



TEAM
MULTI-ACADEMY
TRUST

AUTUMN 2023

NEWSLETTER

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



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we embrace the festive season, I am proud to reflect on the significant achievements and collaborations within our Trust and schools during 2023. This year has seen an extraordinary increase in collaboration, enriching our students' learning with diverse activities like residentials, 'Big Event' curriculum visits, and Trust-wide events in sports, music, and arts. The dedication and talent of our staff have been instrumental in these successes.

Highlighting our year, Brayford Academy, UMBERLEIGH Academy, and Pilton Bluecoat Academy achieved successful Ofsted inspections, exemplifying our commitment to excellent education and personal development. We are truly fortunate to have such dedicated teachers and support staff, whose efforts are fundamental to our accomplishments. Despite challenges from the pandemic and other societal pressures, our school leaders, Trustees, Local Governors, and Central Team have shown remarkable resilience and commitment. Their efforts ensure our schools thrive and our children receive the best possible education.

We were thrilled to welcome Pilton Infants' and Horwood and Newton Tracey Primary School into our Trust this year, alongside a fruitful partnership with Swimbridge Church of England Primary School. These expansions strengthen our educational community and enhance our collective mission.

Christmas is a time for reflection and for spending time with those we love. Our Trust's vision of 'Life, Love, and Learning to the Full' is more relevant now than ever before. Reflecting on the aspect of love in our ethos, it is crucial to consider the most vulnerable members of our local and international community. As we move into 2024, we will continue to inspire our schools to consider how they can continue to be shining beacons of hope for these individuals.

Finally, I would like to thank you for the way in which you have continued to support our schools. As an Executive Headteacher, I know how much I value your patience and positivity. Positive words of encouragement go a long way, and I know our staff across the trust would agree with me on this. On behalf of everyone here at TEAM Multi-Academy Trust, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Thomas'.

Mr Thomas



TEAM WIDE EVENTS AND TRIPS

TEAM MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST CELEBRATES A DAY OF RUGBY, RESILIENCE, AND COMMUNITY

In a display of community and sporting enthusiasm, pupils from Beaford Community Nursery & Primary School, Brayford Academy, High Bickington Academy, Horwood & Newton Tracey Primary School, Pilton Bluecoat Academy, UMBERLEIGH ACADEMY, Swimbridge Primary School and Witheridge Academy were treated to the unforgettable experience of witnessing Wales triumph over the Barbarians in an international rugby match at Cardiff's Principality Stadium.



TEACHERS ROCK

6 very lucky children from Brayford, Pilton Bluecoat and UMBERLEIGH were invited to join the Teachers Rock Academy choir this term with Mrs Ashcroft and Mrs Brayley.

During half term they travelled up to London with 80 Teachers Rock choir members to record an album at the iconic Abbey Road Studios (made famous by the Beatles along with many other famous recording artists and groups). What an experience!

And just last week they all performed in Exeter Cathedral; we are so proud of every child who took part. Did you spot them on BBC Spotlight? Do check out our Facebook page to see more.



GO BEYOND – WITH PATRON KATE WINSLET

Children from around the Trust continued with even more trips to Go Beyond this term in Cornwall. They even got to meet Kate Winslet who has recently become a Patron for the Go Beyond Charity. Kate has written all about her experience with the children in an article for the telegraph. To read more, please visit <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/christmas/2023/12/03/kate-winslet-go-beyond-childrens-charity-telegraph-appeal/>



TEAM WIDE EVENTS AND TRIPS CONTINUED

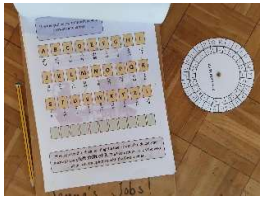
MATHS CHALLENGE

A big thank you to Miss Edwards, our Maths lead, for arranging the Team Multi Academy Trust Maths Challenge this term, which was hosted at Pilton Bluecoat.

The pupils were split into teams of three or four combining pupils from Witheridge, Brayford, Umberleigh, Pilton Bluecoat, High Bickington and Swimbridge schools.

The teams were given a short presentation about the part Bletchley Park played during the world wars in decoding messages by the Germans, including how the Enigma Machine was instrumental in this process, combined with the talents of many mathematicians.

Teams were given a challenge of finding orienteering markers by solving mathematical fraction problems to find out a corresponding letter of the alphabet. They then used their own Bletchley Park code-breaking dial to find out the true letters.



MINI FIRST AID NORTH DEVON & WEST SOMERSET

Mini First Aid Devon spent a morning at High Bickington and Umberleigh with pupils from across TEAM Multi-Academy Trust. Together they worked through a Kid's First Aid class, where the pupils were outstanding!

First Aid education for children is now part of the National Curriculum in all state schools in the UK, and we are thrilled to be supporting a local business in training our pupils.



TEAM Multi-Academy Trust's Bursar | Wendy Short



My name is Wendy Short and I started as an administrator with Umberleigh Academy when my eldest daughter started school in 1997 (yes, that is a long time ago!!). I became the Business Manager across Brayford and Umberleigh when they joined together. I then took on the role of Trust Bursar when our schools joined Pilton Bluecoat to form the initial TEAM Multi-academy Trust in 2015. I have worked with 6 different headteachers over the years, the funniest being a lady from Birmingham who wasn't used to our country ways. She was totally alarmed when "real cows" were found on the school playing field and horrified when she hit a pheasant driving to school and one of her children said, "I hope you picked it up and put it in your boot for a pheasant pie!" I've loved being involved in all the school activities and was a keen member of the Friends of Umberleigh School when my children attended. I remember when we had a power cut, which lasted several days but school was still open; I went to McDonalds and brought back happy meals for all the children - needless to say they loved that!

Working in the HUB with the central team is very different and I miss the school calendar year and all the interaction with the children and parents. However, it's good to see TEAM evolving and continuing to put all the children at the heart of all their decisions.

Quick Fire Questions

Q. Tea or Coffee? A. Green Tea - my daughter started me on this when she came back from Thailand - now any hot drink with milk just tastes funny!

Q. Smarties or M&M's? A. Neither, my treat is a Barrat nougat bar.

Q. Dogs or Cats? A. Love them both and horses too!

Q. Rugby or Football? A. Rugby - love watching the international games.

Q. Upper School or Lower School? A. Lower - you can't beat the little ones and all the funny things they come out with!

Q. Travel back in time or forward to the future? A. Back in time. Would love to have been a lady back in the Downton Abbey era.

Q. Summer or Winter? A. Actually, Spring and Autumn are my favourites as I love the changing landscapes.

Q. Night In or Night Out? A. Most of the time Night Out - especially when good food is involved!

Q. Sunrise or Sunset? A. Sunset - I'm not a morning person, I love my bed too much!!



OUR KEY DRIVERS

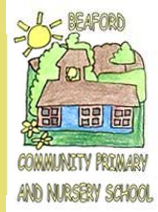
Building Communities

Knowing what it means to be part of a global community and responsible global citizens who works for the good of their community, is something of great importance to us at TEAM Multi-Academy Trust. Whilst with us, we strive to ensure that our children acquire a depth of knowledge about the world in which they live. Through this we want our pupils to build positive relationships with other children in the UK, Europe and from across the wider world. In order to achieve our goals each year group has a global partner country which they learn about and a partner school which they communicate with. Our Big Event curriculum provides plenty of opportunities through each theme to examine a range of global issues that are relevant to the pupil's lives.



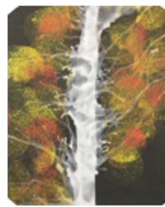
For more information on TEAM's Key Drivers please visit our website www.teamacademytrust.com

BEAFORD COMMUNITY PRIMARY



Moon Zoom

Hedgehogs have been introduced to our new topic, 'Moon Zoom'. They have discussed their prior knowledge on space and have joined in with some counting space rhymes. The children have carried out some moon buggy research and decided on their design ideas in preparation of making their own.



Autumn

In Laybirds this term we have surrounded ourselves in Autumn. The children have been busy creating Autumn trees, using different autumnal items to print and working on their pattern skills. We have looked at 'The Squirrels Who Squabbled' as our inspiration for our Literacy learning, discussing the characters in the book.

Meat Free Mondays Referendum

60 children voted on the question: Should we keep meat free Mondays? 20 voted yes, 39 no and there was one spoiled vote. Before year 2 to 6 cast their votes the children had discussions in class and researched the arguments on both sides. Gemma Underhill kindly came in to talk to the children about the high welfare of British livestock and how British farming practices and buying local produce improve sustainability.

Part of our curriculum is to teach the children the British value of democracy. We've used this process to help them understand that a democratic process can lead to change. We've also stressed the importance of respecting other people's beliefs and of getting information from reliable sources. Recent national referendums have been divisive, but I hope this will not be the case at Beaford. The children recognise that people hold different view points depending on which reasons they value the most.



Cricket

All the children had cricket workshops this term, run by the Chance to Shine charity. Martin Brice, an experienced cricket coach, came and taught the children the basics of bowling, fielding and batting.



Being Kind

The Juniors worked on 'Being Kind and Considerate' this term. The children had some wonderful ideas about being kind to themselves and others.

The Infants also had a go at making their own kindness buckets inspired by the book, 'Have you filled a Bucket today?' By Carol McCloud



Harvest

We celebrated harvest with a service at High Bray Church. Mrs Ashcroft organised a lovely event that everyone enjoyed – a lovely end to half term.



Children's Mental Health Day 2023

Hello Yellow Day, was a great success! The children took part in various activities to recognise how to look after their mental health and well-being. It was lovely to have the whole school working together.

South Molton Museum

The junior children had a wonderful time at South Molton Museum yesterday morning.

They learnt about pottery and jewellery from the Stone Age and even had the opportunity to make their own. The children were also able to look at the museum's own collection of Stone Age artefacts found locally as well handle replicas.





Building Bridges

We have mostly been focused on our DT project to design and make a bridge. We have thought about the 'brief', which was to build a bridge strong enough to allow a 400g model train to pass over a 35cm gap. We were only allowed to use paper, glue or tape for fixings and one piece of thin card for the deck of the bridge. Once we had made scale designs, we set about building using skills such as making cuboids from nets; laminating and corrugating paper to make it stronger and modifying to improve our bridges. Once we had finished, we tested them.



Bonfire Night

Class one has been learning all about bonfire night and Guy Fawkes. We have found out the origins of bonfire night and how we keep ourselves safe. The children have made bonfire night snacks in the form of dipped chocolate apples and astounded us with their instruction writing skills.

Printing with Luna North

What an amazing day we have had in Class Four, working with a professional artist! We learnt so much about lino printing with Luna North and we all feel incredibly happy with our finished prints. It was very delicate and risky work, and although we had safety equipment, one or two of us did manage to cut our fingers! When we make our next lino cuts for printing, we will be super-careful! The class was split into two for the print-making, and the other half enjoyed tag-rugby with Mr Norton. Our skills are really coming on well!



Alien Crash Landing

In Class Two, the Year 2 children have been developing their alien crash landing stories which were inspired by the picture book 'Beegu'. The children have been designing and creating background scenery to illustrate their stories and will soon be turning them into short films. The Beegu films are now available to watch on the website! <https://www.high-bickington-primary.devon.sch.uk/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=103>

HORWOOD & NEWTON TRACEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



John Townsend

We also welcomed John Townsend to our school to talk to each class about his books and about being an author. Our children loved hearing John's stories and Appledore Book Festival has kindly donated some of John's books for our school library.



Dogs Trust

In September, our children enjoyed learning how to behave safely around dogs during our assembly and class workshops.



Steve Manning

Steve Manning, storyteller, visited us in November and spoke to class 3 about WW2. He brought artefacts for us to look at and told us stories about an air raid warden. We learnt more about rationing, the Blitz and gas masks and also shared some of our knowledge with Steve. Steve also worked with Nursery, Class 1, 2 and 4 and brought our History curriculum to life for all of our children!

TEAM work makes the dream work

Thank you to everybody for coming to our special event in the Village Hall to celebrate HNTPS joining TEAM Multi-Academy Trust. The children performed very well and we were all very impressed with their singing, presenting skills and enthusiasm. Well done! Also, a big thank you to Mrs Robinson for baking special TEAM biscuits for all children, staff and families!





Britain in Bloom

Simon, a dedicated volunteer at our school, is an exemplary figure who invests his time in gardening projects with our children. His efforts have not only nurtured our gardens but also the hearts of everyone at Pilton Bluecoat Academy. Within the Celebration Assembly we presented him and the children with the Outstanding RHS Gardening Award. His impact on our students is immeasurable, and we are deeply thankful for his dedication.



Spain

At our school, fostering an international perspective is a cornerstone of our ethos. We are committed to broadening our students' horizons, enriching their understanding of their community, the UK, and the wider world. Our partnership with our friends in Spain is a testament to this, and I am excited about the upcoming virtual meeting with teachers in Potsdam, Germany, which promises to further expand our international collaboration.

Barnstaple Museum

Our Year 4 students embarked on an exciting journey, while Years 5 and 6 had the unique opportunity to interact with real-life artifacts from Barnstaple Museum related to WW2. This approach to immersive learning has inspired high-quality writing and deepened their understanding of history.

Bray Leino

In line with our new Relational Policy, we've been working closely with our staff and students on our 'Code of Conduct' this Autumn. We are grateful to Bray Leino for their assistance in designing new posters that embody these values, soon to be displayed around the school. A heartfelt thanks to Bray Leino for their invaluable support and the generous donation of £50 worth of food as part of their 50th anniversary, which has been warmly received and will make a considerable impact to families within our community.



PILTON INFANTS' SCHOOL

The Nativity Story

In our Reception classes we have been learning the nativity story. After learning the story, we have been writing a sentence about Mary using the tricky word 'she' to write a 'she is' sentence.



Signs of Autumn

In science this term we have identified the signs of Autumn and completed a walk around the school collecting data for all the signs of autumn that we can see.



Our New School Vision

Each of our classes have produced a piece of art linked to the new school vision. I think you'll agree they have done a fabulous job!



Pilton Infants' Vision: A school community of calmness, fun and positive relationships where all children reach their potential and create the building blocks for future success.



At Umberleigh Academy we are very proud of our curriculum offer. We feel it is paramount that the children are provided with a broad and balanced curriculum where all subjects are valued and taught well. In order to achieve this, we have a curriculum vision built on four drivers: Building Learning Power, Building Community, Building Self-Esteem and Building Futures. Everything we do and the decisions we make are hinged on these four drivers. For example, our educational trips build learning power as they bring the learning in the classroom to life.



Kents Cavern

The Junior's trip to Kents Cavern was a really good way to extend and support our Stone Age topic and we hope the children were enthused to learn more. Perhaps a few children will be inspired to become an archaeologist in the future (Building Futures). Our themed days also support the curriculum through Building Community - learning about The Freedom Centre and raising money for Children in Need, for example, helps the children understand their wider community and the people in it. Building Self-Esteem is possibly the most important of our drivers. Learning is not successful unless our children have a frame of mind, Building Community ~ Building Futures ~ Building Learning Power ~ Building Self Esteem, that lets them celebrate their strengths, challenge their weaknesses, and feel good about themselves. High self-esteem allows us to put daily ups and downs in perspective because, at our core, we value, trust and respect ourselves. Staff at Umberleigh Academy work tirelessly to support all the children to improve their sense of worth in, not only the activities provided, but the way in which each individual is valued and treated with respect.



Music Sharing Assembly

Mrs Brayley was so proud of children who overcame their nerves and got up and performed in front of an audience of parents and carers. Their passion for music, whether in singing or playing instruments, is a source of immense joy and pride for our school community.



Children in Need

We raised £827!





Christingle

We have enjoyed our special Christingle Service, which was led by Adrian and Sue. The children spent some time finding out about the Christingle and the meaning behind it. And had an opportunity to make their own Christingle, which they all took home.



Messy Church

It was lovely to welcome volunteers from our Church community to lead a Messy Church session in school this term.

The children loved participating in the different activities, including loading the donkey and making Christmas Star decorations.

Please see the video on our Witheridge Facebook page, for the Messy Church children joining in with The Journey to Bethlehem.



Black History Month

Thank you to all the Parents and Carers who came to visit our Black History Month display - it was great to see the hall busy and bustling after school and for the children to have the opportunity to show off their learning.

Class One [#muhammadali](#) | Class Four [#kenningpoem](#) | Reception Class [#GarrettMorgan](#) | Class Two [#davidwilcot](#) | Class Three [#luciusseptimiusseverus](#)

Football

On Monday (6th), we had our first football league fixture of the season away at Bishops Nympton Primary School. Last year, in this same fixture, we were on the receiving end of a 15-0 loss so the children were eager for some sporting revenge.

We started the match very well and our defence looked solid from the start. Towards the end of the first half, Tate turned in a wonderful cross from wide to open the scoring. 1-0 to Witheridge!

In the second half, the game was much more open but our boys and girls answered every question that was asked and the game finished with a convincing 1-0 score line.

3 points, a clean sheet and a wonderful performance from all 13 of our footballers.



SWIMBRIDGE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL



Paignton Zoo

The children have enjoyed trips to Paignton Zoo this term, taking advantage of the free visits offered to local schools to celebrate their 100th year. The KS2 children went on a lovely warm day in September and saw a wonderful mix of animals during a tour and had a special session where they learnt about the giraffes up close and personal! KS1 weren't quite so lucky with the weather in November but still enjoyed a fun-packed day. Their favourites were the gorillas, the roaring lions, the baboons and the lemurs along with crossing the 'wobbly' bridge!

Appledore Book Festival

At the end of September, two authors came to visit as part of the Appledore Book Festival; inspiring our pupils, introducing them to new books and showcasing life as an author and the writing process. The Waterstones Children's Laureate, Joseph Coelho, visited the Adventurers and Discoverers. The children enjoyed listening to Joseph's poems and stories; joining in with the actions and words. The Key Stage 2 children were visited by Jenny McLachlan, the author of the 'Land of Roar' series of books. She talked about how she enjoyed reading and playing creatively as a child which is why she decided to be a writer. The children put on a play about the Land of Roar and learnt how to draw S.Tink the fairy.



TOP TIPS FOR KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE THIS CHRISTMAS

As millions of children get ready to unwrap internet-enabled gadgets on Christmas morning, families are being encouraged to discuss **staying safe online**.

Mobile phones, tablets and laptops can open up a world of exploration, learning and fun and children should be encouraged to make the most of the benefits.

But there are also risks and dangers to being online, and by working together parents and children can learn to safely navigate the internet and social media. Top tips for staying safe are:

- Explain how children can use privacy settings to make sure only approved friends can see posts and images, and warn them about sharing personal information
- Check if any of the mobile apps they use have location services enabled, and disable this if they do not want to be tracked
- Show them how to report offensive comments or block people who upset them
- Check 'tagging' settings so that when others are posting or sharing photos online, your child's identity is not revealed
- Encourage your child to come and talk to you if they see anything that upsets them
- Ask them to show you which social media apps they use, what they like about them and talk about how to use them safely

For more advice on **keeping children safe online this Christmas**, please visit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/keep-children-safe-online-this-christmas-top-tips>





WE NEED YOU.

We are looking for keen and enthusiastic volunteers to join our Local Governing Bodies (LGB) as a school Governor and/or a Trustee.

Governor

The role of a School Governor is key in ensuring the school offers high standards of education for all children.

Each school within TEAM Multi -Academy Trust has its own Local Governing Body. The LGB meet once or twice a term and are encouraged to join in with our school visits and learning walks throughout the school year. This is a voluntary position and training is available for this role.

Trustee

Our Trustees oversee the strategic direction of the Trust schools along with holding the senior school leadership to account and monitoring the trust’s finances– amongst many other aspects of school performance.

They can draw on their own expertise from all aspects of business and industry and have specific interests as part of their role such as – Curriculum, Personnel, Admissions, Finance, Safeguarding, Premises or SEND. They meet approximately 6 times a year as a whole group and are active within a range of committees and individual portfolios.

VOLUNTEERING IN THIS WAY BRINGS MANY REWARDS. YOU WILL ENJOY WORKING ALONGSIDE LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE AND GET REAL SATISFACTION AT USING YOUR SKILLS TO CREATE A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR CHILDREN.

If you are interested in volunteering or to find out more about being a local governor at your school or a TEAM trustee, then we would love to hear from you. Please email vacancies@team-mat.org.uk



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