

## Newsletter No. 32: 3 January 2023

Welcome to 2023 and to Term 3 of the academic year. I hope you and your families had a happy Christmas and an enjoyable break. In this newsletter you will see that there is a great deal of celebration of Christmas festivities in our academies; it really felt as though we were back to 'normal'. I certainly enjoyed attending Carol Services, nativities and Christmas events around the Trust and there were some stunningly accomplished performances from all age groups.

Also, a cause for celebration in December was the fact that Magna Learning Partnership became a Trust of ten schools as Amesbury Primary School joined on the first of the month. We now have six primary schools divided into two 'hubs', each led by a Director of Education. Bemerton St John, Pembroke Park and The New Forest Primary Schools form the south hub and Amesbury, Amesbury Archer and Old Sarum the north hub. The third hub, again led by a Director of Education, consists of our three secondary schools, Sarum Academy, Wyvern St Edmund's Academy and The Trafalgar School, together with Salisbury Sixth Form College. Part of the role of the three Directors of Education is to foster close collaboration between hub academies and to ensure that the very best practice in each academy is accessible for all children and young people. In addition, our Trust networks bring together leaders of subjects and other key areas from all academies; they also share good practice and support one another to ensure we are always improving the educational experience for our pupils and students. We benefit from being local; the vision of the Trust is focused on serving our community in the Salisbury area; imagine a ten-mile radius from the Cathedral and that, essentially is what we would call our 'patch'. It makes working together, whether that's moving primary children around for football tournaments, arranging secondary engineering challenges or bringing staff into one place for training and development so much more simple than if we were separated by geographical distance.

This term, we look forward to weather that surely can't be colder than what we faced in December, but if, as sometimes happens in January we find we have to close owing to snow, please check academy websites and the local radio. If a closure is necessary in a morning, information will be posted by 7am at the latest. Pupils and students will be set work by their teachers for the day using the online mechanisms we all got so used to during the pandemic.

Hopefully, we will have a smooth and uninterrupted term ahead. I'd like to return to my theme from the last newsletter and remind all families of the importance of good attendance at school and college. Please, parents, do all you possibly can to avoid your child missing a day's education this term.

Happy new year to you all.

**Sarah Busby**  
**Chief Executive Officer**



# Amesbury CE Primary School



Term 2 was busy and exciting at Amesbury CE Primary School. We continued to embed our ACE values of Ambition, Courage and Empathy. This is quickly becoming the heartbeat of school life, which is encapsulated by our Christian ethos 'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart'. We are very proud of the improvements we have made since September and we are excited to continue this journey in the New Year.

## Joining Magna Learning Partnership

On the first of December, Amesbury CE Primary School officially joined MLP, becoming the 10th school in the Trust. This was an important day for our school and it represented a new beginning for our school and the community. We celebrated by wearing our new MLP lanyards and the staff enjoyed home-made cakes from Sarah Busby. The staff have really enjoyed working with the MLP team and continue to be excited about future opportunities.

## Festive Activities

We ended the year with a range of festive activities, including a fantastic KS1 and EYFS Nativity full of brilliant singing and acting. The children were absolutely fantastic and were thrilled to perform to their families. We had a Christingle Service in school and a Carol Service at the Church of St Mary and St Melor. It was wonderful to be able to host the event at the Church and welcome members of our school community. We ended the last day of school with a delicious Christmas Lunch, complete with a snow machine and a visit from the 'Grinch'!



## Year 6 Residential

This term, pupils from Stonehenge and Avebury visited Govilon Activity Centre, in South Wales for their Year 6 Residential. The children arrived Monday afternoon, and after unpacking and settling into their dorms they were whisked straight off on their first adventure.

The children were taken on mini-buses to complete a mountain walk and enjoy the fantastic views from the top of the 'Bloreng'. The children were certainly introduced to the Welsh climate and it helped them understand the importance of wrapping up warm. In the evening, they enjoyed home-cooked food and a quiz. Over the next few days, children took part in a wide-range of outdoor activities, including canoeing, caving, and bush craft. They all had a fantastic time and staff were so proud to see the children demonstrating our ACE values, at all times.





# Amesbury Archer Primary School



Children at Amesbury Archer were very busy in Term 2. Trajan and Oppida classes enjoyed a trip to Oxenwood to finish off their learning about the Stone Age. Year 3 spent time looking at historical artefacts, built shelters in the woods and met a mysterious pre-historical homo-sapien.



In November, Year 5 pupils were impeccably behaved as we walked down to Amesbury's Antrobus House as part of our Festival of Remembrance. Whilst there, pupils learned about the lives of the Antrobus family including Lt. Edmund Antrobus, whom the building is named after, as well as the The Hauntings sculpture currently on display in the grounds. We were very proud to then see so many of our pupils at the Remembrance Day parade through Amesbury the following weekend.



In EYFS, we had lots of fun getting ready for Christmas in Santa's Workshop, making and wrapping up presents for our friends. We also enjoyed a walk to the post box to send our written letters to Santa.

We wish everyone a very Happy New Year!



# Bemerton St John Primary School



## Art and DT Exhibition

Our children worked extremely hard during last term to produce some wonderful pieces of work across the whole curriculum. Years 3, 4 and 6 were the first classes this academic year to hold an Art and DT exhibition, where their sketch books and final pieces were displayed proudly for parents to view and enjoy – everyone agreed that it all looked stunning!



## Nativity and Carols Around the Christmas Tree

The final weeks of Term 2 were full of festive fun! All of the children continued to make us overwhelmingly proud as they fully embraced and enjoyed a number of Christmas experiences.

Our Year 1 and Year 2 children were fantastic during all three of their wonderful performances of the Nativity. Swallows said their lines clearly and acted out the story with confidence. Both classes sang beautifully and we wish to say well done to each and every one of them.

Parents of our Wrens (Reception) class enjoyed the first in-person 'Carols Around the Christmas Tree' for three years. It was a magical performance, where the children sang a range of carols and Christmas songs delightfully, bringing a further feeling of festive cheer.

## Bemerton's Got Talent!

In the run up to Christmas, we also showcased some of the amazing talents of our children in our annual 'Bemerton's Got Talent' production! Twelve acts were selected at the end of the audition process and entertained the school with dancing, singing, playing of musical instruments, magic and more. Thank you to everyone that bravely auditioned and performed and well done to the winners - it was a fantastic show.





# Old Sarum Primary School

During Term 2, children in EYFS gathered leaves and, using salt dough to fix them, created their own leaf creatures. It was great fun trying to spot where the children had hidden the creatures in the trees and bushes. We also selected leaves to collect on our leaf skewers using lots of language to describe why we had made our selections. The leaves kept falling so we then used our collecting and patterning skills to make leaf and flower bracelets and wrist bands.

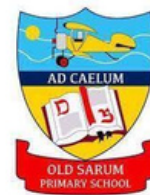
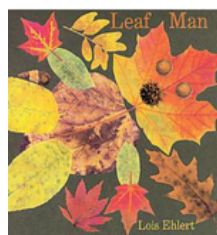
Children in Year 4 have been exploring sounds, learning how to change the pitch and volume of the sound and discovering how it travels through different materials. We had great fun making string telephones and testing out our theories.

In Year 5, we were proud to finish our exploration of space with activities including our rocket-themed artwork in the style of the modern artist Peter Thorpe. We ended our topic with a fantastic trip to the Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium. This was a great experience and we all enjoyed taking part in lots of activities there.

Four children from Year 5 attended the prestigious Young Ambassador training this year and have been working hard every lunch time since to increase physical activity at our school. These children have joined the Year 6 YA team and have shown outstanding leadership and organisational skills so far. They have got exciting plans for activities in the Spring term – look out for when it is your year group's turn to go to the Play Leaders' area!

Our term ended with the Tigermoths performing their version of The Nativity to the whole school and their families. Children, staff and families all commented on how much they had enjoyed the show – well done, Tigermoths!

The children in Year 1 worked very hard learning all the songs and dances for our nativity performance. They really enjoyed sharing all their hard work with their families.



# Pembroke Park Primary School



Term 2 was an exciting mix of events, trips, celebrations and hard work! We started the term celebrating Rock Day to launch Times Tables Rockstars and NumBots in the school – helping the children develop fluency in their maths.

Mrs Makwana received her Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) qualification, adding additional support and capacity to our Pastoral team. Well done Mrs M!

A huge well done to all of our sports teams that have competed in football, hockey and netball this term. Pembroke hosted 25 teams for the Salisbury football tournament and it was a joy to see our grounds being used for the benefit of so many children locally. A special mention to our netball team who won their cluster tournament and qualified for the district finals at Sarum, where they came 4th. Our Bronze Young Ambassadors also completed their training and are now leading games and activities for children at lunchtimes.



Christmas arrived in full swing on December 1st. The whole staff team spent their own time decorating the entire school to ensure our children had a wonderful Christmas experience. Mrs Pearce and Ms Taylor escorted a group of pupils and parents to a Santa Dash run and flour bombing – great fun was had! Well done to Early Years who were awarded the winning area!

Our choir sang at St Thomas' church in Salisbury and joined our Early Years to sing a recorded song, which went live on Greatest Hits on 20th December.



# Salisbury 6th Form College

After external feedback, including our successful GOOD Ofsted outcome, we continue to look to improve at S6C. We have formed work experience and teaching and learning working groups and we will all be discussing the process of feedback during our inset day in January. We have introduced a number of events to improve how we interact with parents, including coffee mornings and an online UCAS and post 18 options presentation. We are also excited to be collaborating with Wyvern St Edmund's Academy (WSE) to develop an A Level in Sport.

Our students have enjoyed an array of fascinating and often challenging activities as part of their studies. BTEC Law students were visited by the Recorder of Winchester, Judge Angela Morris, who talked about her 20 year career as a barrister; Year 13 Geographers braved the weather to complete fieldwork at Swanage and Boscombe; Philosophy students visited the library at Sarum College; Year 12 Art and Photography students were invited to Roche Court Sculpture Park to take part in the ARTiculation Discovery Day that aims to help develop critical analysis, research and public speaking skills; Sports students completed the tree top challenge at Go Ape as part of their Practical Skills in Sport unit to participate in an adventurous activity!



Our students have worked extremely hard towards their GCSE Maths and English resits and A Level mocks this half of term. Life Skills sessions have continued with Year 12 on the 'Be the Best Version of Yourself' pathway and Year 13 'Looking Ahead'. The S6C Change Your Mind Team delivered their first assembly to Year 7 at WSE on 'How to be Happy' and we plan to go back in the new year to deliver more fun mental health workshops.

We continue to support our students in a number of areas to help them make the very best choices post 18. The S6C Aspire to Excellence programme has been launched which highlights opportunities to boost applications to university, employment and apprenticeships.

And finally students have been brimming with enthusiasm in their enrichment sessions. The football and netball teams have been performing well, winning a number of matches despite some players having little or no experience. Esports have seen similar success in the British Esports Student Championships. The knitting and crochet club have been making mini Christmas stockings and the baking club have been looking at ways to make cost effective but delicious meals.



## Rt Hon John Glen MP Visit

It was a pleasure to introduce the Rt Hon John Glen MP for Salisbury to our Academy on Friday, 25th November. Students studying A Level Government and Politics, members of the Student Leadership Team, as well as School Council students were offered the experience of listening to the Member of Parliament speak about his route into politics, his life as an MP and his current role as Secretary to the Treasury. The students also got the chance to get involved and presented a range of questions from climate change to voting record and the economy. Thank you to all students for their excellent questions and to John Glen MP for taking the time to visit Sarum Academy.



## Councillor Clewer Visit

On Wednesday, 23rd November, Sarum Academy was paid a visit by the Leader of Wiltshire Council, Councillor Clewer, and Lucy Townsend, Corporate Director – People. After a tour of the Academy, they met with representatives of the School Council. The students had an opportunity to ask questions of the Councillor directly. The questions ranged from how litter and bin collections on Bemerton Heath can be improved through to whether or not there are plans to improve play areas in the local area. Many thanks to Oliver (8D), Abbie (8A), Toren (9E), Rose (9B) and Rory (10A) for their probing questions and confident communication skills. Councillor Clewer made notes throughout the meeting, so hopefully some of the questions posed will be actioned soon!



## Boccia

Congratulations to all four of our brilliant teams who competed at the Salisbury Schools' Boccia Tournament held at Sarum Academy. We were very happy to walk away with a 1st and 2nd position overall!



# The New Forest Primary School



Sport is a very important part of The New Forest School and we have taken part in many local cluster KS2 tournaments in Term 2. The purpose of these tournaments is to give all children in the school an opportunity to participate at a competitive level in a sport of their choice through the school year. The children took part in football, hockey and netball. All those who took part, played well and were excellent ambassadors for the school - showing our school values of Kindness, Fairness and Hope. However, winning is also important and we were delighted to win the Salisbury School's Netball Tournament.



For the first time since 2019, the KS1 children performed their nativity play to their parents and extended families. 'Hey Ewe', is the story of a curious sheep who can't stop thinking something special is going to happen. She kept noticing strange visitors arriving and a star that shone brightly, which culminated in the birth of Jesus.

The story resonates with the plight of refugees today and in Collective Worship our theme has been Kindness and Friendship. We read the book 'Refuge' and children really thought deeply about how the Christmas Story impacts us today and what small changes we can do to make a difference to those around us.



One way we have done this is a joint project with The Churches of Landford, who donated £5 to every KS2 child to make a difference. We had some beautiful examples of kindness; from children making bracelets and selling them to children donating to appeals in local shops and charities. It really moved them to make a difference to others less well-off than themselves. One child said "I didn't realise people asked for shoes, or school shirts for Christmas or nurses wanted a biscuit and a cup of tea" and he decided to donate more of his own money on some sweets for them. The real meaning of Christmas in action.



# The Trafalgar School



The Trafalgar School  
at Downton

## Welcome back - The Class of 2022

In November we welcomed back the Class of 2022 for our 49th Annual Presentation Evening. It was wonderful to see so many of our Alumni returning to be presented with their examination certificates and receive their awards. Awards that demonstrated our school values of strength and spirit, giving, trustworthiness, determination, compassion, enthusiasm, respect and open-mindedness. Aaron Phipps OBE (Olympic Gold Medal Winning Paralympian), our guest speaker for the evening, inspired us all with a life story full of positivity, dedication, resilience and humour.

## Sport Success

We are thrilled to announce that our school's sports teams have had a highly successful year so far. From Rugby, to Basketball, Badminton to Cross-Country, our students have demonstrated hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship, earning numerous victories and earning a spot in several regional finals. I must also acknowledge the achievements of a number of our students who participate in sports outside of school, for example, and massive congratulations to, Matthew E in 10C who was 31st in the Topper World Championships in the summer and is currently 15th in the UK standings at the end of 2022. He managed a great 3rd overall in the 2022 South Traveller series which helped him get selected for his second year of the British Youth Sailing training groups! Going forward, he is looking towards the World Championships in Cork, Ireland and the Nationals in Pwllheli, North Wales. Great to have such an accomplished sailor at Trafalgar, especially given our name.

## A time of giving

Finally, at a time of giving we would like to acknowledge the fundraising efforts of our students so far this year, in support of a variety of causes and organisations. From hosting bake sales, selling hot chocolate, contributing to food banks, organising raffles, Movember, wearing Christmas jumpers, our students, staff, and families have worked together to raise funds for important causes.

Some of the organisations that have benefited from our fundraising efforts include Children's Chance, Simon Says, the Youth Adventure Trust, Downton4Family, Young Lives Versus Cancer, The Firefighters Charity and Save the Children. We are proud to have been able to support these organizations and the important work that they do with over £3000 raised so far this year.





# Wyvern St Edmund's Academy



Wyvern St Edmund's  
Academy

On Tuesday 15th November, WSE hosted a wonderful evening for our annual Senior Celebration Presentation Evening. It was a celebration of the achievements for our 'Class of 22' (now year 12s) and our current Year 11 students.

Students were recognised for their achievements across the curriculum receiving subject awards. Students were also recognised by tutors for living out the school values in service of others. Special awards were given to Ellie D who received the English Speaking prize, Fardan S and Eve T for Highest Achievement at GCSE.

In addition, the six senior students who led the student body in what was still a challenging year, emerging the pandemic, were awarded for their contributions to student leadership and voice; Emma H, Poppy B, Riley H, Maddie L, Livvy H and Erin C. Finally, the Bobby Magill Ethos Cup which is awarded to a student who goes above and beyond and represents the ethos and values of school was awarded to Amelia M.

During the evening, we were joined by Governors and current and former Heads of Year. We were fortunate to have as our guest speaker, Alex Ewing, Director of The Bridge Youth Project who presented the awards and delivered a thought provoking and inspiring speech. Alex challenged our young people to change the question from 'What do I want to be when I grow up?' to 'Who do I want to be?' It provided the opportunity to reflect on the values we cherish and how they should guide us in the decisions we make.

A number of students contributed to a warm and welcoming atmosphere that was especially appreciated by the students who are now in Year 12 and their parents returning to WSE. Thank you to Head Student, Oliver W, who opened and closed our evening with prayer. Thank you to the DT students and staff who provided a delicious array of nibbles and served them to guests as they arrived. It was also wonderful to have the school choir perform at the start of the evening, the first time for quite a while that this has been possible. Thank you to the choir, Mrs Ritchie and Mrs Randall for making this possible.

