



TEAM
MULTI-ACADEMY
TRUST

SPRING 2023

NEWSLETTER

A letter from TEAM Multi-Academy Trusts CEO Ian Thomas



Dear Parents & Carers,

As we approach the Easter holidays the Trust vision of 'Life, Love and Learning to the Full' has been clear for us all to see with children engaging in a whole range of memorable experiences and opportunities. Some of the highlights include the organisation of not one but two residential visits to London for our Year 5 children.

This is the first time in our history that we have managed to do this and it has been truly wonderful listening to the children share their experiences.

As a Trust we pride ourselves on the many partners we have locally and across the world. For many years our pupils have been working on projects with schools in Europe, India, Uganda and Kenya. This term our children have been engaging in curriculum activities with their peers in Mumbai & Mangalore in India. Along with this, pupils from Pilton Bluecoat have continued their British Council partnership work with five schools in Europe. The children of Witheridge, High Bickington and Beaford have also continued their partnership activities with a school in Berlin, Germany. Building a sense of community is something that we really value here at TEAM and something that we will continue to work on during the Summer Term.

As I write this we are busy making final preparations for the Proms 2023 event that will be held at the Queen's Theatre, Barnstaple. Last year Pilton Bluecoat and Pilton Infants' had their opportunity to perform at this historic venue. Once again for the first time ever all other TEAM schools will get the chance to perform. Tickets for both the afternoon and evening performance have sold out and I am really looking forward to seeing the children performing in front of a packed-out theatre. Once again, another lovely example of how the Trust strives to create memorable experiences for the children.

The experiences would not go ahead without amazing staff members who are willing to get involved with the organisation of these things. Many hours are spent organising transport, filling out risk assessments and booking venues and events. Ensuring the children are kept safe and have an enjoyable time is a priority in all of our schools and we are blessed that we have experienced staff members who are willing to give up additional hours/days of their time to ensure that this happens. These things would also not occur without your continued support. Working in partnership with parents and carers is something that we really value at TEAM Multi-Academy Trust. As I visit our schools it is clear to see when speaking to school leaders and staff just how much your encouragement and positivity is valued.

Finally, I would like to finish with the children. I am very fortunate in my position to be able to visit all six of our schools on a regular basis. Spending time talking to children and gathering their views about their experiences is a real privilege and one that I value very much. It is really clear to us all here at TEAM Multi-Academy Trust that the pupils in our care have experienced a very challenging time over the past few years. As I cast my mind back to when Covid-19 first hit the country residential trips to London, performing in the Queen's Theatre and children collaborating through sport and the arts seemed like a very long way off indeed. Seeing children taking part in these things again is exciting and something that I know as a Trust we must continue to provide.

As we approach the Summer Term we are all looking forward to brighter days, sunny weather and plenty of outdoor learning. I am very much looking forward to writing to you again in July with more examples of how 'Life, Love and Learning to the Full,' has been evident across the Multi-Academy Trust.

Best wishes,

Ian Thomas



TEAM WIDE EVENTS AND TRIPS

London's Calling!

This term the Year 5 children from our TEAM schools enjoyed a fabulous few days away in London.

Pilton Bluecoat departed on the 31st January with highlights including a photo opportunity outside of No 10, Matilda the Musical, an Uber Boat ride down the Thames as well as the Science and Natural History Museum.

This trip was followed a few weeks later by the children from our 6 smaller schools. They too had a fabulous time and particularly enjoyed The Harry Potter Studios, The Tower of London, London Zoo and a fun night walk of the capital.

The children on the second trip enjoyed meeting and making new friendships, this is a great help for when they move onto secondary school when they recognise the new friends made on this memorable TEAM trip. We are already planning for next year's residential!



Space Planetarium

The children across Brayford and Ushercliffe Academies enjoyed an immersive space learning opportunity. It was a fantastic opportunity for children to build on their knowledge of our 'Space topic' so far and ask questions to further develop their understanding.





Voice in a Million

The Voice in a Million concert at Wembley Arena was attended by choir members from Pilton Bluecoat and Umberleigh Academies, our music teacher Bonnie Brayley said,

“A huge well done to the 40 Pilton Bluecoat Academy and Umberleigh Academy choir members who went to Wembley Arena in London to sing in the Voice in a Million concert. It was amazing to be in the arena filled with 6,000 school children all waving glow sticks and singing and dancing together as well as an audience of about 5,000 - what an experience! A big thank you to the Green Man Charity (who raise their funds mainly from the Pilton Green Man Festival) for their considerable financial contribution to the trip which enabled us to reduce the cost of the trip for parents”.



SEND PE TEAM Building Event

In January, we hosted our first ever Special Educational Needs and Disabilities PE Team Building event. The purpose of the event was to provide an opportunity for our children to meet, collaborate and compete with other children in our Trust. The first of the activities was set up by Witheridges' Forest School lead, Mr Wiggans and the second was led by Umberleighs' lead, Mr Brayley. Both activities required teamwork, communication, strategy and perseverance.



Coming Next Term.....

TEAM Night at the Proms at the Queen's Theatre.



TRAIN TO TEACH!

We at TEAM Multi-Academy Trust are proud of our Teacher Training School. In conjunction with the University of Exeter we offer our students a teaching programme which provides real time classroom experience backed up with specialist training by teachers and experts in their field.

Throughout the year our students experience time in two of our approved North Devon schools, supplying them with two contrasting experiences in primary education.

As well as spending plenty of time in the classroom our Trainee Teachers also enjoy specialist sessions from real time teachers and experts in topics such as Cognitive Neuroscience, R E, Phonics and early reading, Art, Music, SEND and computing.

All our students from last year's cohort are now teaching while this year's students are all busy applying for jobs for this September. We are confident that they will all find positions and will all make great teachers.

If you are interested in our Initial Teacher Training programme, please see:

www.teamacademytrust.com/page/?title=Initial+Teacher+Training



OUR KEY DRIVERS

Life, Love and Learning to the Full

At TEAM Multi-Academy Trust we have designed a creative curriculum which we believe will engage and inspire our learners. Sitting at the heart of our curriculum are four drivers: Building Learning Power, Building Futures, Building Communities and Building Self Esteem/Positive Mental Wellbeing.



It is through our drivers that we seek to raise children's aspirations by providing them with the skills, knowledge and understanding to realise their ambitions.

Throughout further editions of our Trust newsletter we will delve deeper into what these drivers mean for our children, school and communities.



SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

TEAM Multi-Academy Trust's new Director of Education **Dan Polak**

"The job of Director of Education is an exciting and important one, which is needed as a family of schools grows bigger. Schools are busy places with staff taking on multitudinous tasks and my role is to create capacity and strategic thinking to help all schools improve. My experience as a Head of School, teacher trainer and school support adviser will help connect to each school's ambitions and support them to find the next step in their development.

The day-to-day job will include visiting schools to assess their progress, engaging with research organisations to make sure we are taking the right approach in the classroom, and looking for opportunities to bring teachers from across the Trust together, when they have similar aims.

Ultimately, all children in all settings deserve a superlative education. My role is to ensure this is delivered in every corner of the Trust, which is why as a trust grows larger, it is critical that I am wholly dedicated to finding these opportunities to improve".

Quick Fire Questions

Q. Tea or Coffee? A. Staff tell me they know I am around the corner if they can smell the coffee cup - I think it's stuck to my hand now!

Q. Smarties or M&M's? A. Easily smarties - I'm not sure I would trust anyone that said M&Ms. This is a clear winner, surely?

Q. Dogs or Cats? A. I have both - one cockapoo and two cats. I love them both for different reasons. Cats make you work a lot harder for that love!

Q. Rugby or Football? A. I'm a football fan but a rugby player. I played all through school and university and played flanker for Devon. My uncles played for Bath...I was picked up and spun round when I tried to get in!

Q. Upper School or Lower School? A. I trained as a secondary teacher so always loved teaching the older age range, which is where I spent most of my primary teaching. My grandma, who was a primary headteacher, told me that whenever I felt like the job was getting on top of me, to go to the lower school and build some Lego with some children. Sage advice.

Q. Travel back in time or forward to the future? A. If I could guarantee I wouldn't become infected with all the horrible bugs and lack of medicine, I would love to take the chance to stand in Shakespeare's original Globe.

Q. Summer or Winter? A. Winter- woodsmoke in the air on a coastal walk and returning to a hot drink? That's the dream.

Q. Night In or Night Out? A. I think I average one night out a year and complain about it for the following 364 days. I love a book and an armchair.

Q. Cannonball into the swimming pool, or dip a toe in first? A. Cannonball. One of the best bits of advice I got from a former colleague was to 'swallow the frog'- to take the most unpleasant bit of your to do list and make sure you do it without vacillating about it. Jumping in and taking the shock makes sense to me.

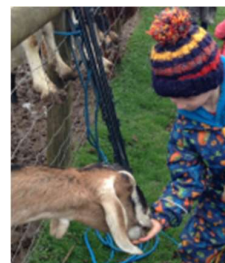
Q. Sunrise or Sunset? A. Sunrise although much closer than smarties debate. Both beautiful, but in the sunrise is the promise of the day ahead. That's the sort of answer I think I should give here. But essentially, I'm asleep by many sunsets so the point is moot!

BEAFORD COMMUNITY PRIMARY



World Book Day

World Book Day provided a great opportunity for us to raise the importance of reading for pleasure. The childrens' costumes were fantastic, and they really enjoyed the day.



Bikeability

The children who took part in Bikeability really enjoyed the challenge of learning the skills needed to ride their bikes safely on the road. They have been learning hand signals, how to pass stationary vehicles and negotiating junctions to name just a few. Carol and Bradley were really impressed with the childrens' perseverance and progress during the training sessions.



Our Partner School in India

We had a great meeting with our partner school in India. We enjoyed sharing and listening to each other's views on our favourite animals and foods, any fears we have, as well as our hopes and wishes for the future.



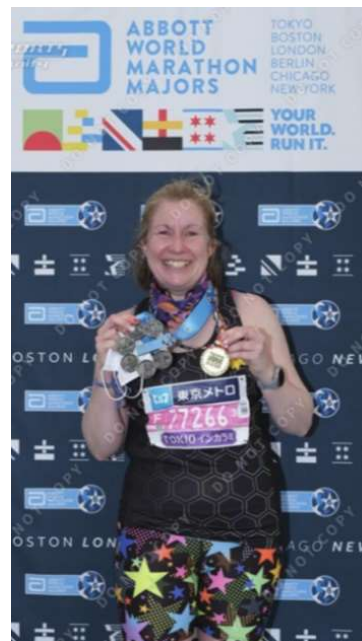
Eco Rangers

Brayford Academy now has six Eco-Rangers – Amelie, Archie, Duke, Rumi, Elsie and Lloyd, who are encouraging the rest of the school to look after our environment. The children have some wonderful ideas which they have been sharing.



Japan Week Celebrations

Our super Head of School - Miss Leggott took part in the World Major Marathon series on March 5th in Tokyo. This involved running six marathons across the world! Tokyo is the last in the series and has been a huge life goal for Miss Leggott. As part of this challenge, we have brought this to life in school! The children have taken part in Japanese art sessions, sushi tasting, Japanese drumming, mini marathon running and much more!





Magnificent Monarchs

This term in Class Two, we started our 'Magnificent Monarch' topic with a DT day based around Queen Victoria's bathing machine. The children designed and created their own using working wheels. We also enjoyed an exciting day learning about the Victorians when Tiverton Museum came to visit.



Chinese New Year

In Class One we've been learning all about celebrations including Chinese New Year, Pancake Day, and Easter.



Gamelan

Class Four enjoyed playing traditional Indonesian instruments.



Fundraising For Turkey/Syria

The children wanted to do some fundraising to help those affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. We held a non-uniform day and did a sponsored run/cycle around our new running track. Jack set up a 'Go Fund Me' page for his sponsored run and has raised a whopping £1,075 on his own!



Mount Everest Base Camp

Pilton Bluecoat received a visit from Simon Lacey who told us all about his trip to base camp at Mount Everest. The children were enthralled by his stories.



Rock and Rapid

The Lower School visited Rock & Rapid as part of their 'Misty Mountain, Winding River' topic.



Bluecoat Big Book Swap

A school of intrigued readers eagerly unwrapped their swapped books.



Athletics

Pilton Bluecoat took part in the Indoor Athletics Finals at Bideford College against 14 of the best schools in North Devon. Bluecoat finished in a fantastic 4th overall and they also won the Inter-school competition at Pilton Community College!



UMBERLEIGH ACADEMY



New Garden Area

We have been really lucky to have a group of parents who spent a day in half term creating a beautiful garden area for the children to play in. There is a mud kitchen/café, a potion station, digging area and endless possibilities for the children to use their imaginations at playtimes. A big thank you to everyone involved for giving up their time to create this for all the children to enjoy.



Trip to Rosemoor

We had a lovely day exploring Rosemoor in February. We saw fish in the pond, explored all the huts we found, listened for sounds at the lake and met some flower pot people.

The children then let off steam in The Copse, exploring the ship and the wooden stepping stones.

World Book Day



Tree Champions Day

We were pleased to host a Tree Champions Day when we welcomed Jasmine from Devon Wildlife Trust. Jasmine worked with the children to plant 200 trees to create a hedgerow around the park. The children worked really hard to complete the job and they also learnt about the benefits of having the trees on the site. A chilly day to be outside but a great way to celebrate our local environment and community.



Essebeare Farm School

We visited Farmer Ollie and continued with the tree planting project. Despite the cold, the children worked tremendously hard and planted 62 saplings including Alder, Hazel, Rowan, Hornbeam and English Oak.



Exmoor and our Partner School

Class 4 visited Exmoor, having learnt about Exmoor as part of our ongoing work with our partner school, Sanjivani International in India. Our children had the opportunity to visit Webbers Post and Snowdrop Valley to see our beautiful national park.



The Big Garden Bird Watch

The children from Witheridge got involved in the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch. They made discs to identify our birds and have even made some bird feeders too!





World Book Day

Winners from each family group (pictured above).



It's all about books

Class visits from our popular storyteller Steve Manning, made history come to life. We covered a range of topics; Mayans (C4), Romans (C3), The Fire of London (C2) and Traditional Tales (C1).

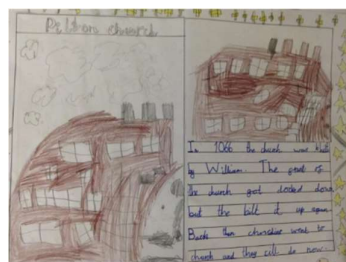
Extreme Reading

Some fantastic entries to our Extreme Reading competition.



New Buildings Coming Soon

Year 2 enjoyed watching building works, ready for the new classrooms which have started to arrive.



The History of Pilton

The children have also enjoyed learning about the history of Pilton.

