



# Transforming LIVES

Academy  
Transformation  
Trust

December 2022



# Welcome from **Derek Trimmer** National Education Director

Welcome to this term's version of *Transforming Lives*, as we take an opportunity to sit back and reflect on some of the extra curricular events that have taken place across the term. In this edition we will share the wonderful experiences of our academies, including fantastic fundraising efforts, incredible trips and visits, and of course, a little festive fun.

This has also been another incredibly successful year of recognising achievements across our Trust, in terms of academic performance and quality of education. Let us pause here to recognise the OFSTED success of Phoenix Academy and The Nicholas Hamond Academy, who have maintained their **Good** judgements this year. Star Academy and Pool Hayes Academy have made amazing improvements in moving from *Requires Improvement* to **Good**, and Sutton Community Academy has made an incredible leap to **Good** directly from *Inadequate*. This progression is testament to the hard work of colleagues across all the academies involved, and it will make a tangible difference to their valued pupils and communities.

I would like to thank all our colleagues for the incredible job they have done on continuing to go above and beyond in the line of duty. We really are very lucky to have such a dedicated and professional workforce that are so committed to improving young peoples lives by putting education first and supporting our students so effectively.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome Sir Nick Weller to our trust as CEO. We are delighted to have him driving our vision and ensuring that we continue to strive to achieve the very best for our students and the communities that we serve.

Happy Christmas all,

Derek Trimmer

## In this issue:

### **Giving Back**

Page 3

### **Getting Outdoors**

Page 4-5

### **Future Thinking**

Page 6-7

### **Remembrance**

Page 8-9

### **Trips & Visits**

Page 10-11

### **Challenge & Competition**

Page 12-13

### **Getting Creative**

Page 13

### **Christmas Stars**

Page 14

### **Sporting Stars**

Page 15

# The Season of Giving

Engaging with our local communities is one of our core values; as we value the input of those around us, we're always looking for ways to give back.

ATT Further education college has been upholding this vision in an incredible way, offering an amazing range of opportunities and services not just to their learners, but to the people of their local area. This term has seen the opening of their community hub, a physical space to facilitate their engagement with local people. Whilst they've been up to some festive fun recently, the hub has provided a host of invaluable services this term. During the October break, the hub offered a wealth of free activities to keep young people engaged with learning and play, whilst offering busy parents a much needed break. With community coffee mornings and a reading club on the roster, ATT FE are providing something for everyone. Westbourne Academy has also marked the opening of their own community hub this term, so we're excited to see what they've got planned for the future!

Elsewhere, learners across our Trust have been working hard this term to raise money for good causes. Icení Hockwold's MacMillan Coffee Morning netted an incredible £266 for the charity, NWPA held a Children in Need raffle, Great Heath set up a giving tree and Star Academy handed over an impressive collection of food donations to their local Rotary Club, ready to be distributed to those in need. The Dukeries Academy has set up a collection point for clothes donations, helping to ensure that everyone in their community has a warm winter coat this year.

ATT FE held a stakeholder event in November to give back to those who support their incredible community outreach, with representatives from 40 organisations including Age UK and the YMCA. The event provided a valuable opportunity to form strong community relations and allow everyone's voices to be heard.



ATT FE's amazing community hub, at Xmas and beyond.



Icení's coffee and cake charity sale was a huge success.



ATT FE's stakeholder event at Alfreton Hall.

# Getting Outdoors!

The Pool Hayes Eco Club harvesting fresh leeks to cook a batch of homemade soup!

With the days getting shorter and long nights drawing in, it's important to find time to get outside and connect with nature- so we're glad to see so many of our academies doing just that!

At NWPA, outdoor activities are a fun reward for meeting class learning goals. This Term, Class 3 had hot chocolate and marshmallows out in their nature garden. Our visiting Trust Principal Natalie Deen was glad to find they had even saved a marshmallow for her.

Meanwhile, CPA have been taking learning outside of the classroom. Nursery and reception classes listened to a reading of *The Stickman* in the Caldmore Community Garden, whilst making their own stick creatures with materials found in the garden.

Sun Academy have ventured further afield, visiting an adventure farm to meet the sheep, goats and alpacas, as well as some more mystical creatures- Father Christmas and his elves!



North Walsall Primary Academy pupils enjoying toasted marshmallows around the campfire in their nature garden.

At Pool Hayes, the Eco Club has been learning about agriculture up close, growing and harvesting fresh vegetables to prepare leek and potato soup! These students have the opportunity not only to connect with nature, but to develop life skills that will be more and more important in a world that increasingly values sustainability.

Also this term, the club has carved halloween pumpkins, saving the seeds to plant in the spring and composting all the waste.

# Learning in Nature



Bristnall Hall Academy students learning at height during their residential at the Frank Chapman centre.



Caldmore Primary Academy's Nursery and Reception classes listening to 'The Stickman' by Julia Donaldson.



Sun Academy pupils meeting the goats and alpacas at the National Forest Adventure Farm.

Many of our academies run camps or residential during the autumn term, giving their new year 7 students a chance to form bonds and engage with learning in a memorable way! Learners take part in a fantastic range of outdoor activities, including rock climbing, abseiling, raft construction and campfire building. Enrichment opportunities such as these give students the chance to experience sports and activities they might not usually find accessible, whilst helping them to overcome some fears and develop their resilience.



Sutton Community Academy students building shelters and constructing rafts on their Year 7 Camp.



# Forward Thinking Futures

A key part of our Trust's vision is to ensure that all our learners are prepared for the future, wherever this may take them. To make sure this happens, we aim to deliver the very best careers education in our academies.

Bristnall Hall Academy has most recently received the Quality in Careers Standard, the national quality award for careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) in secondary schools, colleges. With careers talks and activities from the Royal Navy; Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust; The Crown Prosecution Service; British Red Cross; Wates Construction Company and more, BHA's careers offer this term has been truly astounding!

Pictured: BHA students engaging with a Skills Supply event using Sphero ro-bots based on next steps in their education, employment and training.

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Sutton Community Academy, another academy bearing the Quality in Careers Standards, hosted an on-site careers fayre for KS4 and 5 students this term. This annual event, attended by a plethora of local and national employers and education providers, helps students to recognize the huge range of options available to them in the future. It also gives them the opportunity to speak to experts in all sorts of fields, ask questions, and establish goals. At BHA, Year 11 students have attended a careers and next steps fayre at the West Bromwich Albion football ground.

Our Trust is incredibly proud to be a member of the Armed Forces Covenant, and we strive to be a supportive employer of armed forces veterans and reservists. Because of this, we're happy to see academies fostering strong links with armed and emergency forces in their communities. Visiting talks from these organisations help keep our students informed of further career paths available to them. This term, PHA students have listened to a careers talk from West Midlands Police on the various routes into policing, and BHA students have enjoyed interactive STEM Career sessions with the Royal Navy. In many of our academies, students are already involved with local community branches of the armed forces; we're always happy to celebrate the successes of our cadets!

Another important aspect of CEIAG is offering guidance on higher education. Around this time, we are offering the best of luck to students across our Post-16 provision who are submitting UCAS applications! Our academies offer fantastic support to students thinking about studying at university. This term, Year 12 and 13 students from the Dukeries Academy have visited Durham University for a campus tour, getting to know the uni experience in more detail.



SCA students receiving accolades in the Sea Cadets this term.



TDA students exploring Durham University's campus.



SCA's careers fayre, featuring stalls from local and national organisations.



# Lest We Forget



Remembrance Day on 11 November was marked with dignity and respect by students across every one of our academies. Our Trust is always proud to see the thought and effort they put into planning events and creating beautiful artwork to commemorate the day.

A large number of students across our academies are cadets in the armed forces, and many of them chose to attend remembrance events in their uniforms. We are incredibly proud of the quiet dignity and impeccable behaviour by which they all represented our academies.



The Royal British Legion lead a moving parade outside of Pool Hayes Academy, inspiring a fundraising campaign.



Vlada, Morgan and Lilly laid the wreath at the Great Heath village remembrance service.

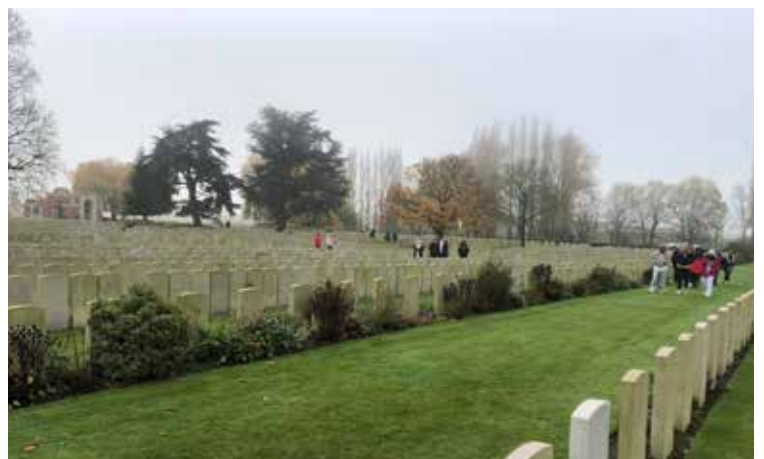


Principal Fatima Rodri Hathaway Academy.



Young cadets from Mildenhall College Academy wearing their dress uniforms for a Remembrance Day service.

Some of our academies have undertaken enrichment trips this term to explore the importance of remembrance. Year 6 pupils from Jubilee Academy Mossley visited the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire as part of their unit on the lives of children and soldiers in wartime. Mildenhall College Academy's Sixth Form have been in Bruges, Belgium, touring historical landmarks and visiting a number of significant sites from the Second World War. This included an emotional visit to Lijssenthoek War Cemetery and a trip to the Turnip fields that were once trenches.



MCA students tour Lijssenthoek cemetery early on a misty November morning.



Figures stands with uniformed cadets outside the



Jubilee Academy's Year 6 class visited the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, Staffordshire.



Delilah and Robbie represented Icení at Hockwold's remembrance service.

# Far and Wide!



PHA students exploring nature and art at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.



NWPA visit Statfold Narrow Gauge Museum.



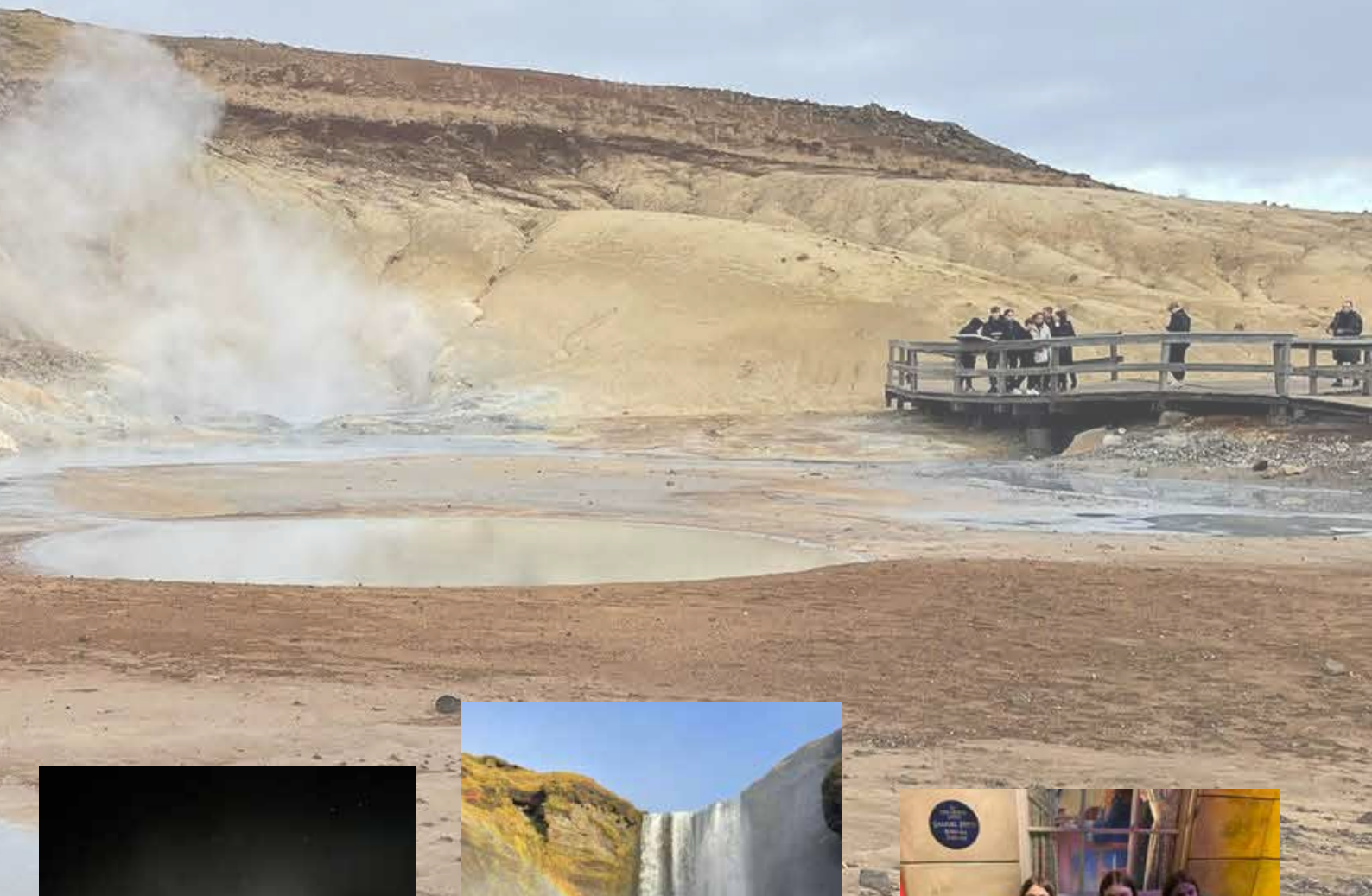
Jubilee out and about at Warwick Castle!

Enrichment is integral to a broad and balanced curriculum, providing learning beyond the normal classroom setting. We're proud to showcase the incredible range of extracurricular activities offered by our academies, helping to ensure that all pupils across our trust experience strong personal, spiritual and emotional development in addition to the academic. Educational trips and visits are a fun and engaging way to help pupils apply their learning in real life situations.

The Queen Elizabeth Academy provided geography students with a truly once-in-a-lifetime trip this term, visiting Iceland for a whistlestop tour of its unique geographic features. Students got up close with amazing waterfalls and basalt columns, lava flows and sulphuric mud puddles- they even witnessed the northern lights!

Elsewhere, The Dukeries Academy has taken business students on a visit to Cadbury world, exploring their museum to learn about business and marketing from a successful UK brand. Jubilee Academy's Year 2 visited Warwick Castle as a fabulous finish to their unit on monarchs and royalty. NWPA's Reception had the greatest day at Statfold Narrow Gauge museum, especially loving the train and tram ride.

Pool Hayes Academy's GCSE Art students embarked on a trip to the Birmingham Botanical gardens, collecting natural materials, photographs, and inspiration! The students produced beautiful collages with found materials, and garden staff commented on their exemplary conduct.



TQEA watched the Aurora Borealis in Iceland.



TQEA students marvel at Iceland's landscape!



TDA students pick up business tips at Cadbury World.

When our academies aren't planning visits to interesting and engaging places, they're bringing the experts to them! Interesting talks and visits this term have included GB Paralympian and Commonwealth Ambassador Siobhan Fitzpatrick speaking at Bristnall Hall Academy, as part of Birmingham's 2022 Commonwealth Games; Ravens Academy visited by a the-atre company to share an important message about air pollution, helping them engage with their learning about conservation; Caldmore Primary Academy's Nursery being visited by the Farm on Wheels, linking to their topic *Do Cows Drink Milk?*; **Suffolk Police speaking to Great Heath pupils about crime and bullying.** Phoenix Academy were delighted to welcome Pep The Poet whose mission is to "scatter sunshine one poem at a time". The children thoroughly enjoyed spending time with him, listening to his poetry and then having a go at writing their own.



Pep the Poet at Phoenix Academy.

# Up to the

We want all our learners to be ambitious and resilient- our goal as a Trust is to help each of them reach their full potential. With that in mind, we're keen to recognise where students have gone above and beyond to achieve! Some of our learners this term should be commended for their performance in competitions and challenges, both external and organised by academies.

Last year at BHA, students entered the Queen's Commonwealth Essay Writing Competition, where they produced written pieces based on the theme 'Our Commonwealth'. The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition is the world's oldest international schools' writing contest, established by the Society in 1883. With thousands of young people taking part each year, it is an important way to recognise achievement, elevate youth voices and develop key skills through creative writing. Out of the 26,322 entries, a number of BHA students received commendations and awards, and Principal Louisa Pritchard was invited to Buckingham Palace to represent the academy and celebrate everyone who entered.

Siam from Caldmore Primary Academy won a competition to name a West Midlands Police drone this term. The Drone Police are currently being filmed for Channel Four program *Sky Cops*, and two Police Drone Police Officers arrived to the school accompanied by camera crew to show the pupils how the drones are used to prevent and stop crime. They were shown how thermal imaging was used and they all had the opportunity to ask questions. Siam was presented with a framed image of his design, a police hat, teddy and a family ticket to the Police museum. The pupils then got to watch Siam's drone 'Little Timmy' fly and look at the footage it had captured.



BHA attended Buckingham Palace!



The 'Sky Cops' came to Caldmore!



PHA prioritises reading with rewards.

# Challenge!

At Pool Hayes Academy, leaders never miss an opportunity to reward pupils who've gone the ex-tra mile to deepen their learning. Students who have engaged well with reading this term have been entered into a draw to win a Kindle Fire Tablet. Also at PHA, student AB has won a copy of the Guinness Book of World Records for becoming their first Word Millionaire- after passing 16 Accelerated Reader book quizzes this half term, his word count is 1,500,000. How wonderful that reading is both the challenge and the reward!

Sutton Community Academy student Mia should be commended for winning the Discover Ashfield Photography Competition Under 16 Prize this term. Mia's beautiful and ethereal entry, Flowers, impressed the judges with its strong sense of light and composition.



Mia's winning photograph, 'Flowers'.

## Getting Creative!

Our learners have been up to lots of fun and creative activities this term. MCA students have created some stunning designs for a local Christmas Angel Festival. Ravens Academy pupils carved spooky designs for a pumpkin competition, while parents of Sun Academy pupils came in to join their children in some festive crafts.

We're incredibly proud to hear that CPA have been awarded the Silver Artsmark this term, showing that the Arts Council has recognised solid foundations for the arts as part of their approach to curriculum delivery and extra curricular enrichment.



An MCA student's handmade angel.



Parents join the fun at Sun!



Raven's Academy carved some spooky squash!

# Our Stars this Christmas

Christmas time is a great opportunity for learners across our Trust to demonstrate the talents they have been honing this term, whilst spreading some festive joy in their local communities. Many of our academies, including Bristnall Hall, Sutton Community Academy, The Dukeries Academy and The Queen Elizabeth Academy, have held Christmas concerts to celebrate the incredible musical talents of their students- and in the case of TQEA, also their staff band! At our primary academies, traditional nativity-ties and more modern Christmas shows have gone down a treat with pupils and parents alike.

At The Dukeries Academy, student singers performed carols alongside the Dukeries Singers and pupils from the local primary school. The whole community came together for this cherished Christmas event at St Paulinus church, making some special festive memories for all those involved.



TDA's spectacular Christmas Showcase!



TQEA's staff band were an unexpected hit with audiences.



A non-traditional nativity lineup at ICP.



TDA carol singers performing at St Paulinus Church in Ollerton.



# Sporting Stars!

All our academies value a broad and balanced curriculum, supporting students who show promising talent in all sorts of vocations- including sports!

This term, PHA student KS has had her football talents recognised, and has been invited to train with the Lionesses at a GK development day! Also in girls' football, the KS3 team at Sutton Community academy won their district championship after a tense penalty shootout. SCA also held a trip to Loughborough University for KS4 and 5 sports students, with the chance to experience their lecture theatres, sports venues, state of the art facilities and try out some cutting edge sports technology.

At TNHA, their brilliant student sports ambassadors hosted seven local primary schools for their annual cross country event, demonstrating amazing leadership skills and dedication.

In other sports news, NWPA achieved the Silver Award in the School Games, whilst BHA have officially opened their brand new multi-use games area.



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# Season's Greetings

Well done to Maisie and Kqshrah, winners of our 2022 Christmas Card Design Competition!



Secondary Winner  
Maisie, SCA




Primary Winner  
Kqshyra, CPA

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