

# Transforming Lives

ATT's Termly Magazine

22/23 | Summer Term



# Dear Reader,

Welcome to this, the last edition of Transforming Lives for this academic year, 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 take time to celebrate the ATT Gala concert, in which pupils from five of our academies performed. The event was truly sensational and it is just fantastic to see the return of music performances at this level. We also get a chance to witness some of the post-SATs and GCSE celebrations as well as rewards trips from across our trust. There have been a number of outdoor learning events, along with the development of community gardens across our primary sector as well as DofE expeditions at Secondary.



We take the opportunity to share some of the careers and guidance events taking place with a number of our pupils visiting different universities and colleges, as well as the myriad of sports days, musicals and residential events taking place from across all sectors.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our colleagues at ATTFE for their incredible achievement with the recognition by Ofsted that they are 'outstanding' in their quality of adult provision as well as personal development. The overall report from 6th - 9th June recognises the college as a good provider of education, and with the knowledge that 85% of their work is with adult education, this is an exceptionally strong recognition of the vital work they do. We thank them and applaud them for their role in transforming learners' lives.

I would also like to thank all of our staff from across all of our academies who have made such a tangible difference to the lives of the pupils and the communities we serve. I thank you for the incredible job you have done on continuing to go above and beyond in the line of duty.

Finally, I would like to wish you a very happy and well deserved summer break and I look forward to seeing you all at the beginning of next term.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek Trimmer'.

Derek Trimmer,  
Deputy CEO for Education



# A Really Good Day

for ATT Further Education College

We are so excited to share that our Further Education College had been awarded a Good judgement by Ofsted, with Outstanding in the categories of Adult Learning and Personal Development! This is an amazing achievement, and a testament to the hard work and dedication of the College's team.

In the report, Ofsted stated that ATTFE's learners are "well supported", "highly motivated", and importantly, that they "enjoy their experience" with the college. FE Principal Liz Barrett OBE praised the report for recognising "the impact of our core mission" to provide high quality education and improve the lives of their learners.

Our CEO, Sir Nick Weller, reflected that "ATTFE occupies a unique place in our family" which is "fully aligned with our Trust-wide mission of transforming life chances". He praised the efforts of the Principal and her teams is "truly outstanding work".

The fantastic outcome of ATTFE's recent inspection is part of a hugely positive pattern for our Trust, as it makes our ninth Ofsted Good judgement in a row!



# Oh, What a Night!

ATT's Cross-Academy Gala Concert at the Apex

Two years in the planning, 250 students with ages ranging from 5-18 from across 5 Trust Academies, performing in our first ever 'ATT Gala Concert' at The Apex in Bury St Edmunds in a glorious celebration of our ATT Music family.

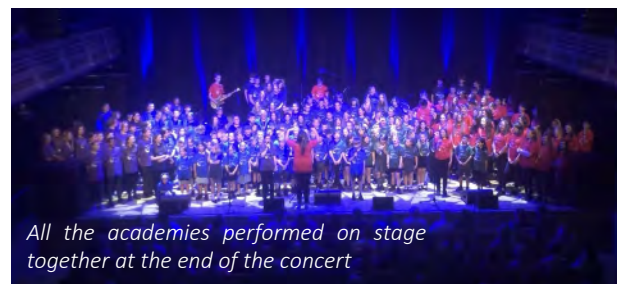
We heralded our unique musical identities with samba, rock, steel pans, 'Matilda', vocal ensembles, piano solos and chamber groups. The highlight was the collaborative 'Big Sing' bringing all of the students together as one huge ATT musical ensemble.



Two compositions were created and performed as part of the project - 'Summer Storm' (Iceni) was developed through improvisation using percussion and vocal sounds to create a soundscape. 'Junk Samba' (Nicholas Hammond) was produced using samba instruments borrowed from Norfolk Music Hub and then various items of 'junk' with focus on developing syncopation, polyrhythm and structure.



Of course the event didn't just involve the performance day. Workshops with MCA ex-student and professional singer Steven Yallop took place across the schools engaging a large number of the participating students. These engaging and high-energy sessions focused on teamwork, vocal skills and performing. The students were also treated to a live performance opportunity with Steven giving a recital at each academy followed by a Q and A session. The Faculty leader for Music at MCA visited all of the academies to give vocal workshops and to teach the five collaborative songs. Soloists from each academy were chosen and had further online sessions to prepare them. Instrumentalists from each school were also selected to form the 'band' for some of the joint songs and rehearsals took place with their own music teachers and using specially made backing tracks to for their parts too. The impact of these visits was huge and very evident in the confident delivery and engagement of all of the performers in the final concert.



At the actual performance former MCA student and singer – songwriter Kieran Davis performed one of his original songs and was present to offer feedback and advice to the students during the day. The actual concert comprised individual performances from each of the schools celebrating their unique specialisms and then the 5 joint performances of 'Believe' (Lin Marsh), 'This is Me', 'Stand By Me', 'Fix You' and the finale 'Sunchyme' with steel pans.





*Professional singer Steven Yallop inspires pupils at Iceni Academy Hockwold.*

The whole project was musically very satisfying, introducing our ATT students to a range of different genres / instruments, expanding their horizons in terms of careers in music, building individual and ensemble musical skills, building self-esteem and instilling a desire to aim higher. It was a wonderful, memorable and inclusive experience for all and a brilliant example of how music can transform lives and reach us all. We felt a wonderful sense of togetherness and felt incredibly proud to be part of the ATT musical family. The links made between the schools are now firmly established and plans are made to continue to collaborate and share expertise so that our future ATT cohorts continue to feel the impact of this amazing project.

Thanks to our amazing ATT Music staff: Susan Wright, Kira Hornsby, Tracey Ashford, Jade Brown, Diego Damigella and Alicia Rickards for their support, enthusiasm and dedication – what a team!

-Jane Sayer  
Trust Secondary Music Lead

Mildenhall College Academy and Iceni Academy Hockwold had a helping hand in preparing for the Gala Concert with a very special helper! An alumnus of MCA who is now a professional singer returned to his former school in the run-up to the concert. Steven Yallop delivered masterclasses with the students taking part, offering advice and guidance on their performance.



Head of Music and Drama Jane Sayer said that “He has an amazing ability to connect with audiences and he certainly inspired our students with his charismatic and energetic games and exercises. His advice on stage presence transformed the children’s performances in a very short time”.



# Get Outdoors!

Education doesn't only happen in classrooms, and this term our academies have been making the most of the sunshine by taking their learning outdoors!

Across our secondary academies, Duke of Edinburgh Award participants have been working hard on preparing for their expeditions to the stunning landscapes of the Peak District and beyond. Well done to all these intrepid adventurers!

As the end of term closes in, our pupils are being rewarded with trips and excursions for their hard efforts over the past year. Our primary academies have been enjoying their annual residentials, with exciting activities ranging from scavenger hunts to wall climbing to water sports.

Kingsmoor Academy have been exploring habitats at the beach- and building a few sandcastles too! Great Heath Academy have been improving wild habitats a bit closer to home- see the next page for the full story.



Kingsmoor at East Mersea camp



Icen Primary Kingswood residential



Great Heath at Kingswood



Kingsmoor beach day



Work in Progress at Great Heath





Watering their new flower beds...



Constructing bug hotels...



Working hard to create community areas...



...Enjoying the fruits of their hard work!

This year our Y4 children have participated in a Wilder Schools' project with Suffolk Wildlife Trust. This started with an audit of our school grounds to see what wildlife they could find. They then considered how to increase the amount of wildlife that live on our grounds. The children researched different ideas and planned the project. They shared the project with the school in assemblies and organised a pyjama day to raise money. They also wrote to local businesses and our PTA to ask for donations.

On Saturday 8 July, we held a community day where over 140 people came to help develop the outside area! This included constructing our bog garden, creating a hedgehog hill, planting flower borders, creating a vegetable patch, building bug hotels, creating tepees to sit in, and digging out a sunflower and wild flower maze. We have also created an outdoor learning area. The whole school is now involved in the rota for watering and we are looking forward to the learning we will be able to do!

-Naomi Brown  
Principal, Great Heath Academy

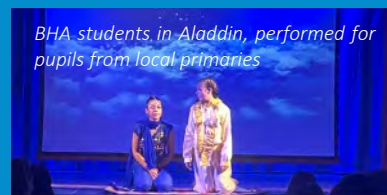
## All the World's a Stage...

As the year draws to a close, we get to enjoy fabulous musical and dramatic performances from talented learners across our Trust.

For our annual academy musicals this year, more traditional performances included TDA's classic choice of Buggy Malone, whilst SCA opted for a more recent addition to the West End repertoire, Matilda.



SCA's production of Matilda



BHA students in Aladdin, performed for pupils from local primaries



The Dukeries Academy's spectacular rendition of Buggy Malone



TDA's students performing alongside professional musicians

This term at Dukeries, some amazing students had the opportunity to perform with a professional orchestra, Sinfonia Viva! Alongside musicians from the Inspire Music Hub and Sherwood Forest Brass Band, the Dukeries students, and pupils from other local schools, performed incredibly well. Well done to these students for seizing this opportunity and truly making the most of it!



# Westbourne's Warriors

On an extraordinarily blustery March day, Westbourne CCF deployed to Eastmere FOB (Forward Operating Base) on STANTA training area in Thetford. Awaiting them, for many, was their first overnight exercise and lots of activities.



After taking up residence in a farm block to shelter from the wind and the provided portaloos cartwheeling around the base, we headed out to learn all sorts of military skills. There were lessons on how and why things were seen, how to give enemy locations, judging distances and moving with and without the weapon, which involved some crawling on their belt buckles in the grass and mud!

The Year 10 cadets did an extended navigation exercise – using their compass and maps to navigate a course with the Year 11s to repeat the same course... but at night!

As the night drew in, the cadets saw how different noises can appear at night time – the still air allowing noises to travel easily and far, even if it was at one point a quite awful choice of music. The flash of blank rounds and the noise really travelled far. This also led to a staple favourite of our cadets – the stalk! How close can they sneak up to the walls of the base without being spotted and illuminated by the wandering torch.

After a night spent indoors, which the cadets found colder than they were expecting, it was time for more activities, some ration pack breakfasts and some bleary eyes! The cold and wind meant that the fuss about any food options was replaced by the warmth of some food and a good cuppa.



Some blank firing and patrolling greeted us on the second day before the very quiet coach back. As always, the efforts of the cadets who threw themselves into the challenges was admirable.

-Jorge Pashler,  
Contingent Commander & Teacher of Science



# Sporting Success

Congratulations to all the sporting stars across our academies who have participated in challenges and competitions this term, and to everyone who has put in their best and had fun doing it!

Iceni Academy Hockwold's fantastic cricket team made it all the way to the Plate final, where they were runners up. Well done for making it through to the Norfolk finals in Norwich!

At Sutton Community Academy, sports teams have competed in an outstanding 50+ fixtures this year in total, with many wins along the way!

TNHA's Year 8 and Year 10 teams both came in 2nd at the West Norfolk Athletics championship- congratulations on this fantastic achievement!



# Future Thinking

Our academies are always thinking about raising ambitions and helping students prepare for the future ahead of them. There have been some fantastic careers events across our Trust this term, inspiring and guiding our learners to success. TQEA have embarked on an annual trip to Parliament, learning more about careers in politics.

AT MCA, students have listened to talks from visiting NHS radiographers, as well as visiting Cambridge University to learn more about studying there. To top it all off, Year 7 participated in a trip to BT's research centre at Adastral Park near Ipswich, gaining an understanding of careers available in STEM.

Whether it's your favourite day of the year or not, Sports Day is an iconic fixture of the Summer Term!

It's great to see learners across our academies getting involved in sports and fun, with a range of events from athletic to silly. On the sporty side of things, Sutton Community Academy once again hosted their Sports Day at Sheffield's EIS centre, showing students how the professionals do things! Other academies have been getting pupils engaged through less traditional activities, such as NWPAs archery sessions.

# Sports Day!





# Diving Deep

Iceni Academy Methwold with Dive Project Cornwall

*Iceni students spent a week in beautiful Porthkerris learning about the local ocean life*

Way back in January 2022, we entered a competition to win a scuba diving trip to Cornwall for 20 students to achieve a PADI scuba diving award. As one of 400 schools who entered, never did we imagine that we would be lucky enough to win, but tried to educate our students about the ocean along the way. Our entry was based around single use plastic alongside a video about the Norfolk coastline and how it differs from that in other parts of the UK.

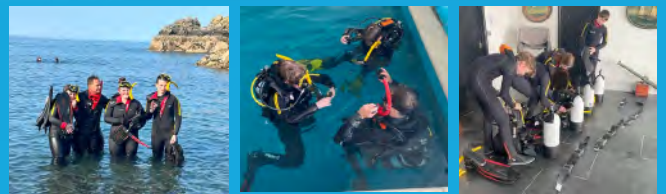
...And guess what? We won!

As many students as possible experienced a Try Dive at Crystal Seas in Norwich. Over the next few months, around 80 of our students took part, and those selected for the trip got some practice in before leaving for Cornwall. This involved gaining an understanding of the kit, how to set it up safely as well as being able to experience a scuba diving session.



As a school, we wanted to raise as much money as possible for Dive Project Cornwall. Without fundraising, these types of opportunities from non-profit organisations can't continue. In total we raised £1600 through bake sales, a non-uniform day, and individual sponsorship, which is a fantastic amount. Dive Project Cornwall were very grateful for our contribution.

On the 21 May, 16 students and 4 staff made the long 11-hour journey down to Porthkerris, Cornwall. When we arrived at basecamp, the view made it all worth it.



Preparing for the week ahead, students practised scuba diving skill work in the pool before venturing into the sea. Students learnt how to equalize so the pressure in their head didn't cause pain, how to empty their mask whilst under the water (a skill even the instructors find difficult) and how to share oxygen, should a fellow diver ever get into difficulty. Alongside this was some important learning about the ocean, marine life and how we all have a part to play in protecting it.

When not in the water, students were taking part in some valuable educational work to which they would all eventually become 'Ocean Influencers' and take on the role of educating others. Walking down a coastal path to a tiny cove called Porthallow, the clear blue sea was quite a surprise. Here students undertook some rock pooling, exploring, and learning about the marine life, tide cycles, and the ever changing ecosystems. Students were able to touch and hold marine life they had never seen before. Alongside rock pooling there was also an opportunity for a stone skipping competition. I believe Leon currently holds the record of 8 skips of a stone into the water.



# Making us Proud!

A scientist from the Marine Conservation Society taught our students about some of the science behind what is happening in our waters. We went on a beach clean, tested safety levels of the water and used microscopes to look at plankton to name just a few things this session covered. Again, this was noted as a highlight for some students, demonstrating the true educational aspect of this project.



The final full day was all about scuba diving, snorkelling This gave students the opportunity to see the marine life they had been learning about in the ocean. Students saw fish, crabs, sea urchins and star fish to name a few. Lunch on this day was a Cornish Pasty delivered to the beach...a tradition and not one for our students to miss. In the evening, students presented the projects that they had all been working on, focusing on the key messages and learning that had taken place during the week- and all in front of the most beautiful sunset.



After we returned to school, I asked the students what they had enjoyed and what they had learnt. It's fantastic to see that what was originally trip about scuba diving became so much more for our students. The words 'special' and 'emotional' were used regularly throughout the week, and it really was! Watching our students grow, develop, learn, work as a team, improve their organisation skills, demonstrate resilience and determination is something that we as staff will always be proud of our students for. Well done to all involved and thank you to the staff and Ethan Flack for giving up their time to make this happen.

-Miss Turner  
Trip Leader, Icen Academy Methwold

Well done to BHA's Year 9 students, who won first place at the Mathematics Education Innovation Maths Picnic competition!



Two SCA students participated in a recent UKMT maths challenge and were successful in qualifying for the second round!



TDA launched their First Story book programme, where 10 talented young writers worked with a professional writer to create work that has now been professionally published!



MCA computing leader Martin Sexton has been sharing his knowledge across primaries with the Digital Schoolhouse programme- that's what a family of academies looks like!







Join our CEO, Sir Nick Weller, as we discuss his astounding career in education and his plans for our Trust.

# Get to Know

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# Our CEO

## What attracted you to join ATT after such a long time with Dixons?

I was looking for a new experience and personally, I just needed a new challenge. ATT is a Trust with a lot of potential that has had some very strong Ofsted judgements recently. I know it's been through some difficult times in the past, but I think we are through those now. Building on that and building a more positive culture across the organisation was really appealing to me.

## You've been with ATT for about nine months now. What do you feel you've achieved in that time?

I think we now have a clear sense of direction going forward. We've done significant restructuring around the central team, we've boosted up safeguarding and SEND for next year. All Trusts are facing financial challenges, so putting ATT on secure financial footing has been a key priority for me in recent months.

## What are your ambitions for the Trust moving forward?

There are four goals we are working towards. The first thing we want to do is build a greater commonality in terms of what binds us together as ATT, including things like culture and learning.

We've made a start on restructuring our vital shared services, to make them as cost effective and impactful as possible.

We are working to improve outcomes, which is particularly challenging at the moment, with attendance figures being what they are nationally.

We're also starting to approach the idea of taking on new schools, and I think an element of growth over the next few years would be a very positive thing. Whereas in the past ATT wasn't the first port of call when a school became available for sponsorship, those perceptions are changing, and we are starting to be approached.

## Let's talk a little bit about your background. What have you been most proud of over your long education career?

I started my career as an English teacher in London. It was a fairly turbulent time in the early eighties, and I've always worked in challenging schools and environments with high levels of disadvantage. I've always been proud of opening up opportunities for students that they otherwise wouldn't have had. Over sixteen years at Dixons, I worked with some very challenging schools in a much more urban environment. I'm proud of the schools we started from scratch, and which absolutely transformed learning in those communities, but also those which we were brave enough to take on and turned around. This is the ethos I want to bring to ATT, whose rural communities are probably even more marginalised and forgotten than those urban communities I have previously worked with; they're not front-and-centre of political consciousness.

## Quickfire Questions

### Describe our Trust in one word?

I'd say high-potential.

### What would you have done if you'd not decided to work in education?

I think I would have been a barrister.

### What are you currently reading?

Scrum Master, by Joe Justice.

### What's your favourite food or restaurant?

I love a place called Dishoom- it's an Indian, modern fusion kind of place.

### What's your ideal holiday destination?

My favourite place to visit is Portugal.

### What's on your bucket list?

I'd love to do a trip down the Amazon. I'd like to say a parachute jump, but I don't know that I'd be brave enough to do it!

### What are your hobbies?

I dabble in DIY and carpentry, like building bookshelves.

### What's the best piece of advice you've received in your career?

That we do it for the pupils, not for Ofsted.



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