of the fine arts: acting, singing, dancing, and visual arts. It is clear that throughout the rehearsal period, the confidence of our students had grown in abundance and I hope that their passion for the arts will continue to flourish in future projects. Performing in a school musical is an experience that I'm sure our students will remember for the rest of their lives, and it was truly the pleasure of our staff to work alongside the students at Belvidere on this exciting project. **Head of Department - Expressive Arts**

TrustEd CSAT Talk



Castlefields Primary School

Year 6's Visit to Wightwick Manor

Year 6 visited Wightwick Manor this week as part of their art project – looking at the works of William Morris. Excellent behaviour and Enthusiasm during our tour made for a fantastic trip. A special thank you to Mrs D'Arcy for planning and organising!



People Who Help Us

Reception Class enjoyed a visit from the Bridgnorth Fire Brigade as part of their topic about 'People Who Help Us'. The children were able to explore the fire engine and ask the Firemen questions about how they help people!



Spready Mercury

Castlefields had a very special visit from the Shropshire County Council gritting lorry "Spready Mercury". We had a photo with our class and the driver. Reception Class, who are doing a topic about People Who Help Us, also had the opportunity to go and look closely at the gritting lorry and talk to the driver!



Maths Trail

A select group of KS2 children completed the maths trail in town, the children now have the task of beginning to piece together their very own 'Castlefields Maths Trail'.



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Church Stretton School

Year 11 Berlin Trip December 2022

In December, 36 students went to Berlin. They had a busy four days visiting a Spy Museum and Unterwelten Museum where they learned about the nuclear bomb shelters. They also visited Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and not forgetting the Christmas Markets and lots more! Thank you to Miss Sollars for organising the trip!



GCSE Geography Field Trip 28/09/22

Recently geography students ventured into Carding Mill Valley on a fieldtrip. They visited 9 separate areas of the valley, including near the café and the spout waterfall. Using ranging poles, we measured the width of the river. Then, we used a metre ruler to measure the depth and, using a dog biscuit as a marker, we calculated the river's velocity across a 10m period. The highlight of the trip was at the end when some of us got to go to the café and get a hot chocolate or an ice-cream!

Year 10 Geography Field Trip

In December, Year 10 Geography students went on a field study trip to Birmingham investigate the impacts of urban regeneration in four areas of the city and to later answer our enquiry question: "To what extent was the regeneration of Brindley Place the most successful urban regeneration in Birmingham?". As well as Brindley place the students analysed three other places: The Mailbox, The Bullring and East side. Each with various levels of success; when asking our questionnaires, the older generation were more willing to stop and talk! Overall, it was great and successful trip to show Year 10 about urban regeneration in Birmingham.



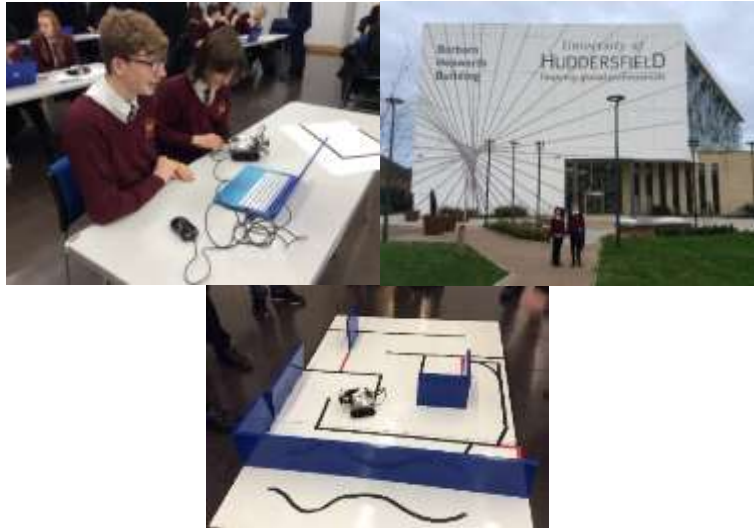
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Mary Webb School

STEM Challenge

Mary Webb's team visited University of Huddersfield in January to compete in the finals of the STEM competition, following on from their win at Shrewsbury College Sixth Form challenge last year.



Mary Webb went on a Skiing trip during February half term in Italy.



Football!

On the back of winning the U12 Shropshire Presidents Trophy last season the Mary Webb School decided to enter the Year 8 boys into the English Schools Football Association National Small Schools Trophy competition. The team did very well in all the earlier rounds of the tournament. The semi-final saw Mary Webb drawn at home against Hymers College (Hull). This was a tough match but a few moments of individual brilliance from Mary Webb players was the difference between the two teams. After going 0-1 down the team rallied together and came out as eventual 2-1 winners to seal their place in Mary Webb history by securing their place into the English Smalls Schools Trophy Final at the Hawthorns (WBA) in May.

The school and the Trust wish the team every success and we will be interested to hear how they do!

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Meole Brace School

In the last week of February, 49 students from Meole Brace School took to the snowy slopes at les Menuires in Trois Vallées in France. This was a return visit to an area last visited in 2018.

Conditions were glorious, with sunshine and blue skies each day. In an area with 370

different trails to roam, students made the very best of their time exploring all over the valley with new routes being attempted each day.

Students had an excellent time and made amazing progress over the six days. Some had previously skied, and others had never been on a pair of skis before. Under the expert tuition of the instructors, most groups progressed onto the red and blue slopes, enjoying views of Mont Blanc in the distance from heights of up to 2800 metres. Shooting over the jumps in the Snow Park was a great source of amusement, with students taking to the air with varying degrees of success!

It was an action-packed time for all, and everyone embraced the opportunity to try new things. Students took the opportunity to practise their French, and are proud of their many new skiing skills, in some cases even including 360 degree turns (on purpose!).

Students took part in a variety of evening activities, with a highlight being the pizza night in a local restaurant. An amusing spectacle was the Winter Games at night, where students competed in sub-zero temperatures to complete a sequence of challenges, bringing to the surface some very competitive natures. A breath-taking demonstration where the instructors from the valley skied down from the heights with torches in the dark created an amazing, illuminated display alongside fifty drones with lights forming beautiful images in the night sky.



TrustEd CSAT Talk



St. Leonards CE Primary School

Year 1 and 2 learning outside the classroom!

As part of their RE work, they went on a town walk to St Mary's Church. As part of their visit, we looked at how the church helps people feel part of a community, allows us to forgive and to find peace. We also visited other historic buildings around the town and discussed their importance in our local history.

