

Newsletter No. 28: 25th April 2022

Dear all

Welcome back to Term 5 and the start of the first full national test and exam season in three years. Year 6 SATS are a mere week away and GCSEs and A levels follow shortly afterwards. It's a challenging time for children and young people in any year but in 2022, when so many will not have benefitted from seeing their siblings and older friends go through the process over the last couple of years, the demands may seem even greater. We offer all our pupils and students very best wishes and would like to remind them that if they need help, staff will be on hand in all our academies.

This Spring we remind ourselves of the thousands of Ukrainian children and young people not currently able to access their normal education, including many who would have been sitting examinations as part of their completion of the secondary phase. Here in Magna Learning Partnership we have been doing our best to support families suffering as a result of the ongoing war: in the week we returned from the half term break we heard about the Ukrainian parents of a student at The Trafalgar School who had set up an appeal for warm clothing, blankets and other goods. By the end of that first week we had collected literally tons of goods which were collected from each school by a team of our minibus drivers, taken to Downton and then on to containers for lorries heading out to Ukraine and Poland. On the penultimate Friday of the term we joined the Youth4Ukraine appeal set up by the Wiltshire Youth Parliament and raised £4,135.19 across all academies. This was a really marvellous effort; thank you so much to everyone who participated in these two appeals. You have been very generous.

In this newsletter you will read of the many and varied activities held across our schools and college this term; in some cases it has been quite extraordinary that events, trips and visits have continued when the pressure on staffing owing to Covid has been so great. Last month we also held the formal opening of the new 3G all-weather pitch at Sarum Academy. We were pleased that John Glen, MP for Salisbury was able to join us, even though he forgot his suitable shoes and had to go in goal in his socks! We are, of course, delighted that so many school children and adult groups are now making use of this fantastic facility on a weekly basis.

Families of Wyvern St Edmund's will know that last month we appointed a new Headteacher for the school, which will become a single legal entity in September. Mrs Louise Henderson, currently Head of College at S6C will take on the leadership of the 'new' school from September 1st, following on from Acting Head of School Mr Bruce Burley. Mrs Henderson's appointment leaves a vacancy at S6C and we intend to appoint her successor next month.

Finally, I wish all of you a happy and healthy Term 5. It's a short one at less than five weeks, but there will be plenty to cram in I'm sure.

With good wishes

Sarah Busby
Chief Executive Officer



Amesbury Archer



Sports Round Up

On Friday 25th March, a team of Year 6 pupils played in a football tournament at Sarum Academy. The event was held on the brand new 3G pitch and attended by several local schools and dignitaries including the Mayor of Salisbury and John Glen MP. Mrs White worked her coaching magic, the team played fantastically and emerged as tournament winners! A well-deserved result.



AAPS Reception

During term 4 in Reception, we became palaeontologists, discovering fossils and learning about dinosaurs. We looked at lots of real fossils and made our own ammonites in salt dough, and dinosaur skeletons using art straws. We also learnt loads of amazing facts about dinosaurs.

Both classes started the term with a large, mysterious egg to look after and keep warm. After a few weeks, they hatched into friendly, baby dinosaurs!



After looking at photographs of real dinosaur footprint fossils, we talked about how they were made. We then carried out an investigation to answer the following question: 'Where was the best habitat for a dinosaur to leave his footprint, so that it could eventually turn into a fossil?'

We walked the big dinosaurs through trays of - wet sand, dry sand, mud, grass, water and stones - and looked to see if they made any footprints.

The highlight of our dinosaur topic, was when two visiting T-Rex dinosaurs arrived – Sid and Tilly. They both got up to some serious mischief during the night!



Bemerton St John



Celebrating Science Week

We were delighted to have an inspirational space engineer, Amanda Cooper from Thales, in school to give an exciting presentation on the growth of the space industry. All the pupils (and staff!) listened in awe as Amanda talked about satellites, lunar habitats and travelling back to the moon. Many children asked engaging questions and hopefully, were inspired to be our future engineers!



Plant a Tree for the Queen's Jubilee



We have continued Science Week in school by planting hedges and a tree in our front open space. Thank you to Mrs Hill for sourcing hedges and trees for the children to plant to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee: Plant a Tree for the Jubilee. Another big thanks to Mr Lever (Mrs Lever's husband) from SGS Heating and Electrical, for the kind donation of gardening equipment, compost and more seeds to help us with this project. By the end of the week, all pupils had enjoyed taking part in either digging or planting and we now look forward to seeing everything grow and become a welcoming area for wildlife.

Year 6 PGL Trip

During the Year 6 visit to PGL in Liddington, Swindon our children were praised by PGL staff for their behaviour and attitude throughout the week. We could not be prouder of them in the way they represented our school. Children from Eagles class had a wonderful week away, taking part in a range of activities including supporting each other with team building exercises. Well done to everyone who spent the week away.



Pembroke Park



Term 4 at Pembroke Park was incredibly challenging with 3 weeks of incredibly high Covid-19 infections across staff and pupils. Nonetheless, Team Pembroke did an incredible job of pulling together and going above and beyond to ensure pupils remained safe, happy and learning. A huge thanks to the whole team!

Despite the challenges, there have been some incredibly exciting things happening across the school, with lots to celebrate including our newly introduced reading raffle that gives children the opportunity to win a brand new book of their own, this has already been a huge hit!

Team Pembroke showed incredible support for the Ukraine appeal with a significant number of items donated to the cause and £444 collected on our fundraiser day. This was then followed by an incredibly successful book fair with £933 in sales, which will mean over £400 worth of books for the classes. Thank you to our incredible community for really pulling together.



Early Years were inspired by The Gingerbread Man. They created gingerbread men models out of scented salt dough which led to some fantastic story telling.

Key Stage 1 pupils attended a music workshop run by a cast member of the West End Musical 'Stomp'. They were shown ways to use their bodies to make beats and rhythms and practised repeating them back to one another.



Year 4 children had a session with Stage 65 and took part in drama games. This was a resounding success and really inspired many pupils.

During British Science week, Year 6 were lucky enough to take part in a lesson delivered by Mrs Castle from Sarum Academy. The children had fun creating their very own lava lamps using observation skills to examine how particles of oil, water and food colouring behave.



They also enjoyed learning about the Stone Age to Iron Age, including research around the Amesbury Archer.



ARTiculation - Outstanding Achievement in the National Finals Scarlett A, Year 12 Art Student

The ARTiculation initiative was established in 2006 by the Roche Court Educational Trust (RCET). By 2009, ARTiculation had become a national competition partnering with Clare College, University of Cambridge where the first national finals were held. The annual ARTiculation Prize invites those aged between 16 and 19 to deliver a 10-minute presentation to an audience about a work of art, architecture or an artefact in a museum or gallery setting. Over 1000 young people delivered presentations as part of their internal school heats and we were delighted that one of the 130 young people selected to deliver their ten-minute talk to audiences across the country was a Year 12 student from S6C, Scarlett A.

On Wednesday, 22nd March, Scarlett went to London for the grand finals of ARTiculation. Scarlett's presentation was on L'Inconnue de la Seine, and although having practised, nothing could have prepared her for the presentation in front of around 300 people at the National Gallery. The experience was incredible and Scarlett was awarded second place, a wonderful achievement!



Scarlett (centre in the white jacket) with the other ARTiculation Finalists

Scarlett said this about the experience;

"In my presentation I looked at the L'Inconnue de la Seine, and discussed the romanticisation of the female tragedy, and our fixation on a woman's suicide. How the death of an unknown woman left room for thousands to make judgements on the life they assume she had, most imagining her as a heart broken woman, with virtually no evidence to support this. How society twisted her life into a dark fairy-tale of love, heartbreak and suicide.

I sought to make audiences question not just how they look at the artwork L'Inconnue de la Seine, but how this theme floods almost every medium of expression: poetry, plays and novels. Art, like literature or other mediums, should allow us to think deeply and search for real meaning and truth.

I met some lovely people and had a really amazing time listening to everyone's presentations. Winning second place was just the cherry on the top of what had become one of the best experiences I've ever had".

Sarum Academy



'Check it Out' Week

Term 4 at Sarum Academy started with an excellent 'Check It Out!' week in partnership with The Bridge. Students and staff enjoyed the connect café, the escape rooms which were focussed on modern day slavery and of course DJ Jozzy who is a firm friend of the Academy. Jozzy shared his testimony in assembly and also ran a number of DJ workshops and silent discos.

CHECK IT OUT WEEK 2022

CONNECT CAFE
1900 Students
85 Staff

THE ESCAPE ROOM WAS SO INTERESTING AND EXCITING!

THE CAFE WAS SO RELAXING, LOVELY SPACE TO RELAX AND REFLECT

REALLY INSPIRATIONAL AND UPLIFTING!
20 Lessons
500 students

ESCAPE ROOM
200 students

DJ JOZZY
30 students DJ Workshop
Whole school Collective Worship
100 Silent Disco
250 students and 80 Staff Silenced

THIS WEEK HAS ACTUALLY MADE ME WANT TO COME TO SCHOOL!

Acts of Kindness
A key part of the week was encouraging students and staff to connect with one another through kindness. We were able to work around learning students who struggle and challenge them to give our best effort of encouragement to someone who might need it.



QinetiQ Helicopter

As part of British Science week and to support Year 7s exposure to STEM careers, QinetiQ pilots thrilled students and staff alike by flying in on a helicopter visit on Friday, 18th March. Students were incredibly blessed with the weather and were able to watch the helicopter come in and land and take off in beautiful blue skies! Not only were students able to look around the helicopter and have a full tour learning about engineering and aeronautics, they were also able to witness a short presentation from the Pilots and Engineer about their roles and their journey to get there. A huge thanks to QinetiQ for enabling the visit!

The New Forest School



Ukraine was at the fore front of our hearts and minds during Term 4.

It was clear that our children needed to talk and understand what was happening in Ukraine. The first thing the spiritual prefects did was set up a prayer space so children could share their thoughts and worries collectively. We shared stories in class about refugees and what it must be like for children to be displaced from their homeland and even families.

One of the local families set up a quick response collection during the first week, and as a school we collected 10 boxes of goods that were packaged and sent off to Poland. A small group of year 6 children helped to organise and sort the packages.

We ended the term, alongside the other academies in the Trust and Wiltshire with a Blue and Yellow Day to raise funds for DEC to help support families in Ukraine.

Here are some prayers written by our Year 1 children:

Dear God, please save Ukraine and protect the people, Amen - Sienna

Dear God, please help the Ukrainian people and somehow get them some food and water, Amen - Ellie

Dear God, please help the people in Ukraine to keep safe, Amen – Rowan

Dear God, please can you help the people of Ukraine to keep them safe and happy, Amen – Ada



The Trafalgar School

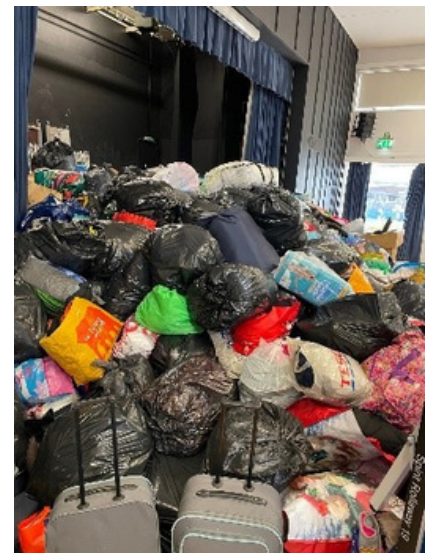


The Trafalgar School
at Downton

At Trafalgar, Term 4 started with a phenomenal response to an appeal for donations to support a Trafalgar Ukrainian family who were driving aid to areas of need around Ukraine.

Our stage was overflowing and then came the donations from other MLP academies. Not only did staff and students help to load the two vans but some also gave up their Friday evening and Saturday to sort it all before being dispatched on the journey to Eastern Europe.

The non-uniform day supporting Youth4Ukraine was embraced by students and staff finding solidarity in their wardrobes.



Our rugby teams - both boys & girls - have excelled, with a renewed passion for the game under Mr Lerpiniere's dedicated, enthusiastic and knowledgeable coaching along with a generous helping of Mr Landon's expert guidance and support. Our football teams have really progressed too. The PE department continue to make physical health more fun and accessible with body conditioning, Couch to 5K and even cross country with the school dog, Boo!



Wyvern St Edmund's



Term 4 saw the welcome return of educational visits out of school as part of the Personal Development Day on Tuesday 15th March with trips running to Lulworth Cove, Salisbury city centre, Bovington Tank Museum, S6C, Go Ape and Victoria Park in Southampton. Year 10 students remained on site for a work experience day whilst year 11s completed a range of activities to help prepare them for their upcoming exams. Our next PDD takes place on the 4th May.



Duke of Edinburgh Award practice expeditions took place in the middle of March. 84 year 9 Bronze Award students put their training to good use and walked from Winterslow back to school before setting up camp for the night. They were joined by 27 Silver Award students who were refreshing their skills ahead of their practice expedition.

The Wyvern St Edmund's Greenpower Engineering Club has proven to be very popular with 40 dedicated students working hard to raise funds for two electric race karts – one off the shelf kit car for the younger students to learn the fundamentals and another custom build one for older students. The club has set up a Go Fund Me page and is also seeking sponsorship from local businesses. So far the club has raised nearly 20% of their £10,000 goal.

