

Newsletter No. 31: 1 November 2022

Welcome back to Term 2 and I hope you all enjoyed a good break over the last ten days. As you'll see in this edition of our newsletter, there has been a lot going on in all our academies and much to celebrate. We have welcomed hundreds of new pupils and students to the Trust, who have settled very well indeed into their respective schools and college and we have also been pleased to have a number of new staff join us for the new academic year. Yesterday all the staff in Magna Learning Partnership came together for our annual conference, the first time we have been able to host an in person event in three years. It was wonderful to see everyone together at Sarum Academy, all focused firmly on the work that we do as a team to support your children in their educational journey.

One of the objectives we have set ourselves as a Trust for the year is to secure high attendance for all our children and young people. I'm sure you will be aware of this via communications from your children's school or college. However, we need to ensure that attendance returns to 'normal', in other words, what it was before the pandemic – and then continue to build on that 'normal' so that in every academy, every pupil or student is actively engaged in learning every day. The evidence for high attendance is stark; regardless of ability, those who have 95% attendance or higher read fluently by the age of 7, achieve better in KS2 SATS, gain higher GCSE grades and score best at A level and vocational examinations, leading to better opportunities in higher education and in employment.

As well as the academic benefits, it's clear that most children and young people are happiest in school or college; their mental health and well-being is significantly improved if they are able to avoid the need to catch up on their learning, their relationships with adults and peers and their opportunities to take part in activities on offer. Please, parents, do all you can to ensure that in Term 2 this year, your child attends every day.

If, of course, you need attendance support, please contact your child's school or college, where there will be a member of staff able to help.

I hope you all enjoy a happy and healthy Term 2. It will soon be Christmas!

Sarah Busby
Chief Executive Officer

Amesbury Archer



It is clear that the children throughout the school have returned with positive learning attitudes and we are seeing a high standard of work produced, especially in writing.

Our focus this term has been on aspiration, and it has been great to see the children 'Aim High' and try their best.

We are continuing our Thinking School journey and children are beginning to use the frames and question matrix to further their understanding.

The Community Garden with Peace Poles outside KS1 has been given some TLC recently. We are lucky to have members of the local community who have been coming in and making sure it is looking fabulous!

The new Reception children at AAPS have all settled in really well. They have enjoyed making new friends and had lots of fun playing and learning together. They have focused on learning the story of 'The 3 Little Pigs' using a story map and actions. The children loved making pig puppets and taking photos of them with the iPad, building pig houses out of Lego, and investigating how strong different materials around the classroom were for the pig's houses. They even flapped a thick piece of card for the wolf's 'puffs,' counting how many were needed to blow each house down!

Once they were confident with the original story, they had a go at changing and innovating the story into 'The 3 Little Penguins and the Polar Bear', 'The 3 Little Caterpillars and the Hedgehog' or similar.



The highlight of the term for Year 4 children was the Roman workshop. The children had a fantastic day actively learning about the Romans. They had a great day with the visitors and were thoroughly immersed in the experience.

Year 5 children have loved investigative aspects of science this term, which we have been focusing on in all year groups in order to achieve the PSQM (Primary Science Quality Mark) later this academic year. Some of the Year 5 Science has focused on materials and their properties with the children completing various experiments to test dissolving as well as creating a sequence of instructions to produce their own rock salt!

Bemerton St John



What a busy and exciting first term of the new academic year! The children settled wonderfully well into their new classes and our Reception pupils have had a brilliant beginning to their Bemerton journey, becoming familiar with new routines and enjoying a range of learning experiences already.



Harvest Service

On Friday 15th October, we were honoured to be joined by the Archdeacon of Sarum, Alan Jeans, for our Harvest Festival; his last visit to our school was eleven years ago, when he attended a previous Harvest celebration. Held in St John's Place, our Year 5 children led the engaging and entertaining service with confidence. Singing, art work, dance and memorised factual information, all around the theme of 'Thanking the Farmers', was delightfully received by the whole school and the audience of parents – there was even a rap for us to enjoy! Our Year 3 class also received their Bibles, presented by the Archdeacon, which are used in Key Stage 2 RE lessons and then presented to them again as part of their Year 6 leavers service. Well done and thank you to all involved.

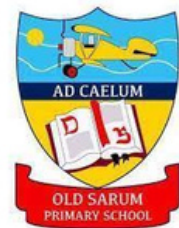


Trim Trail Transformation

All our children watched with a sense of wonderment and great anticipation whilst our new trim trail was being installed on the playground. Our previous construction had been in place for a number of years, therefore an upgrade was due. Last year's School Council undertook the task of planning the new equipment, a vision which has now been brought to life!



Old Sarum



Welcoming our new Reception class

Our Reception children have settled in beautifully, learning the routines of the school and making new friends. We look forward to the rest of the Autumn term where children will be baking bread and making pumpkin soup, and of course preparing for one of the highlights of the school calendar: the Nativity!



Year 4 Visit to Milestones Museum

Our Year 4 pupils visited the Living History Museum in Basingstoke as part of their 'Industry and Invention' learning. The children enjoyed participating in a Victorian school lesson where they discovered how different learning was to their own experience. They learned how the Industrial Revolution impacted the Anna Valley, as well as enjoying exploring the museum to see artefacts in context following classroom lessons.



Year 6 Maths in Action at Salisbury Racecourse

Year 6 pupils spent a worthwhile day using horse racing as a means to put measure in real life context. This was done by measuring the perimeter of the parade ring, converting from imperial to metric for the jockey weighing system and measuring the distance of track. Year 6 also visited the **Steam Museum in Swindon** where the children experienced an immersive day as an evacuee in World War 2. This inspired fantastic writing outcomes in History and English lessons.



International Day of Democracy

The whole school enjoyed learning about how democracy works, culminating in the voting of our new School Council for this academic year. The Council are looking forward to working together to represent their peers and take our school from strength to strength!



Pembroke Park

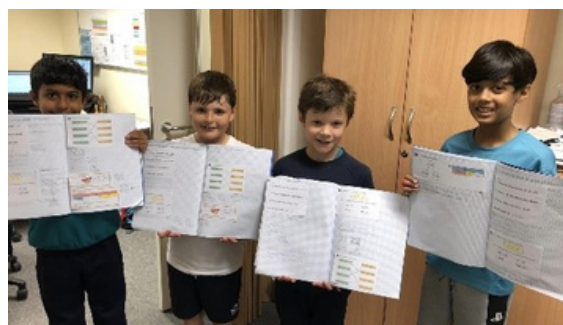


Pembroke Park Primary School & Nursery

Term 1 has been an incredibly exciting term for our school. Pembroke Park doors are wide-open for any visitors who wish to come and see the amazing learning going on within our classrooms. We are so proud of the rapid improvements being made and our children are so proud to share this with visitors to the school.

We love seeing our children share their learning and taking real care over their presentation. Early Years is always an absolute delight to visit and see their new curriculum in action. Our newest children are already so well-settled thanks to the nurturing approach of our Early Years team. They are particularly keen to share their story retelling and their learning activities both inside and in our spacious, inviting outdoor area.

This term, we have offered additional PE lessons to improve our children's physical and mental health and weekly coaching sessions for children in our sports teams. We have had teams competing in football and tri golf and continue to have a full calendar of competitions. We have also introduced a new music teacher who is providing individual music tuition each week.



Year 6 residential – PGL Liddington

In September, Year 6 had a 3-night residential at PGL Liddington. The residential was jam-packed with activities and we felt so privileged to see every single child overcome any worries or fears and achieve more and more each day. They had raft building, abseiling, rock climbing, team challenges, a giant swing and a campfire to name a few! The support shown to each other was heart-warming and we know they will have amazing memories for life from this experience.

The S6C term began with students enjoying an eclectic mix of extra-curricular activities alongside their usual studies:

Our Life Skills sessions are themed on a pathway from Year 12 to Year 13 and beyond. Year 12 begins with a series based on our college vision of supporting students to 'Be the Best Version of Yourself' and our Pastoral Lead, Rebecca, delivered a year group talk on how we can all support the LGBTQ+ community at S6C and in wider society. Year 13 are forging ahead with their Destinations sessions with practical tasks to be completed by all students, whether they are aiming to go straight into employment, apprenticeships or university.

Clubs and societies have now launched with students signing up to join football and netball teams and play badminton and snooker. The environmental club are organising local litter picks and planting seeds around the college site and as part of our enrichment programme students have begun learning to knit.

Year 12 Art and Photography students took their first gallery trip to Southampton, viewing a range of work, from graphic novels and character development to sculptural installations and mixed media landscapes - there was something for everyone.



Humanities

History and Philosophy students were delighted to take up some complimentary tickets from Arundells to attend their talk by Sir Trevor Phillips at Salisbury Museum. The informal lecture covered his career as a TV presenter and columnist and his work as a leading advocate for freedom of expression.

This was a truly inspiring talk about not only events from the past but how we should be looking to deal with the challenges we face today. This also made a great addition to our Black History month programme.



Mental Health and Wellbeing

On Tuesday 11 October the college was buzzing with our first Development Day of the year. We were delighted to see so many students and staff taking part and trying new things. The programme of activities was incredibly diverse, encouraging everyone to CONNECT, BE ACTIVE, TAKE NOTICE, KEEP LEARNING and GIVE. We felt immensely proud of the care and energy generated on the day and are looking forward to seeing how we can use what we learnt, both in college and in the wider community.

Sarum Academy



Environment Symposium

On Tuesday, the 11th October, a group of Year 7 and Year 8 students attended the environmental sustainability symposium at Godolphin School.

The students were exposed to a range of environmental developments in the fields of business, marketing and engineering whilst also looking at the ways we can help combat climate change. The morning session was primarily delivered by the host whose knowledge and understanding of key issues was invaluable to the students, this was followed by a guest speaker promoting the importance of fair trade products and the negative impacts of 'fast fashion'.

The afternoon saw the students attend a carousel of workshops where they had the opportunity to get involved in a range of campaigns and activities from conservation to electric vehicles.

The students were superstars on the day and really did the Academy proud.

In Memory of the Queen

Sarum Academy honoured ten days of mourning for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Chapel was arranged so that students and staff could have private reflection. All students visited the Chapel through their Religious Education lessons.

They were encouraged to take time out of their busy school day to gather their thoughts and pay their respects to the Queen in whichever way they wished.

Many students and staff members wrote prayers and messages to The Queen and these were displayed on The Chapel window, which then created a beautiful display in the form of a Union Jack.

Our School Chaplain, Mel McDaniel and teachers helped us to reflect on The Queen's reign and process our emotions, both individually and as a school community.

May we all look to learn from and embody her example to us as our Queen.

May she rest in peace.



The New Forest School



The New Forest School is committed to supporting children to live a healthy and happy life. We are proud to have been awarded the 'Silver Healthy Schools Award' for 2022 - 25.



A key part of the project was to ensure all children have access to regular physical exercise. The school has installed 'trim trails', table tennis tables, outdoor gyms to ensure that all children have lots of opportunities to get outside. We also have an active Forest School's program and children at KS2 participate in a wide range of sports both in school and out. The promotion of physical activity is combined with the curriculum to share the importance of healthy eating, mental well-being and keeping healthy in a range of ways.

In Term 1, the children took part in an 'Oral Health Project'. The project focused on educating children about both brushing their teeth regularly, as well as ensuring they understood a healthy diet contributed to healthy teeth. After initial surveys, assemblies and work during their PSHE lessons, the impact was measured. The numbers of children brushing their teeth every morning increased from 61% to 85%. Children who said they sometimes or never brushed in the morning decreased from 39% to 15%, with 0% saying that they never brushed their teeth in the morning by the end of the project.



The Trafalgar School



The Trafalgar School
at Downton

The Great Big Bake-off

Last week, we judged the annual Great Big Bake-Off finals, our annual baking competition. Once again, the application of the students, their creativity, and culinary expertise must be applauded and recognised. The quality of baking was beyond their years and they would have given any contestant (and maybe the judges) on a well-known TV programme a run for their money.



The Battle for Trafalgar

Battle has commenced at Trafalgar in Year 7 with Breamore House arriving armed to the teeth with shields and swords. Don't worry, a re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings was the end game, played out on the school field with Mr Whitelock marshalling the troops. We look forward to seeing the rest of Year 7 after the half term.



Trying Times

Rugby continues to grow in popularity and prestige at The Trafalgar School at Downton with teams across all Year groups, for boys and girls, growing in both skill and confidence. Trafalgar is quickly earning a growing reputation as a high performing rugby school. Teams are now competing at the highest level, with students participating outside school for Salisbury, Bath and London Irish.



Faraday Challenge

Year 8 students from Trafalgar were the 2022 interschool's Faraday Challenge winners, beating teams from across Salisbury. The Faraday Challenge is an annual competition that introduces students to engineering, inspiring them to consider engineering as a career and helps to develop their practical and employability skills, including team working, problem solving and creative thinking. Mr Sawyer, Head of Design Technology, was both very proud and delighted.



Wyvern St Edmund's

Providing service leadership to our community - sporting participation, sporting excellence



Wyvern St Edmund's
Learning Campus

School Games Co-Ordinator Update: FA Refereeing Course

On the 15th of September, over 20 Year 9 and 10 Young Ambassadors and members of the football team attended a FA Referee's course. A quick classroom session covering the rules of the game and the basics of refereeing was followed by an outdoor session practising whistle blowing and hand signal skills. The qualification enabled participants to referee the Year 5 & 6 girls and mixed football competitions at Pembroke Park as well as the Year 3 & 4 mixed football at Wyvern St Edmund's.



Year 5 & 6 Girls' Football at Pembroke Park

It was a glorious day at Pembroke Park for the year 5 & 6 Girls' Football competition on Wednesday, 28th September. Twenty teams from 17 different schools attended the hotly contested competition. Teams competed in a round robin tournament before the top two from each competed in the finals. There were some nervy moments with many games going to sudden death penalties. Congratulations to St Peter's who won. The Wyvern St Edmund's leaders were a credit to the school and did an excellent job of making sure the tournament ran smoothly.



Year 4 & 5 Tri Golf at the Driving Range

The annual Tri Golf competition was held at the driving range on Wednesday, 12th October. Fourteen schools from across Salisbury attended and took part in a circuit of 12 different stations, scoring points for their team as they went. A huge thank you to the Christey-Clover Golf Academy for running the competition and to Wyvern St Edmund's Young Ambassadors for leading the stations.

Year 5 & 6 Team Building at WSE

On Thursday, 13th October over 30 Year 5 & 6 pupils from local primaries, including Pembroke Park, attended a Team Building and Creative Games CPD Festival. Year 9 WSE Young Ambassadors led the pupils through various team building activities and creative games. The idea being that they would take ideas back to their own playgrounds and encourage pupils to try something new and keep active for at least 60 minutes every day.