

OUR TRUST

TRANSFORMING LIFE CHANCES

AUTUMN 2024 | ISSUE 23



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Welcome Message from our Chief Executive Officer



Welcome to Our Trust, which is full of celebration stories, milestone moments, and many examples of how we are Transforming Life Chances at the Thinking Schools Academy Trust.

One of the enjoyable aspects of my job as Chief Executive Officer

is the opportunity to attend some fantastic events and remarkable moments across every region we serve.

At the beginning of September, I joined members of our Board of Trustees, school staff, pupils and contractors for the official opening of the new Maritime Academy building.

Not only was this event a huge success, but it was a reminder of the brilliant work Maritime Academy is achieving to **'Make Excellence a Habit'**, which is the school's motto. You can find more details about this on page 4.

Staying on the theme of visits and celebrations, I was delighted to attend Plymouth High School for Girls' 150th celebration event back in the summer.

What struck me was the sheer popularity the school has within the community it serves, both for existing pupils and their alumni.

Memorable stories were shared, tears of happiness were shed, and plenty of laughter echoed through the corridors enjoyed by all.

As one of the largest academy trusts spanning the South of England, there is always a hive of activity taking place behind the scenes, which leads to positive results that benefit the lives of every pupil we serve.

And one of the key discussions and developments that have been welcomed is the expansion of our Little Thinkers Nursery early years provision.

On page 17 of Our Trust, you can explore more about the growth of Little Thinkers in Portsmouth as well as at Kings Ash Academy and Curledge Street Academy in Paignton.

There is a demand for quality early years provision within these communities and we are proud to open new Little Thinkers Nursery settings to support this.

This will also contribute to our desire to offer an all-through education for many families we engage with.

Throughout this issue, you will also see details about our desire to become an Artsmark Trust, results day coverage, grant success and how schools have been raising money for charity.

There is something for all to enjoy within Our Trust.

Enjoy your read.

Stuart Gardner

Stuart Gardner, MSc, NPQH, NLE
Chief Executive Officer



Maritime Academy New Build Success



Maritime Academy sail-abrates official opening of new school building in Frindsbury

Maritime Academy, a new secondary school in Frindsbury, hosted its official opening event on Thursday 19th September, launching its impressive new school building.

The school was built to meet the increasing need for secondary school places in the region. The new space, which is now home to students in Years 7, 8 and 9, will eventually serve 1,100 young people, providing a high-tech and supportive learning environment.

The opening event welcomed more than 60 attendees who have been part of the school's journey and provided support throughout the process. Attendees included Councillor Vince Maple, Leader of Medway Council, Councillor Tracy Coombs, Portfolio Holder for Education at Medway Council, the contractors and architects involved in the build, as well as key members of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust.

Guests were greeted at the school before being regaled with speeches from Stuart Gardner, the Trust's CEO, Gerard Newman, Chair of the Board, Matt Evans, Maritime Academy Principal, and students. The blue

ribbon was cut marking the official opening of the site, commemorated by a plaque displayed in the Galley area.

Tours of the building then commenced, allowing attendees to explore the facilities of this new site, designed with the students and the environment in mind. The three-story building boasts incredible state-of-the-art facilities including a spacious main hall, fittingly named the Quarterdeck with a separate drama space, Design and Food Technology labs, and modern classrooms with ample amounts of natural light as well as recycling stations and electric charging points.

The grounds also have a brand-new gym centre for students to use as part of their sports education. Part of the Trust's not-for-profit Thinking Fitness brand, the gym will also be open to the local community outside of school hours, offering a well-equipped and friendly space for people to exercise while putting money back into the education of the local students.

The school has also been keen to open its doors for students and families to explore their





new home ahead of the Year 6 open evening on Tuesday 24th September. With this in mind, current students were invited to enjoy tours with their families, giving them an opportunity to see the school they are proud to send their children to.

The event rounded off with mingling and canapés, prepared by the school's catering team.

The opening event was a very special moment for the school, which originally opened its doors at a temporary location in September 2022 due to the discovery of some of the largest prehistoric stone tools in Britain on the building site.

Archaeologists uncovered a giant hand axe thought to be over 300,000 years old and a Roman cemetery, discoveries of both regional and national significance. The school is proud to be part of Medway and the rich history the area holds and has integrated this historical discovery into its curriculum so students can

'The new building offers everything a student could want for their education, with state-of-the-art facilities and spacious grounds'

explore the heritage of Frindsbury and beyond.

Matt Evans, Principal of Maritime Academy reflected on the events, saying: "I'm so proud to say we have officially opened Maritime Academy. It's been a long journey for the school, but with the support of our Trust, community and of course our students, we are finally here.

"The new building offers everything a student could want for their education, with state-of-the-art facilities and spacious grounds, I look forward to seeing our young people grow throughout their years with us."





THINKING
fitness

THE GYM THAT PUTS MONEY INTO EDUCATION



State-of-the-art cardiovascular
and resistance equipment



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suited to a range of abilities



Affordable membership
options for all the family

thinking-fitness.com

Paignton Fitness Hoops Grant Success

Paignton Sports Hub celebrate much anticipated restoration of community basketball hoops

In a heartening victory for local sports enthusiasts, Paignton Sports Hub has successfully restored its basket hoops, thanks to a grant from Active Devon.

Paignton Sports Hub on Waterleat Road provides Paignton Academy students and the wider community with 16 courts for badminton, basketball, netball, football and gymnastics.

It is the only multi-court site available in Torbay for hosting both junior and adult basketball tournaments throughout the year, playing a vital role in nurturing athletic talent and fostering community spirit.

Given its regular use by more than 1,400 students and 1,000 residents, Thinking Lettings applied for funding to update the facilities. They were successful and received a generous £15,000 grant from Active Devon to help bring new life to the beloved centre.

At the forefront of this renovation was the restoration of the very popular basketball hoops which are used by many students and community clubs across the region. The repairs have been successful and the basketball hoops now stand tall and fully functional, ready to welcome players of all ages.

Cody Levell, Fitness and Lettings Manager at Paignton Hub has expressed: "Active Devon is dedicated to inspiring and supporting the people of Devon to be active and we would like to thank them for their funding. The grant will support basketball as a provision both for the students at Paignton Academy and the clubs and community across Torbay.



"We are delighted with the successful repair of the basketball hoops. The installation of new motors has restored the hoops' full functionality, which will now be available for our community to use and enjoy.

"Celebrating the restoration of our beloved basketball hoops is not just about repairing equipment; it's about rekindling the passion for the game and revitalising the sense of community spirit that thrives within these courts."



Holcombe Grammar School Celebrate Accolades



Holcombe Grammar School is thrilled to maintain its 'Good' school status, following its Ofsted Inspection

The highly complementary report highlighted the school's dedication to creating a learning community where life chances can be transformed, commenting that "the school's motto of **'Transforming Life Chances'** is reflected in all that the school does."

The inspectors praised the school's ambition for its pupils, the importance placed on ensuring a high-quality curriculum and the purposeful atmosphere in lessons. Furthermore, Ofsted commended the strength of personal development at Holcombe, applauding the wealth of opportunities provided to nurture pupils' talents and interests and support them to progress onto successful careers.

Other highlights included:

- Teachers are real experts and weave subject-specific and technical vocabulary skilfully into conversations that they have with pupils
- Pupils benefit from studying a wide range of subjects
- Teaching staff receive the training they need to help pupils and as a result, pupils with SEND access the same curriculum as their peers and achieve well overall
- Safeguarding is effective and pupils know who to turn to if they are worried about anything
- The new personal development curriculum is delivered enthusiastically by staff and is valued by pupils. They learn how to be responsible citizens and develop healthy relationships

- High numbers participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award school or join Sea Cadets and the school's arts, drama and music clubs thrive
- Pupils in Sixth Form value the guidance they are given for their next steps. They feel well informed about university courses, apprenticeships and employment and that consequently many go on to top universities and high-profile careers

Lee Preston, Headteacher of Holcombe Grammar School, reflected: "I am delighted to see that Ofsted recognises the hard work all of our staff put into ensuring that we provide a rich and inspiring education for our pupils. We nurture our pupils to become lifelong learners so they can continue to grow as they step out into the world beyond school, and it is wonderful to see the report reflect this. We look forward to continuing to develop and enhance our provision to continue to transform life chances and support all our pupils to excel."



‘Ofsted commended the strength of personal development at Holcombe, applauding the wealth of opportunities provided to nurture pupils’ talents and interests and support them to progress onto successful careers’

The report noted that “pupils are proud to attend their ‘**Rights Respecting**’ school [...] they experience an inclusive, welcoming, and supportive environment.” The school is also proud to have been awarded the Gold UNICEF Rights Respecting School (RRSA) award, becoming the third school in the South East of England and second in Kent to have been awarded Gold.

Stacey Sommerville, Assistant Principal for Personal Development, said: “This isn’t just an award; it’s a testament to the tireless efforts of everyone involved. [...] This Gold Award signifies more than just past accomplishments. It’s a beacon for the future, a promise that the wellbeing and rights of every child will continue to be championed within our school walls. It’s a springboard for ongoing advocacy, ensuring all children have the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential; nurturing a generation of responsible, compassionate young people who understand and value the rights of all.”



Making a Splash



Children make a splash and learn about water safety as pop-up pool comes to Portsmouth

Hundreds of children across three of our Portsmouth schools enjoyed making a splash in a temporary swimming pool that opened in the summer term, the first of its kind to open at a school in the city.

Meon Way Federation dived into the future of primary school swimming by having a pop-up solution to teach children to swim. It was based on the Moorings Way Infant School site.

The opportunities to use the pool were offered to children at Meon Infant School, Moorings Way Infant School, and Meon Junior School, who collectively form Meon Way Federation.

The innovative programme, led by Swim:ED and supported by ActiveMe 360, has a mission to improve pupils' swimming proficiency and water safety skills.

Swim:ED was developed by education specialists with experience delivering physical education, sport, and physical activities for pupils within primary schools across the country.

The innovative pop-up pool initiative aims to revolutionise swimming education in schools, allowing more young people to benefit from regular swim sessions.

Sara Paine, Executive Headteacher at Meon Way Federation, says the pool was a hit with children, saying: "Welcoming Swim:ED to Meon Way Federation has been a long time in the making, but I am delighted to see hundreds of our children enjoying the pop-up pool to strengthen their swimming ability and learning more about being safe around water.

"Our aspiration is for all pupils who attend the Federation to be able to swim and know water safety skills. Already, we are looking at dates for the future."

Will Atterbury, Founder and Managing Director at ActiveMe 360 CIC who managed the pool at Moorings Way said: "Following our success in other areas of Hampshire we are delighted to be able to bring the pop-up pool programme, Swim:ED, to the City of Portsmouth. This is our most exciting venture yet in our mission to change lives and improve health and wellbeing for children in Hampshire and Sussex.

"Swimming is a crucial life skill, especially in a coastal region where we are reminded all too often of the dangers of different waters around us, and it can also have such a positive impact on people's wellbeing."



Steven Hume, Lodestar Academy's Success



“Joining Thinking Schools Academy Trust was a breath of fresh air and accelerated improvements significantly,” says Lodestar Academy Headteacher

Since joining the Thinking Schools Academy Trust in September 2023, Lodestar Academy continues to improve. Here is what their Headteacher, Steven Hume, has to say when he spoke to Our Trust about his experience so far.

Describe life at Lodestar Academy before joining Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT)? Before joining TSAT, Lodestar, previously known as Burton Academy, was part of another trust and went through a challenging period. We had to be moved to a different trust. At that time, we were graded as requiring improvement by Ofsted, and we struggled to progress further on our own. Being a small school in a relatively remote area, we needed the support of a large, effective trust to move forward.

Why did you choose Thinking Schools Academy Trust? Initially, the Department for Education suggested another trust specialising in special schools for children with learning difficulties, but we felt a mainstream or mixed trust would better suit our needs. We wanted a trust that viewed our students as part of the mainstream community. We were impressed by TSAT's values and vision.

How was your experience when onboarding with TSAT? The onboarding process was exceptional. TSAT started working with us as soon as we were approved to join, months before the official transition. This proactive approach made us feel part of the TSAT family early on. Teams from TSAT visited us to understand our needs and offer support. Their genuine interest and balanced approach made us feel valued and excited about the collaboration.

How did TSAT support your journey to becoming a good school? TSAT's support was crucial in our journey to achieving a good rating from Ofsted. TSAT provided us with a clear pedagogy, improved governance, and significant curriculum development support. They paired us with the Rowans Alternative Provision in Kent, an outstanding school that isn't even a member of our trust, to help us develop our curriculum. This collaboration, along with TSAT's ongoing support, accelerated our improvement significantly.

What three words would you use to describe your experience with TSAT so far? Collaborative, supportive, transformative.



Paignton Academy's Abi shines bright in European Championship and Paris Olympics

Paignton Academy proudly celebrates the outstanding achievement of Abi Martin, a Year 11 student, who participated in the European Gymnastics Championship held in Italy, as well as the Olympics in Paris earlier this year

Abi, alongside her Team GB teammates, recently clinched the silver medal, highlighting remarkable talent and dedication on the international stage.

The GB team delivered a stellar performance, accumulating 162.16 points. Despite fierce competition, Italy secured gold with 164.162 points, while France claimed bronze with 158.796 points.

And Abi's journey in gymnastics didn't stop there; she made her Olympic debut at Paris 2024 just before receiving her GCSE results,

reaching a dream she has held since the tender age of five.

Her dedication to training, five days a week and 26 hours, underscores her commitment to her dreams. When asked about what she is most proud of, Abi commented: "I take pride in executing clean routines. I find joy in showcasing my skills on the floor, especially when I can incorporate bigger tumbles."

Recognising the crucial support Paignton Academy provides, Abi extends her appreciation for the school's assistance in



maintaining a harmonious balance between academic commitments and athletic pursuits. With coursework made accessible online, she ensures she remains academically on course without compromising her training regimen.

Looking towards the future, Abi aspires to represent Great Britain at the senior world championship, with the ambition to participate in more Olympic games.

While recognising the challenges ahead, she remains determined in her dedication to hard work and perseverance. Abi's achievements stand as a beacon of inspiration to her peers and a testament to the invaluable support of her coaches, school, and the wider community.

David Carpenter, Assistant Principal at Paignton Academy said: "Abi's success fills us with pride and embodies our school's ethos of ambition. Her dedication and commitment to her sport is truly inspiring."

As Abi continues to soar to new heights in her gymnastics journey, her remarkable achievements serve as a source of pride and inspiration for all who have had the privilege of witnessing her remarkable talent and determination.



**ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
RIMINI 2024**



150 Years of Education

Plymouth High community takes a trip down memory lane

Past and present students and staff of Plymouth High School for Girls came together for a celebration event to mark 150 years of service to the community.

Throughout 2024, the school has been commemorating 150 years since it opened as a cornerstone of education for girls across the region.

Plymouth High was founded as a consequence of the growing pressure in the late 19th century to improve women's rights and encourage girls to be ambitious, welcomed hundreds of people through its doors earlier this month for an afternoon talk, high tea, tour of classrooms and a chance to enjoy the specially created archive room.

Months of preparation went into the packed event earlier in the summer, with a student and staff team formed to work collaboratively with a group of our Alumni, to make the 150th celebrations and event to foster reflection

and also look to the future with optimism. It achieved exactly that.

The event also welcomed two former Headmistresses Mrs Rosemary Stoggall (1991 to 1998) and Mrs Sue Martin (1999 to 2007), who were welcomed onto the stage to offer reflections of their time leading the school. Laughter filled the air throughout their reflective moments, with the event concluding with a rendition of the school's original song.

Simon Underdown, Headteacher at Plymouth High School for Girls, praised the success of the event, saying: "It has been a wonderful occasion to bring members of this school community, old and new, together for this momentous achievement of educating girls (and latterly boys in the Sixth Form) across our region for 150 years.

"At Plymouth High, our motto '**For Life, Not School, We Learn**' is the firm foundation of everything we do and it has been fantastic





‘Throughout 2024, the school has been commemorating 150 years since it opened as a cornerstone of education for girls across the region’

to see former students inspiring our existing pupils to live by that every day. In particular, it was a joy to welcome back two former headmistresses and hear their memories of Plymouth High. Our student leaders did a superb job of hosting and welcoming everyone to the event.”

Heather Morgan, a former pupil at the school who joined in 1971, said: “It has been wonderful walking down memory lane looking at the archives, finding photographs of ourselves and our yearbook and, most of all, I enjoyed talking to current students. It

has been quite emotional to walk through the corridors and see the classrooms. We loved our time at school, and while some things look a little different there is also so much that is still the same, so it triggers those lovely memories of the times we had at school, we just loved being back here to enjoy this day.”

Paula Roberts, who also attended the school from 1971, said: “Today, we have been talking to the students and they have been asking us questions, and we have been asking them questions, and it’s really interesting to see how alike everything is, despite it being a very long time since we were at school. Nothing has really changed, and I think that is the beauty of Plymouth High School.”



Plymouth High School for Girls

‘For Life, Not School, We Learn’





**LITTLE THINKERS
NURSERY**

**Lighting up
learning at
Little Thinkers**

**A place where
our wonders
guide our
adventures...**



**Celebrating
our expansion
across
Portsmouth
and Paignton**



littlethinkers.org.uk

Little Thinkers Expansion ●●●



Little Thinkers welcome big adventures as TSAT nursery provision expands across regions

A growing number of children and their families will benefit from ‘**Thinking**’ nurseries that will provide wonderful experiences that stimulate children’s senses - that’s thanks to the expansion of our Little Thinkers Nursery provision.

A brand-new early year setting, which offers a vibrant and engaging learning environment for nursery-aged children, has opened in Portsmouth at the site of Meon Way Federation.

And in the coming months, Kings Ash Academy and Curledge Street Academy will open a Little Thinkers setting for 9 months to 2-year-olds.

The existing pre-school setting at both schools for 2 to 4-year-olds will continue under the school brand, but Little Thinkers is an extension to what’s on offer in the community.

Sonia Nickerson, the Strategic Director for Little Thinkers, said: “We are absolutely delighted to be expanding Little Thinkers with new settings at Meon Way Federation in Portsmouth, as well as Kings Ash Academy and Curledge Street Academy sites in Paignton after October half term.

“This growth marks an exciting new chapter for Little Thinkers, as it allows us to bring our unique approach to early years education to even more children and families across our regions.

“At Little Thinkers, we believe in nurturing curiosity, creativity, and a love of learning from the very start, and these new settings will give us the opportunity to create inspiring environments where young minds can truly flourish.

“We are thrilled to be expanding in these communities and look forward to building strong partnerships with families, local schools, and the wider community, as we continue our mission to shape the next generation of thinkers transform life chances.”

Sonia continued: “It is fantastic news that later this year we will extend our early years offering at Kings Ash Academy and Curledge Street Academy. This expansion reflects our commitment to providing an all-through educational journey in Paignton, ensuring that children receive consistent, high-quality care and education from their earliest years through to their primary and secondary schooling.”



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Your guidance and support can help shape the leaders of tomorrow. As a volunteer, you'll play a crucial role in developing the skills, confidence, and character of our cadets.

Share Your Skills:

Whether you have a background in leadership, education, outdoor activities, or even hobbies like cooking and crafts, your expertise can enrich our cadet programme. Every skill you bring can open new doors and experiences for our young members.

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New Developments at The Victory Academy



The Victory Academy lays the groundwork for new developments

The Victory Academy, in partnership with Medway Council, laid out plans and designs for a Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) and new Sixth Form block at the school. The academy consulted with their local community to provide feedback on their development plan to expand the school, and following a positive response for both, the school broke ground for the build in Term 5.

The SRP will help students requiring additional support for Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH). This provision will be housed in a new capital build project which will be completed in late 2024. Initially, the provision will provide spaces for a small number of students with an Education and Healthcare Plan (EHCP), expanding to accommodate a

‘The school will receive additional funding to meet the students’ needs through additional support, resources, and specialist training’

maximum of 25 students over time. All students attending the SRP will have an EHCP that lists SEMH as their primary need.

The Victory Academy and Thinking Schools Academy Trust have a fully inclusive ethos. As a result, the SRP will be of tremendous value to the community and the school. The school will receive additional funding to meet the students’ needs through additional support, resources, and specialist training.

In addition, the new Sixth Form block will provide state-of-the-art facilities for the school’s growing Sixth Form, including study and social spaces specifically for Sixth Form students, which will be separate from the main Academy building. This will support an increase in the school’s Published Admission Number (PAN) from 210 to 240 students in Year 7 from either September 2025 or September 2026, providing additional teaching space within the main building.

Existing Sixth Form space will be converted into additional classrooms. This increase in PAN will further help to meet the increased need for secondary school places in Medway.



Thinking School Accreditation Award

Furzeham Primary and Nursery School Awarded Thinking School Accreditation by The University of Exeter

Furzeham Primary and Nursery School has been awarded Thinking School accreditation by the University of Exeter, joining 17 other schools across the Thinking Schools Academy Trust to gain Thinking School status.

Furzeham Primary and Nursery School joined the Thinking Schools Academy Trust in November 2022 and soon after began its journey towards a Thinking School status. In May 2024, the school hosted a '**Celebration of Learning**' event, which highlighted its commitment to embedding thinking tools such as Habits of Mind, Thinking Hats, Thinking Maps, and Thinking Keys.

One of the highlights of the event was the introduction of their '**Mini Thinkers Drive Team**', a group of pupils from Year 2 to Year 6, dedicated to promoting the 16 Habits of Mind and enhancing their critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills.

Furzeham Primary and Nursery School has worked hard to weave this framework into everyday life at the school, and this was recognised throughout the school's assessment and subsequent accreditation.

The University of Exeter said in their report: "It is clear that Thinking Skills are embedded within the culture of Furzeham Primary School. Curriculum policy documents and plans clearly map out a thinking strategy that subsequently feed into teaching strategies, and so moves thinking approaches from policy to practice.

"Thinking Skills are embedded within the culture of Furzeham Primary School. Thinking serves as a '**golden thread**' throughout the school. The school's Learning and Teaching approach is built on evidence-based cognitive principles from the Science of Learning,



'Furzeham Primary and Nursery School has worked hard to weave this framework into everyday life at the school'

embracing elements such as cognitive load and memory/schema development. It is understood that learning does not stop at the school gates but continues into our everyday life.

"With this in mind, Furzeham Primary and Nursery School provides parents with helpful information to support their children's learning at home."

Claire Thompson, Deputy Head at the school, who led the school's application to achieve the Thinking Schools Accreditation, said: "It's been such a rewarding journey leading this accreditation process. The dedication from our team and the enthusiasm from the pupils has been incredible."



Beauty and the Beast Jr

Furzeham Primary and Nursery School young perform 'Beauty and the Beast Jr' for hundreds of spectators

Pupils at Furzeham Primary and Nursery School delivered a spectacular performance of the show, held at Brixham College, highlighting the exceptional talent and dedication of the school community, bringing this 'tale as old of time' to life with exquisite costumes and unforgettable performances.

Months of rehearsals resulted in a magical evening where the stage was transformed into a realm of enchantment. The dedication and hard work of the pupils and staff was evident in every scene, capturing the hearts of everyone in attendance.

A special highlight of the evening was the return of previous pupils who had previously graced Furzeham's stage.

Lottie, a former pupil who once portrayed Mrs. Potts, who is currently studying Musical Theatre at the Liverpool Media Academy, returned to help stage the show. Reflecting on her journey, Lottie shared: "Playing Mrs. Potts jumpstarted my love for musical theatre. It inspired me to pursue this passion, and now I am studying Musical Theatre at LMA Liverpool. If it were not for that role, I would not be where I am today."

As the curtain closed on this memorable production, it marked a significant milestone for the Year 6 children who played the main parts. For many of them, this performance also symbolised their transition from primary school to starting secondary schools in September.

Millie, a Year 6 who played Lumière, expressed her newfound confidence, saying: "My favourite bit has been connecting with the rest of the cast. This has really built up my confidence and this is the biggest part I've had in a show."

Claire Thompson, Deputy Head at Furzeham Primary School, and Director of the production, extended her gratitude to the school community: "Beauty and the Beast is about hope, friendship, and resilience, which mirrors everything we believe in at Furzeham Primary and Nursery School."



New Green Spaces for Meon Infant School



City MP Stephen Morgan praises Meon Infant School for new green spaces as he plants commemorative tree

The school received support from Portsmouth City Council and Trees for Cities to create a vibrant and thriving green area of their playground.

Stephen Morgan MP, said: “It is important for children to engage with and learn about nature, following a visit to plant a tree at Meon Infant School in Portsmouth.

“The space is now complete with beautiful plants and a place to grow fruit and vegetables.

“The green space is already being enjoyed by children and staff and will support pupils as they learn about the environment around them.”

On Facebook, Stephen said: “It is so important for children to learn about nature for their health, happiness, and success at school. It was a pleasure to join pupils at Meon Infant School today to plant a tree. The children called it Benny the Blossom.”

Trees for Cities are the only UK charity working at a national and international scale to improve lives by planting trees in cities.

Sara Paine, Executive Headteacher of Meon Way Federation, said: “Trees for Cities project is all about bringing nature into schools. But as well as that, it’s all about the children being able to learn about growing fruits and vegetables, learning about looking after their environment, and bringing wildlife into the school grounds.

“Our children had the opportunity to see the drawn-out plans and what was going to happen, then they got to watch the space actually being built, and from the playground they got to see the digging happen, the development being put in, so they were really excited to get into this space and enjoy it.”



Children from the other schools within Meon Way Federation: Meon Junior School and Moorings Way Infant School, also welcomed Trees for Cities onto their site to transform spaces into vibrant green areas too.

Mrs Paine continued: “It was lovely to welcome Stephen Morgan MP to Meon Infant School to plant a tree with an enthusiastic cohort of children. It was Stephen’s first time at the school, so it was a pleasure to give him a tour of our classrooms to showcase the good work happening across every year group.”



live
Healthy



Thinking Food

Good
food
is
Good
mood

Bon
appetit!

GOOD FOOD
makes
everything
BETTER

Yummy

Green Hats on for WeAreOne!



Schools Collectively Celebrate Earth Day and Trust Favourite, TSArTs Week

Earth Day supports our Trust's work towards a more sustainable future. The event took place on 22nd April 2024, the annual date for this global event, and was backed by our Trust's Pupil Voice. Pupils were encouraged to put on their '**Green Hats for Sustainability**' to think of creative ways to promote recycling in and outside schools, linking to this year's theme, '**Planet Vs Plastic**'. Pupils designed promotional banners for this campaign and submitted them to the Trust for judging, selecting a winner from both the primary and secondary categories. We selected winners from over 150 incredible entries, with Cedar Children's Academy in Medway emerging as the primary winner and Paignton Academy in Torbay emerging as the secondary winner. The designs were illustrated by our Trust's in-house illustrator and graphic designer, Georgina Golding, before being displayed at every school across the Trust, spreading the message far and wide.

To make their mark on the day, schools and offices participated in the Great TSAT switch-off, shutting down for as little as 10 minutes to reduce their carbon footprint. This also gave

'To make their mark on the day schools and offices participated in the Great TSAT switch-off, shutting down for as little as 10 minutes to reduce their carbon footprint'

people the opportunity to step away from their desks, get outside, or socialise with colleagues, supporting their mental health.

We look forward to continuing our eco-work next year, collaborating further with our Earth Alliance councils.

Our last WeAreOne event of the year was one of our favourites. TSArTs week came back for its third year and was bigger than ever! Leaning into mark-making, the event celebrates all things artistic and creative. From the written word to the movement of dance, schools enjoyed engaging in a number of themed activities based on Sky Arts Week.





TSArTs week saw the return of our much-anticipated Trust's Got Talent competition, where staff and pupils were invited to submit a 2-minute talent video to be judged.

In previous years, we have seen signers, dancers, and musical theatre productions take the trophy, but this year, our Trust community upped the ante! Entries came in a variety of forms, from celebrating impressions and comedic performances to ribbon dancing and 'I'm just Ken' re-enactments.

With the help of our celebrity judge, multi-award film, TV and stage actor, Ben Roddy, the results were in. The winners of our Primary category were... Penbridge Junior School for a stunning solo dance piece.

Ben reviewed the piece, saying: "The soloist in this piece was incredibly talented, I'm not entirely sure I'm qualified to judge her. The choreography, commitment to storytelling and technical skill were all excellent.

"Well done, you were absolutely fantastic. You've got talent and are a worthy winner!"

The winners of our secondary category were... Colchester Royal Grammar School for their incredible orchestral rendition of the Star Wars theme tune. Ben praised the entry, commenting: "What can I say, this was genuinely fantastic, is there a more iconic piece of John William's music? Probably not.



"The orchestra sounded of a very high standard and you only get that quality of sound when a large group of very talented individuals come together and work very hard."

When announcing the winner, he said: "The winner has to be Colchester Royal Grammar School - What a first-class orchestra. What an incredible sound. You are all more than a sum of your parts. Together to be able to create that is something quite special!"



Plympton Academy Students Selected to Perform at The National Theatre, London

This journey began last summer when Plympton Academy was first selected to perform at the National Theatre Connections Festival held at The Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

The first task was to sift through the ten plays on offer and select one that resonated with them. After thoughtful consideration, they settled on **'The Periodicals'** by Sian Owen, a captivating story set in a futuristic world where young people survive as techno-savvy outcasts on a rubbish dump.

Students in Years 10 to 13 participated in intensive rehearsals and discussions, drawing inspiration from a director's weekend at the National Theatre where they met the playwright. This collaboration deepened their understanding of the play's themes and characters, enabling the cast to infuse their performances with authenticity and conviction.

One central theme of this play struck a chord with the students - the challenges faced by neurodiversity individuals in a neurotypical environment. With dedication and creativity, they brought these characters to life, delivering performances that resonated with audiences.

Joshua Wallace, a Year 13 student commented: "Being hand selected to perform at The National theatre has come as a great blessing and a delightful opportunity for us performers! We are all very excited to travel up to London and perform in such a notorious Theatre, such an opportunity is rare, and we are incredibly grateful.

"I am honoured to have had the chance to perform **'The Periodicals'** again, as its message is a very important topic which I feel should be talked about more within the education system."

Their talents extended beyond the stage, with

some students taking on roles in lighting and sound operation, highlighting their versatility and commitment to the production.

As Plympton Academy celebrates this achievement, they reaffirm their commitment to nurturing a culture of success where every individual is empowered to pursue their dreams.

Jo Crook, Head of Performing Arts at Plympton Academy, expressed her pride in the students: "Witnessing our students immerse themselves in the world of **'The Periodicals'** and bring its characters to life with such depth and authenticity has been truly inspiring. Their dedication, creativity and professionalism throughout the process have exceeded all expectations.

"We are absolutely thrilled that they will have the opportunity to perform on such a reputable stage in London. This is an amazing experience for our students, and being the only school in the South West selected for this honour makes it even more special. It is a testament to their hard work and exceptional talent."





Image - Jimmy Lee Photography



Exam Results

Schools welcome a buzz of celebration for A-Level and GCSE results days for the Class of 2024

After years of hard work and determination, 1,774 GCSE and 600 A Level students from across secondary school and sixth form settings within the Thinking Schools Academy Trust have embarked on their next chapter following their results success.

Teachers were thrilled to welcome families and the Class of 2024 back into school over the summer for A level and GCSE results days. Earlier this year, Rochester Grammar School (RGS) sixth form students celebrated outstanding International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) results too.

Nationally, the outcome for A level results focused on an increase in top grades compared to last year, and even more so when compared to the pre-pandemic. GCSE results also welcomed a small increase in top grades compared to 2023.

Nonetheless, our results days were full of stories and excitement about next step

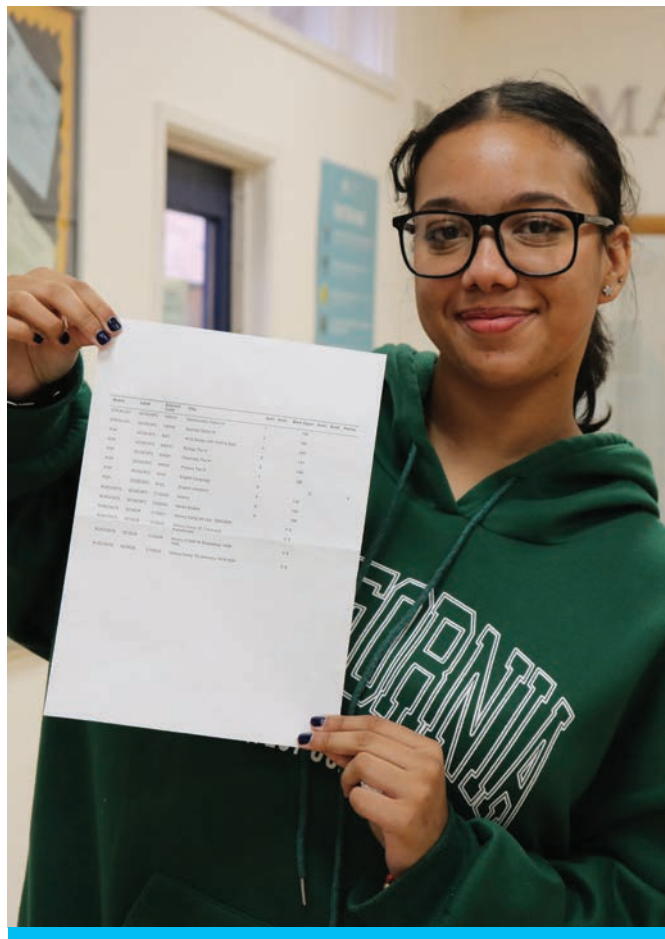
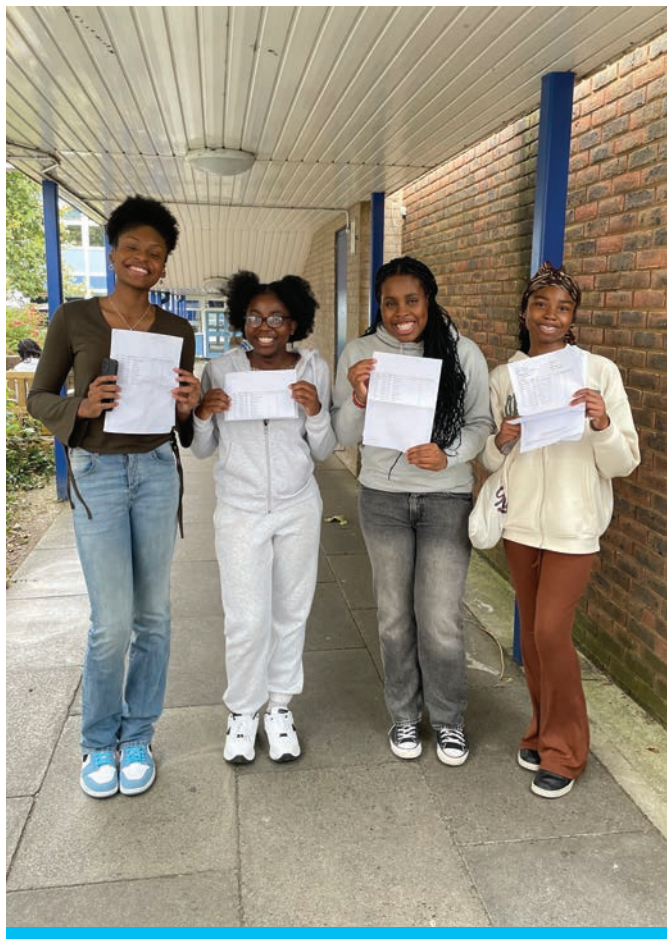
opportunities for all our students - many of whom will continue onto sixth form within our trust.

Josh, from Plympton Academy in Plymouth, gained a Distinction in Dance and Double Distinction in Performing Arts. He is off to study Performing Arts at Mountview, one of the UK's leading drama schools. He said: "I can't believe today; I feel like anything is possible. At Plympton Academy, no dream is too big, and no star is too far."

Naia, from The Portsmouth Academy, received two grade 9s, four grade 8s, three grade 7s and a 4. She is off to the City of Portsmouth College to study biology and chemistry with the aspiration to go to university.

She said: "I feel so much relief now that I have my results, and I'm really happy because I worked really hard to achieve them. I revised so much and stayed up late studying all the time. I felt so anxious and nervous about today,





but all that hard work has paid off, and I'm really proud of that. I'd encourage everyone younger than me to revise for their exams, but don't put so much pressure on yourself because you will burn out. As much as your results are important, you need to ensure you enjoy the time you are studying."

The BBC also visited The Victory Academy to

speak with students there who performed well in their GCSE exams. The vast majority of students have now transitioned to their first-choice post-16 destination, which includes A Level and BTEC courses at The Victory Academy.

Our teams across the regions have captured some beautiful moments that show what it means to Transform Life Chances.



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Latest opportunities

Staff Enjoy Football Match for Well-being

Portsmouth staff enjoy football match to promote well-being and mental health awareness

Staff from across Portsmouth schools within the Thinking Schools Academy Trust came together to promote well-being and camaraderie through the power of football, while raising awareness for a mental health charity.

Two teachers, one from Penbridge School and the other from New Horizons Primary School, took the initiative to organise a friendly staff football match to bring people together for fun, laughter and a decent workout.

But what started as a simple idea between two schools then led to an opportunity for staff at The Portsmouth Academy, who formed a team and offered their football pitch for the game to take place in the evening.

Mr Arnell, P.E. Lead at Penbridge School, said: “Mr Hayden from New Horizons and I decided we should start some staff football games to increase well-being and have a laugh after school for the adults.

“We then decided to challenge the secondary staff from TPA who were very keen to play. I liaised with their P.E. lead at the school and managed to secure the booking and a date, which made our idea become a reality.

“I suggested the game should be played in honour of MIND mental health charity, which I have links to having sadly lost a couple of friends due to mental health. Each school has had a pot which they collected; however, it wasn’t just about raising money, but raising awareness for looking after your mental health.

“The match itself was great fun played with great spirits and competition. Thank you to the staff at TPA for playing, but also inviting some of their pupils for refereeing.”



‘Staff from across Portsmouth schools within the Thinking Schools Academy Trust came together to promote well-being and camaraderie through the power of football’

All schools from across Portsmouth will now be looking to compete in a friendly competition again next term. Staff from New Horizons and Penbridge formed one team, to play against The Portsmouth Academy staff team who won.

On their website, Mind says: “We won’t give up until everyone experiencing a mental health problem gets support and respect. For over 60 years, Mind has worked to improve the lives of people with mental health problems.”

Find out more about the charity by going to mind.org.uk



Artsmark School Success and Trust Ambitions

Celebrating Artsmark Success at Meon Way Federation, Rochester Grammar School and New Horizons Primary School

Three schools from the Thinking Schools Academy Trust - Meon Way Federation, New Horizons Primary School, and Rochester Grammar School - have been recognised with prestigious Artsmark Awards for their commitment to arts and cultural education.

Meon Way Federation, which includes Meon Infant School, Moorings Way Infant School, and Meon Junior School, has made significant strides in arts education. Meon Infant and Moorings Way received the Artsmark Silver award, while Meon Junior School earned the Gold award. These accolades highlight the schools' dedication to delivering a comprehensive arts curriculum that fosters creativity among their students.

Artsmark, supported by Arts Council England, celebrates schools nationwide for their efforts in promoting arts and cultural education, enriching students' learning experiences across all subjects.

The recognition of Meon Way Federation schools reflects their strong commitment to arts education. Moorings Way Infant School's report praised its cultural inclusivity, noting that the school actively engaged local artists and considered the diversity of students' experiences. Meon Infant School was commended for integrating the arts into core subjects such as History, Science, and English, ensuring that every child has foundational knowledge before beginning new topics.

Elsewhere in Portsmouth, New Horizons Primary School also achieved the Artsmark Silver award. Their report commended the school's efforts to provide consistent and meaningful arts experiences both inside and outside the classroom. The school has recently developed a dedicated music room, hosted an arts week with a pupil gallery, and African dancing into the curriculum.

In Kent, Rochester Grammar School earned the Artsmark Gold award, further cementing its commitment to embedding arts and culture into its curriculum. The Artsmark assessor praised the school's partnerships with local arts and cultural organisations and noted that students benefit from arts activities both in and out of the classroom.

Initiatives like the '[Winter Showcase](#)', new facilities for dance and art, and an art installation project inspired by Yinka Shonibare were particularly commended.



The school has supported their staff to feel confident in their teachings of the arts and are being provided with the relevant training to support this change in curriculum, from within the school and across the Thinking Schools Academy Trust.

The report commented: “[Rochester Grammar School] has seen staff confidence increase across the school in untraditional creative subjects through internal support and planning, and modelling from the practitioners you have worked with. [The school’s] specialist teaching staff are accessing relevant CPD, and it’s good to hear how some staff have governance roles for local arts and cultural organisations, and are leading within the MAT.”

The report continued to commend the support that the school receives from their Senior Leaders and Governing body, saying: “There is SLT and governor support, and the arts are a driver in school values and planning.”

These Artsmark awards celebrate the remarkable achievements of the Trust’s schools in fostering arts education. As a Trust, there is an ambition for all schools to be Artsmark accredited, demonstrating a unified commitment to arts and cultural education across the network.



Pupil Parliament Sample New Food

Pupils sample new foods to appear on school menu and provide feedback

New Horizons Primary School's has welcomed new items to their menu, all thanks to the collaboration between the Pupil Parliament and Chartwells, the school's food provider.

Representing students from each year group, the Pupil Parliament recently sampled some potential food options to appear on the menu next term. These included vegetarian meatball pizza, chicken and veggie pie, creamy potatoes, and a sticky pudding cake with a twist – it has beetroot and other healthy foods baked into it.

The Pupil Parliament gave their honest opinions about what they liked, what they didn't, and what they'd rather not see on their lunch trays. They also provided some other suggestions about meals which may appear on the menu.

Now, Chartwells will take those opinions to support their decision as they tweak the menu.

Mrs. Powell, who leads on Pupil Parliament at the school, says this activity is all about giving young people a voice to influence what other children can enjoy at lunchtime.

She said: "This collaboration between Chartwells and our Pupil Parliament is absolutely fantastic. We formed our Pupil Parliament to be a voice for others within their class, to share opinions and encourage positive change, and that's exactly what we are seeing in action.

"I'm pleased to hear that the children were very opinionated about what they really enjoyed, but also gave feedback about what they feel won't be as popular, which is really important. It's activities like this that encourage them to speak freely and respectfully, and I'm proud of them for doing that."

Elsewhere in Portsmouth, Chartwells also engaged with pupils at The Portsmouth Academy for feedback on potential new items

to appear on their menu. The kitchen team believe it is important to hear from those who will enjoy the food each day.

Food and nutrition students gave feedback about new items planned to appear on the lunch menu. They made comments about texture, spice, and colour to help our catering team deliver a balanced and tasty menu for many to enjoy.

Well done to every pupil who has provided feedback to various catering providers across the Trust about the food they are served; pupil voice and feedback is important across all our regions.



Kings Ash Academy Celebrate Hope with Royal Opera House

Nationwide event brings more than 50,000 pupils together from 500 schools across the UK

Kings Ash Academy recently had the privilege of joining forces with the Royal Opera House and UNICEF for a truly transformative occasion: The Royal Opera House Create Day.

This nationwide event recently brought together more than 50,000 pupils from 500 schools across the UK to celebrate the UN convention on the rights of the child.

Focused on the theme of hope, Kings Ash Year 5 pupils immersed themselves in various artistic disciplines, including dance, movement, music and design.

What made this event particularly special was its live video broadcast format, allowing pupils to not only display their talents, but also see the collective efforts of peers from schools across the UK.

Through this live video stream, they experienced a keen sense of unity and common purpose as they worked with other

pupils across the UK contributing to the theme of hope.

At the heart of the event were distinguished artists from the Royal Ballet and Royal Opera Companies, who shared their expertise and passion with schools. This collaboration enabled pupils to learn from professionals and express their own interpretations of hope through artistic expression.

The final highlight of the day occurred as families gathered to watch pupils perform together via the live video stream.

“I have never done something with so many schools before. I feel happy to be doing it, because we are trying to show that everyone has the right to play,” said one pupil, reflecting on their experience.

Reflecting on this experience, Moira Devonport, Head of Arts at Kings Ash Academy and proud member of The Thinking Schools Academy Trust expressed profound pride: “The Royal Opera House Create Day has been a monumental opportunity for our students to engage deeply with the arts and explore themes of hope and unity. Seeing our pupils collaborate with peers from across the UK under the guidance of world-class artists, and experiencing this through a live video stream, has been incredibly inspiring.”



Goodwin Clarence Fest

Goodwin Academy shines bright as they host their first annual Arts Festival!

The halls of Goodwin Academy in Deal were buzzing with excitement and creativity on Tuesday 16th July, welcoming students and staff to attend their first Clarence Fest event. The occasion aids the school's work to achieve the next level in their Artsmark journey; hosting an event as a celebration of arts, culture, and play, supporting Article 31 of the UNICEF Rights of the Child.

Clarence is Goodwin Academy's Culture Vulture, their emblem of all things cultural and creative. Fondly named after the character, Clarence Fest consisted of a day of free arts for all, providing the students with opportunities to enjoy the arts that they may not have otherwise.

The festival included a silent disco, dance workshop, circus skills workshop, street football, a music concert, theatre play, comedy club, and a fun taskmaster challenge. In true festival style, students were able to get their hair braided, have face glitter, and get temporary tattoo - a real step away from their everyday classroom experience.

Goodwin Academy's sense of community shone through their activities as they welcomed visitors from Christchurch University to perform their comedy acts and Yo! Street Zone, a street football organisation from Margate, to support the event before opening their doors to friends and families to watch student performances after school.

Performers for the music concert, theatre play, and dance show were students from Goodwin Academy who had practiced for weeks prior to the festival. The event also saw students who recently finished Years 11 and 13 return to showcase their love of performing and music.

Students designed bunting and posters to decorate the corridors throughout the school, promoting the day's activities, the importance of studying the arts, and the messages of

'Be Kind' and 'Positive Vibes'. Students were also responsible for covering the braiding, glitter, and tattoo stalls.

Mrs Kate Hayes-Watkins, Head of Performing Arts at Goodwin Academy, reflected on the event, saying: "It was a great success, meaning it is now embedded into Goodwin Academy's calendar where it will enjoy its annual place!"



“It was a pleasure to welcome the community into the school to see our talented students.

“Next year, we hope to have a wider variety of opportunities for our students, and we will be getting ideas from our student voice as we launch our Ministry of Culture in readiness for the next academic year.”

‘It was a great success, meaning it is now embedded into Goodwin Academy’s calendar where it will enjoy its annual place’



Dance for Diabetes

TSAT schools raise thousands for charity at vibrant 'Dance for Diabetes' event

An energetic event designed to get children moving and raise awareness about the impact diabetes has on people has raised thousands of pounds for charity.

Children from seven of our Portsmouth primary schools joined the citywide 'Dance for Diabetes' event in aid of Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation.

The event strives to raise awareness amongst young people about what diabetes is and how many people can avoid it through an active and healthy lifestyle.

Children were provided forms to raise money for their dance. For every £1 raised, the charity kindly gives 40 pence back to the school to support their mission to Transform Life Chances, with the remaining money being donated to the charity.

Everyone learned a simple choreographed fun dance routine from a series of videos provided to the schools by FunKidz Dance, who support the initiative each year. Here are the Thinking Schools Academy Trust schools in Portsmouth that participated -

- Penbridge Infant School
- Penbridge Junior School
- Meon Infant School
- Meon Junior School
- Moorings Way Infant School
- New Horizons Primary School

Tim Green, head of community fundraising at the Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation, said: "I am pleased to share TSAT schools raised a combined £8,429.70, with £3,371.88 (40%) making its way back to TSAT schools. What's more, New Horizons Primary School have been crowned with our 'Highest Fundraising School Award' for 2024, raising a mega, £4,464.90.

"We had 15 schools (participate) this year, with 6 being from TSAT. 31% of this year's income has come through TSAT schools, with the final amount reaching £27,160.13. Another record, up from £15.6k last year which is amazing. Thank you to every school for their support."

Samuel Poole, communications officer at the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, said: "Having worked with Tim and the team at Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation for some years now, it has been fantastic to see their Dance for Diabetes event grow from strength to strength.

"When I had the pleasure to photograph their Meon Way Federation event in 2023, I was driven to see all our Portsmouth primary schools involved so made the relevant introductions between the charity and school staff, and we achieved exactly that. This fundraiser is a brilliant initiative to support our schools to raise money to achieve their mission in Transforming Life Chances, while also doing good for another fantastic cause. Well done to everyone involved."

Dance for Diabetes will be back for 2025, with an ambition to extend this project to benefit other schools within the various TSAT regions.

Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation provide information and support, while funding diabetes research in order to better understand the causes, prevention and treatment.

Established in 1998, the charity's mission is to raise awareness of all types of diabetes and associated complications; provide information and support to promote good self-management and to enhance quality of life.





Images - Will Smith Photography

‘The event strives to raise awareness amongst young people about what diabetes is and how many people can avoid it through an active and healthy lifestyle’



Southsea Coastal Scheme

Southsea Coastal Scheme deliver workshop to show benefits of sea defences to New Horizons Primary School

Pupils from New Horizons Primary School have been learning about the effects and benefits of sea defences, following a visit from the Southsea Coastal Scheme who are leading on the coastal defences project to protect businesses and homes from flooding.

Year 5 and 6 pupils at the school have been introduced to the UK's largest local authority-led coastal defence project, worth more than £180m and the positive impact it will have on more than 10,000 homes across the city.

The pupils received a visual demonstration of the impact different sea defences can have through the use of a wave tank, helping a complicated and engineering-heavy project to be simplified for young minds to understand.

Sophie Carter, who delivered the session and works for the contractor delivering on the Southsea Coastal Scheme, said it's important to raise awareness about what is happening along the seafront.

She said: "We take our wave tank into schools to raise awareness about this coastal defence project, whilst also explaining to the children what we're doing to protect the environment

and sea life within our work.

"Our visit is also an opportunity to touch on climate change and help the children understand the link between building new sea defences and the reasons why we're there; sea levels are rising, there are bigger risks of storms which can lead to flooding. We use the wave tank as a visual way of showing them how the different sea defences will work when they're built, and why we're using different types of sea defences in different parts of Southsea seafront."

The team who delivers these sessions to schools across Portsmouth also believes this workshop is a positive way to broaden the minds of pupils to explore different types of careers available.

Rena, from Portsmouth City Council who helps promote this project, said: "We have had a really good response from schools across the city who have been contacting us for this demonstration. At the beginning of this project, we used to reach out to many organisations to go and talk to them, and now they come to us, so it is lovely to see that we have become popular with these kinds of events which inspire young people."



Communication Without Limits



Tree Tops specialist deaf provision helps to teach and support children with severe hearing loss

All Faiths Children's Academy is proud to have a specialist deaf provision called Tree Tops, where they teach and support children with severe hearing loss. Tree Tops uses a Total Communication approach where pupils can learn and communicate effectively to achieve their goals. This resource provision supports up to 25 deaf pupils from Nursery to Year 6, all of whom will have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) with a severe to profound hearing loss as their primary need.

proudly displayed around the playground area, making them accessible to everyone.

Learn more about Tree Tops at All Faiths by scanning the QR Code.



Tree tops pupils are included in all aspects of school life and learn alongside their age-related peers. As a wider school, children are taught BSL as a foreign language and participate in events such as Sign2Sing and Deaf Awareness Week; this allows all students within the school to be able to communicate effectively with one another.

These kindly donated signs celebrate and educate the school community about British Sign Language, teaching our students key terms and phrases that they can use to communicate with their peers. They are



BASIC Coaching Programme



Trust celebrates staff as newly certified coaches

A talented and passionate team of colleagues across The Thinking Schools Academy Trust have recently become certified coaches through the BASIC Coaching programme.

This initiative, which saw nearly 40 members of staff participate this year, is designed to enhance support for colleagues across the Trust by equipping them with a robust set of coaching skills.

The programme plays a critical role in fostering professional growth and collaboration within the Trust's schools, helping staff members navigate challenges, refine their practices, and achieve personal and collective goals.

The programme attracted participants from a wide range of roles within the Trust, including headteachers, classroom teachers, office managers, and support staff.

This diversity highlights the inclusive nature of the initiative, ensuring that coaching support is available at all levels and across various functions.

By engaging colleagues from multiple departments and roles, the programme fosters a culture of continuous professional development and strengthens collaboration and mutual support across the Trust.

One of the newly certified coaches, Jane Backhouse from The Portsmouth Academy, shared her positive experience: "The BASIC coaching course was a great introduction to coaching colleagues. Through the process of completing the journal, I was able to reflect on current practice and refine it using the BASIC approach, which provides a framework to structure effective coaching conversations. I have been able to then draw on this approach in my coaching work and can use

this alongside other strategies such as the Walkthrus coaching programme."

The BASIC Coaching programme provides a structured method for coaches to facilitate effective conversations, guide reflection, and promote solution-focused thinking.

As a result, coaches can offer meaningful support tailored to the specific needs of their colleagues, whether they are navigating classroom challenges, leadership roles or administrative tasks.

Building on the success of the initial cohort, a new group of aspiring coaches has now commenced their journey through the programme.

They aim to achieve certification by the summer, further expanding the Trust's capacity to provide high-quality coaching support across all schools and roles. This growth in coaching expertise strengthens the Trust's ongoing commitment to fostering a supportive, collaborative, and continuously improving environment for both staff and students.





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