



DARTMOOR MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

MAY NEWSLETTER 2022



Welcome from Dan Morrow, Trust Leader

Welcome to our latest addition of our Trust update and thank you so much to the many of you who have provided such positive feedback on this newsletter as we make real progress in improving and developing our communication as individual schools and as our family of schools. Although it may seem to have been a short half-term in some ways we have achieved so much! I would like to thank the schools and families who have stepped up and provided such valuable and compassionate support for **Ukrainian families** who have joined us in both our Primary and Secondary settings; the outpouring of resources, care and focus has been much appreciated and helped us to settle the families quickly. Additionally, the fundraising that has been initiated by many of our "Friends of" groups has really helped to ensure that we can go well above and beyond expectations for the new members of our community.

I want to draw your attention to the many **AWE projects** we have undertaken across the Trust, where we have seen the environments and facilities for children greatly improved due to the efforts of both staff and parent volunteers- please do keep a look out for additional opportunities to lend a hand- we are great believers that it does indeed take a village to raise a child and your support is both appreciated and vital.

Lastly, I want to signpost to you the **Festival of Hope** taking place w/c 4th July which involves a range of much needed events for the community to come together whilst providing an opportunity to learn from each other. We have faced dark times over the last two years, but hope has remained with us. This festival encapsulates that spirit of determination and perseverance, and will be a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as pupils, parents and staff to celebrate the amazing progress and contributions your children make each and every day- I really hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Very best wishes for a peaceful half-term break and as ever my huge thank you for all of your kindness and support to our individual schools that make up the family of DMAT.

Speech and Language Therapy – a priority for Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust

Coming out of the pandemic, there was an awareness that increased numbers of students were having issues with speech and language, and waiting lists for assessments were delayed due to the increase in referral numbers. So, an initiative was put together, where Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust could react more quickly when a problem has been identified and also disseminate good practice through our teaching staff. This was an area where we needed to improve the provision for students especially for nursery and reception children.



Work was undertaken in researching how a Speech and Language Therapist (SALT) could be employed by the Trust working across all 17 of its schools. With a fully trained professional filling this role, it would also mean the Trust could support SALT students from Marjon university by offering them placements in schools as part of their degrees. The Trust were fortunate to employ Katy Mullin who started with the Trust in March and works 2 days a week. She is a fully qualified speech and language therapist who is based in St James, but covers the whole of the Trust. Katy has previous experience working in a SEMH school in Devon and prior to that, working independently and in the NHS.

Members from the Trust's Community Team, Melissa Trudgill, Derrick Brett and Suzie Stevens, Principal of St James Primary School were successful in a grant application to the Laurel Trust which is funding a research project to understand whether SALT intervention at an early age has considerably more impact than if it is introduced later on. This project will involve EYFS staff being trained in 2 intervention groups to deliver a language intervention and a speech sound intervention. Derrick Brett said "we are very fortunate in receiving this grant as it will support the work we were planning to do and the research project will be beneficial for the Trust and beyond. We want to be efficient in the way we deliver interventions and the more research we can do in this area, the better the results for our pupils will be."



Our Trust Value of Solidarity

We stand together to overcome challenges, have high aspirations and celebrate achievement. Our mutual respect is lived through language and behaviour to enhance unity and achieve our vision. Positive relationships, embracing and promoting difference and the understanding of varying viewpoints, enable us to flourish together.

Ten Tors and Jubilee Challenge

Congratulations to all the teams from Okehampton and Tavistock Colleges

Weather during training as low as -9 degrees Celsius and as high as +25 degrees during the event.

TAVISTOCK COLLEGE:

35 mile team

Phoebe Wilson, Jemma Martin, Orson Tindal-Draper, Eden Bennett, Ying Hamlyn-Chen, Callum Wing

45 mile team A

Joel Blake, Samuel Boyle, Brandon Hunt, Finn Jordan, Mia Gray, Aiya Zaleski

45 mile team B

James Russell, Sam Hunter, Millie Brimacombe, Luke Burbage, William White, Laird Whitford

55 mile participants

Benjamin Whitehead, William Russell, Abigail Whitehead, Max Jordan, James Lamb, Lucy Hignett

Jubilee Challenge team

Ruby Chappell, Isaac Crimp, Callum Metters, Wilf Pedler, Ryan Winter, Danny-Lee Allen

Staff support;

Stuart Hearne, Justine Hunt, Jess Cunningham, Sam Biggs, Andy Jerrett, Di Krysta, Sue Jerrett, Hazel Clifton & Tristan Forster.

Volunteer support;

Paul Turnbull, Alice Brimacombe, Kevin Hooper and various other parental support.

OKEHAMPTON COLLEGE:

35 mile team

India Simmons, Nathaniel Bales, Lily Middleton, Sam Carling, Edward Pearce, Amelie Dawes (DNF).

They finished at 13:30.

45 mile team

Matt Luckhurst, Monty Pealing, Joel Culwick, Finley Bower, Oscar Barrau, Thomas Priddy.

They finished at 15:40

Staff involved throughout the training (and key to the teams success):

Mike Deacon, Emma Dean, Samantha Dennis, Rob Parker, Simon Fox, Rhona MacGregor.



Our Trust Value of Solidarity

Courageous teams abseil down Meldon Viaduct!

A group of school & DMAT staff, and school parents & grandparents from St James CofE Primary School - Anna Devine, Anne-Marie Lethbridge, Derrick Brett, Vickie Norris, Gemma Garnsworthy, Marcia Horsley, Glen Hughes, Cam McMorrin and Dan Cooper - bravely took part in a sponsored abseil off Meldon viaduct on 30th April to raise money for the school. Meldon viaduct is an iconic local landmark, that provided a drop of 35 metres!

All money raised will contribute towards purchasing play equipment and surfacing to create a new play area in the school grounds at St James CofE Primary School. This is a big project, but will help towards the goal of developing the school's outside areas into more usable spaces for the children. This will be increasingly important as the school grows year on year.

The abseil was led by Adventure Okehampton's Chief Instructor, Ian Stocker. Ian and Adventure Okehampton kindly offered to run this event for free, so all money raised will go directly to FOSJ. We would like to say a huge thank you to them!



Courageous staff and parents from Okehampton College and Okehampton Primary also took part in a sponsored abseil off Meldon Viaduct to raise money for the College Learning Support Department and Big Band, and the Primary PTFA and school equipment. They were incredibly brave and we are very proud of what they achieved!



Tavistock College Support Concert for Ukraine

We are very proud of Tavistock College Music students who performed at The Bedford Hotel in a joint venture to raise funds for The Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal. The students played a range of pop, rock and classical music to an audience of over 100 people, who also took part in a raffle to raise further funds for the cause. This is the first time students have performed in front of a live audience since 2019, so for some this represented their college debut! Other more seasoned performers were delighted to be performing in public again and for a cause that they are all concerned about. Currently, they have raised just under £1000 which will all go directly to The Red Cross.

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Our Trust Value of Solidarity



Cricket at Exbourne Primary School

Cricket Solidarity

Our Trust value of solidarity has come into play through our focus Christian Value courage at Exbourne C of E Primary School. The children in Y4 displayed both solidarity and courage when they joined other small schools at a recent Cricket festival. A carousel of cricket skills in the morning was followed by competitive games in the afternoon. Staff are proud of how the children conducted themselves and showed courage and solidarity, reflecting our school and Trust so values well. They faced their fears in trying new things, competing against others and they worked together beautifully as a team to represent our school.



Northlew Primary School - SATS Breakfast

Our year 6 children have shown great solidarity this term whilst supporting each other with their SATs revision. After a few disruptions due to Covid, some children were feeling anxious. However, we couldn't be prouder of how the children have reassured one another, taken the time to explain concepts to each other and embedded our school Ethos value 'Let Your Light Shine'. Each and every child has shone this week. A huge thank you to the children and parents for ensuring their children were in school early to enjoy breakfast together as this really helped to create a calm atmosphere in the morning.



Mummification at Highampton Primary!

In Tarka class (EYFS, KS1) the children's History learning was merged with Science as they mummified tomatoes! Learning about the ancient Egyptian process came to life as they scooped out the inners and treated the tomatoes ready for burial. There was solidarity in play as this little group were able to support one another through the mummification process!



Chagford Primary School

On Wednesday 27th April author and Illustrator Sarah McIntyre spent the day at Chagford Primary School to take up her new role as the School's Patron of reading. Sarah will visit the school several times over the course of the next year to enthuse the children in reading and, hopefully, to inspire them to become better writers too.

Sarah is the author of the very successful 'Grumpycorn' books and illustrator of the 'Kevin the Flying Pony' stories which she co-creates with Philip Reeve. Sarah paints, draws and creates art in a bewildering variety of ways and is the perfect person to inspire young people to create art and make stories.

For this first visit, Sarah was accompanied by Philip Reeve - author of the Mortal Engines Quartet and 'Utterly Dark and the Face of the Deep' as well as the 'Reeve and McIntyre' books that they produce together.

Ed Finch, Principal at Chagford Primary said; "We are so excited for this visit- Sarah is a genuine superstar and the children are going to have an absolute ball with her and Philip. We hope that this visit will get the children talking about books, reading books and, maybe, wanting to start making their own books too."

This visit and the 'Patron of reading' programme at Chagford Primary have been funded through the generosity of the Chagword Literary Festival.

Sarah website can be found at Jabberworks | Children's Illustrator and Writer





South Tawton Willow Dome

A lovely new structure has appeared on the South Tawton school field over the Easter holidays. A fantastic band of volunteers, including parents, staff and pupils, enjoyed the holiday sunshine and built a willow dome using willow donated by RHS Rosemoor. The pupils have all been keen to explore the dome and we thoroughly look forward to seeing it sending out leaves and growing into a living, green shelter.



Holiday Activities and Food

We are delighted to have secured grant funding from Devon Local Authority to run 4 HAF provisions throughout 2022, the first of which took place during the Easter holidays at St James' Primary in Okehampton.

Children enjoyed a varied programme of Easter themed activities as part of the FISHKids Holiday & Activities Club. We were able to apply for the funding and then FISHKids were great in providing places for our St James' children. Thank you to everyone involved in running this event – a great time was had by all.

Update from The Promise School Team

Preparation for the opening of The Promise School continues to move forwards and we are expecting to hear from Ofsted any day now to let us know when the pre-opening inspection visit will be. We are ready for them and looking forward to sharing our vision, values and direction of travel.

Our focus is now on building relationships with the children and young people who will be joining us and also getting to understand them better through partnership working with their parents/carers.

Transition objects can be very helpful in making the change to the new school, so in addition to writing to all of the parents this week, we have also written to each of the children and young people. Included with the letter, is a hand-knitted Promise Bear, modelling the school uniform.

We are setting each of our future pupils/students a series of fun challenges which can be seen below.

Challenge 1: Send us a postcard with a picture of the city/town/village you live in, with a short hello message. (We will make all the postcards received into a display to create a sense of where our cohort are travelling in from each day).

Challenge 2: Take a photograph of yourself and your Promise Bear doing an activity you love, visiting a place you like to go or with one of your favourite people and email it to us with a short explanation of why this is important to you.

Challenge 3: Make a collage or drawing containing lots of images that represent you. This might include hobbies, favourite TV show, games, colours, beliefs etc. Take a photograph of the finished piece.

Challenge 4: Write an acrostic poem using the phrase THE PROMISE to explore how you feel about starting your new school. On the reverse of this letter is one I have written for you.

To show the children and young people that we will be working alongside them and modelling, we will be joining the children in completing some of the tasks. Below is the acrostic poem we have sent out to each pupil/student.

Time is flying by, until I will meet you as one of my new pupils.

Hopefully you will love our new school and be excited to

Explore the opportunities that await you

Please try not to worry or be anxious as we are

Really lovely people who will do our best for you.

Of course, this will all be new for you and you

May not know what to expect.

I will do everything I can to reassure you and make sure that you feel

Safe and happy each day you attend and promise that you will share many

Experiences with us and build lots of positive memories.



We are also busy working on recruiting staff and have made some exciting appointments this last week. We will share more details of the staffing for The Promise in a future newsletter.

The plans for ensuring the Interim Accommodation is fit for purpose are well underway and the new building is really starting to take shape. We now have a roof and windows!



Governor Recruitment – please join us

We are looking for committed individuals who might wish to join one of our **Local Stakeholder Boards** as a governor. We are seeking people who have an interest in making a difference within our local schools, who are able to listen, reflect and learn from a range of viewpoints but who most importantly have the confidence to ask questions. We cannot stress enough the critical role of the local layer of governance as it acts as the 'eyes and ears' of the Trust and triangulates information to evidence the 'lived' experience of the Trust, whilst engaging with pupils, parents, school staff and the wider school community. If you would like more information please contact our Lead Clerk, Jay Hooper via j.hooper@dmatschools.org.uk

New Community Fridge to Open!

Melissa Trudgill, Community Engagement Manager at the Trust has been developing partnerships with Holsworthy Town Council, Mutual Aid Group, Live West, Holsworthy Library and TTVS to work together to set up the first Community Fridge in Torridge. It is due to open in June and will be located in front of the Library in Holsworthy.

The amazing thing about this project is that it is sustainable by using the surplus from local food suppliers which would go out of area and be thrown away and offers the food to local people who can put it to good use. Melissa said 'this is a green project and I have been encouraged by the support from local food suppliers who are keen to see their food surplus stay within the Town and be used by the community rather than go to waste'.

As we all strive to drive our carbon footprint down this is a sustainable project beneficial to the environment where food would otherwise be going to waste. The fridge can be used by those wishing to top up their universal credit and are finding it hard to make ends meet in these challenging times to the single person who may just want a few mushrooms or one orange rather than a whole bag. No one is turned away or has to meet certain criteria to take food.

We hope that this initiative will be supported by a bank of local volunteers and that in the future we can set up rural larders or more town fridges using the same model.



This newsletter is printed on paper made from virgin pulp, grown from sustainable sources



Are you committed to your community?

Do you feel you know the rhythm of life within your community?
Are you inspired by the creativity and wonder of Children?
Do you have the inquisitiveness to question and analyse?

If you've said Yes any of the questions above, have you considered being a Trustee or school Governor?

Our Trustees bring professional skills and experience to the table to set our strategic direction, manage resources and hold managers to account

Governors on our Local Stakeholder Boards represent our parent and staff voice, the economic and cultural diversity of the community and listen to our pupils

The benefits are mutual!



To find out more to find out more visit our website: <https://www.dartmoormat.org.uk/> or to ask for an application form: j.hooper@dmatschools.org.uk

New Community Fridge Volunteers needed!



The Community Fridge will be launched in June. It will be in front of Holsworthy Library and will be open every day.

Please support this initiative and help to use food surplus for the benefit of the local community.

If you are interested in sparing a little amount of time to volunteer, please contact:

Bridget Cordory, Community Developer, TTVS, Tel: 07437 524451 email: bridgetcordory@gmail.com

OR Melissa Trudgill, Community Engagement Manager, Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust at mtrudgill@dmatschools.org.uk

TRUST IN THE COMMUNITY

New forest school provides outside learning for children

With the Summer fast approaching volunteers from the local community joined together to help build a forest school area at St James Primary School in Okehampton this week as part of Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust's AWE scheme of projects. The Trust's AWE (Awe, Wonder & Environment) Projects rejuvenate school facilities, with the help of willing teams of staff, governors, older students and the wider community. On this occasion, it was the amazing support of LiveWest which made this transformation possible.

Melissa Trudgill, Community Engagement Manager for Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust said: "The children of St James Primary School were amazed by the transformation of this previously, unused area into an outside creative learning space, where they can enjoy the outdoors, play in the mud kitchen, listen to stories in the outdoor seating area grow vegetables and learn from nature. This is a collaborative project where the Trust worked with the School's PTFA, DMAT estates team and volunteers from **LiveWest** and after a lot of planning created a new, much needed space on one day! Thank you, LiveWest."

The Trust's community team of Derrick Brett, Executive Director of Civic Leadership and Melissa Trudgill, Community Engagement Manager facilitated the project bringing partners together from the community, the school and the PTFA. Vicki Norris, member of St James PTFA worked tirelessly with her PTFA team to raise funds, plan the space and negotiate materials to make the event a success. The Trust is delighted that LiveWest will also be involved in an AWE Project at Okehampton Primary School and in the Holsworthy Community Fridge project.



Parcel Pets are made on the train and delivered to elderly residents of Okehampton town!

Recently, pupils from Okehampton Primary School were treated to a creative train trip thanks to the **Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership**.

The pupils travelled from Okehampton to Exeter on the recently opened new railway line and used the train as a creative, travelling classroom. The children made a parcel pet on board the train—parcel pets start life as a small cardboard box, but are individualised by the children using a variety of colourful craft items.

Parcel Pets are named and personalities created and thus the art-based activity is also linked to literacy. On this occasion the children made 2 parcel pets; one for themselves and one for an older resident of Okehampton. The two parcel pets are then pen pals, and the Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership encourages interaction between the two as a way of tackling social isolation. Luckily the Kents House Care Home were keen to be involved and this was where the trip ended – with the children delivering the 'pets' they had made on the train.

Sally Crabtree, poet, is the brains behind parcel pets and many other wonderfully creative literacy-based projects.



Ukrainian Students Enjoy Trip to Plymouth Argyle FC

Tavistock College's 9 Ukrainian students were united by their love of football and teacher Chloe Carrubba contacted Plymouth Argyle FC to see if they could offer some support. Plymouth Argyle responded with a special invitation for the students to come to the Club and offered an hour-long session, which included a visit from Argyle manager Steven Schumacher. The trip saw the kids put through their paces with dribbling, passing and shooting drills and enjoy a stadium tour.

The hour-long session, which included a special visit from Argyle manager Steven Schumacher, saw the kids put through their paces with dribbling, passing and shooting drills.

Chloe said *"I meant every word when I told the Club that these are nine of the most resilient and amazing students I have ever met. They all went home in brand new argyle coats and kits and proudly told me this was 'the best day in England they have ever had'. Thank you Plymouth Argyle #pafc"*

Chloe Carrubba, Teacher of English at Tavistock College



Holsworthy's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Thursday 2nd June 2022

2pm in the Square, Town Crier announces the 'Jubilee Proclamation'
2.30pm Civic Service of Celebration, St Peter & St Pauls Church

North Road, Outside the Church

8.30pm Lantern Parade (starting at the Memorial hall) come and join in, don't forget your lanterns!

9.35pm Piper to play 'Diu Regnare'

9.40pm Cornet call 'Majesty'

9.45pm Lighting of the Beacon (top of the church Tower)

The finale! Join in with the community choir and Town Band singing the Platinum Jubilee Song 'A Life Lived with Grace' and The National Anthem

Friday 3rd June 2022

Display of photos, memorabilia of the past 70 years, previous Jubilees, Holsworthy Museum 11am – 1pm

Saturday 4th June 2022

Bowls Club, Stanhope Park, come and Try Bowls session from 2.30pm - 5.30pm.

From 2pm in Stanhope Park, Holsworthy's 'commonwealth games' 5-14 yr olds plus 'Grand National Hobby Horse Race Final'

Make, Bake & Create competition

From 7pm, on the stage, outside the Church, North road. Join us to watch the Platinum Jubilee concert live from London on our giant screen.

Sunday 5th June 2022

Holsworthy's Big Jubilee Street Party, Fore Street, 3pm – 6pm

Tickets for seats are FREE!
Available from the Council Offices
10am – 3pm Monday - Friday

Street entertainment, kids rides & face painters
Don't forget to bring your picnic!

From 6pm – 10pm on the stage!
Outside the Church, North Road
Live entertainment including 'UKQueen' who will create a musical 'experience' and 'will Rock You'

ADVANCED WARNING

Fore Street and North Road will be closed from 6pm on Friday 3rd June until 10am on Monday 6th June. Access will be available to residents apart from Sunday 5th June 10am – 10pm



For more information contact the Town Council:
T: 01409 253312
E: townclerk@holsworthytowncouncil.gov.uk



Make, Bake & Create!

Baking, Flower and Children's Show

Classes for:

Flower displays



Cakes and baking



Preserves



Children's entries

Free to Enter – have a go! Prize Money to be won!

Saturday 4th June

Sports Pavilion - Stanhope Park, Holsworthy

ENTRY FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY Thursday 2nd June.

Entry forms available from the Council Offices

the White Hart Hotel, local shops, or by request to email as below.

For Info - 01409 254106 or holsworthyscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk



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We are always keen to hear your **feedback** about our Trust newsletter.