

## Welcome. . .

Welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter, to keep you updated with news across our Trust.

The 2019/20 academic year has been a very fruitful one as a Trust, which has seen even closer collaboration between our 12 schools.

It is very heartening to work for a group of schools that really care about their community. You will see how our young people have done tremendous work in supporting charities and the local community.

Our role in the community,

as educators of the future generation, is a crucial one. It's been an honour and a privilege to work with our sixth form leaders, Team QE, on devising a community strategy for the young people in our area.

Our community strategy covering the Wimborne and the surrounding areas celebrates the positive opportunities surrounding us, but also addresses the challenges faced by those aged from 0-24 years.

We have devised a 10-year vision statement, which sets out how we aim to

create a community that has resilient children who are able to cope with life's challenges and changes; where there are places young people can socialise and a place which is enjoyable for them to live in and alongside all ages.

In the coming months we look forward to some major and exciting events.

Later in March we will be celebrating British Science Week, including Verwood and Hillside first schools taking part in a science challenge at Emmanuel CE Middle School; and in April QE School will lead a dance



exchange for our schools.

We are also looking forward to the VE Day commemorations, when the whole community is expected to come together for events being planned.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Academy News – we welcome your feedback.

**Liz West, Trust CEO**

## Do you hear the students sing?

After dreaming a dream, Queen Elizabeth's (QE) School pulled off its most ambitious musical production to date. The QE students, with the help of many of our middle school pupils, wowed audiences when they staged an impressive version of the famous *Les Miserables*.

More than 100 QE students took part as cast, crew and musicians and they were joined by a further 50 students from fellow Trust schools Allenbourn, St Michael's CE and Lockyer's.

They performed six shows to packed-out audiences at the school's state-of-the-art theatre, as well as staging two special performances exclusively to middle schools.

The shows also helped raise more than £3,000 for the Piam Brown children's cancer unit at Southampton General Hospital.

Director of the show and head of drama, Alex Chester, said: "This has



been a mammoth production and our most ambitious to date. Every single student who took part in this production blew us away with their talent, dedication and hard work. It's been a privilege to work with them."

Taking on the lead role of Jean Valjean were Thomas Jocham (Year 12) and Ryan Greenfield (Year 13), who shared the demanding part.

Year 13's Isaac Wray was Inspector Javert and Lydia Hughes (Year 11) and Isabella Ashworth (Year 13)

shared the role of Cosette. Ben Riley from Year 11 was Marius and the role of Eponie was played by Jemma Janes (Year 13), Ella Sweeney (Year 9) and Keziah Ibe (Year 10).

The role of Fantine was also shared by three students – Lydia Sheridan, Lottie Linter and Jasmin Marks.

QE's headteacher, Katie Boyes, said: "We are immensely proud of every student involved in what was an outstanding production worthy of the West End."



**Around the world in one school day**

Our pupils at St John's CE First School were able to take a virtual tour around the world in just one day.

During its first ever Around the World Day, the pupils got to travel around five different 'countries' – China, Brazil, Canada, Thailand and Kenya – all without leaving school!

Teachers transformed rooms into a different world to help the children feel they were in another country.

During the day children moved around different rooms to learn about each country.

They took part in fun activities helping them to explore topics such as race, religion, language,

traditions and gender.

In the China room they made dragons, while in Brazil they created carnival masks. Over in Canada they cooked tasty flapjacks and also took part in maple leaf artwork; in Thailand they were taught a traditional dance and in Kenya they learned one of the country's songs.

Executive headteacher, Jo Hancock, said: "We believe that learning about other cultures can provide an opening to children learning a foreign language.

"Learning about other countries and traditions can also foster pupils' curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world."

# Hey Jude – we're dancing for you

Pupils and staff at St Michael's Middle School staged a tremendous show of support when they got together for their talented friend who has cancer.

Children, teachers and support staff put on a mammoth dance show for the Year 8 pupil and World Tap Dance gold medalist, Jude Feltham.

They gathered in their hundreds at the school for a danceathon (pictured) to raise more than £5,000 for the Piam Brown children's cancer unit at Southampton General Hospital.

Headteacher, Ron Jenkinson, said: "We couldn't think of a better way of showing our support for Jude than by embracing the thing he loves most and excels at – dancing.

"Jude is an incredible talent and won a gold and bronze in the World Tap Dancing Championships just one month before he was diagnosed with leukaemia.

"It is amazing that he achieved this level of success with the leukaemia present



in his blood system."

The danceathon was led by staff and sixth formers from Queen Elizabeth's School, who taught everyone a 60-second dance routine in the school hall in less than 30mins.

It was then performed by all 595 students, plus staff, in the school playground.

Jude's mum Boo, said: "Jude has been so encouraged by the level of support the pupils, staff and families of

St Michael's have given to raise money for the Piam Brown charity.

"Last year Jude was helping the school to raise money for the ward, and now he is a patient himself."

On the same day as the danceathon, and in another show of support for children who have cancer, four pupils – Chloe Luther, Evie Prianes, Emily Lamb and Trinity Cooper – had a minimum of 21cm cut off their hair and donated to

the Little Princess Trust, which makes wigs for children who have lost their hair during treatment.

Throughout the year the school has also been holding regular Fundraising Fridays and a staff quiz night to add to the monies raised for the hospital ward.



Jude Feltham

**Back to school for mums and dads**



Hundreds of our parents went back to school to learn how English and maths is taught today.

Lockyer's Middle opened its doors to mums and dads so they could find out how two new initiatives are boosting their children's learning.

Along with all our middle schools, Lockyer's has recently launched Hegarty Maths and Accelerated Reader programmes.

Hegarty Maths is an online course for years 6 and up and enables us to provide a personalised approach to homework and learning. Accelerated Reader uses an online system called Star Reading in which pupils

can participate in fun quizzes to test their knowledge of books and earn reward points.

At the launch event, the parents were split into three groups so they could participate in different workshops. One workshop saw Year 8 helpers join forces with maths teacher Mr Crocombe to show parents how to use Hegarty Maths; while Year 5s were able to put parents to the test in an Accelerated Reader quiz. The parents also enjoyed a tour of the school library to find out what their child is reading.

Headteacher, Mark Legge, said: "It was wonderful to see so many parents come along to our event."

**Flame of remembrance**

A memorial flame created by Emmanuel pupils as a lasting tribute to the millions of Holocaust victims was one of just 75 pieces of art selected to feature in a national exhibition.

The moving piece of artwork created by our talented children was unveiled in front of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge at a special launch in London.

Emmanuel was one of only 300 groups from across the country registered to take part in the nationwide competition launched by the Holocaust



Memorial Day Trust (HMMDT). Their artwork was chosen to represent each year since the liberation of Auschwitz.

Headteacher, Rob Christopher, said: "We were incredibly honoured to have our children's work of art featured in this very poignant exhibition."

**Putting faith in education**

Allenbourn pupils were given a fascinating insight into five different religions when their RE lessons were brought to life during a special multi-faith day. They welcomed five people representing Judaism, Christianity, Humanism, Buddhism and Islam to provide a first-person account of following a religion or faith.

This multi-faith day was organised in partnership with DEED – the centre for global education and learning, serving Dorset and Hampshire.

Head of RE, Jane Jackson, said: "I believe it is important to give students the opportunity to put forward deep questions of their own.



This day enabled them to discuss different faiths and beliefs and to see how these impact upon day-to-day lives and the community as a whole."

During the day, the children took part in workshops to explore a diverse range of world faiths and beliefs with their visitors - Lynda Ford-Horne, representing the Jewish faith, Salimata Knight (Buddhism), Rev James Sharp (Christianity), Sister Tama (Islam) and David Warden (Humanism).

## School is where the heart is

A scheme that teaches children how to look after theirs and other people's hearts has been launched at Merley First.

Merley is the latest of our schools to introduce HeartSmart into the classroom – an initiative, which encourages children to be kind and caring to themselves and their friends.

Along with fellow Trust schools, St John's CE First and Witchampton CE First, Merley is formally putting emotional wellbeing at the heart of the curriculum. As part of the HeartSmart initiative teachers

have been trained how to use the special resources.

They will then tailor their PHSE (personal, social and health education) lessons to encourage kind and positive words and help build character, emotional health and resilience in the children.

Headteacher of Merley First, Katharine Anstey, said: "If children learn about looking after their emotional wellbeing from an early age, and just as importantly how to look out for others, they are more likely to enjoy their learning and flourish."

## Young writers help QE win national honours

Our QE students used the power of words to win a national writing competition.

The teenagers have been regularly entering the Young Writers' Stranger Sagas Competition, which challenges students to write a story in just 100 words.

With three rounds held in the autumn, spring and summer terms, the aspiring wordsmiths had to write about a strange event using various sentence starters.

And QE certainly rose to the challenge, with its 500-plus entries winning the top prize of best school and scooping £1,000.

In addition, 15 year-old Adam Nelsey won an individual prize for

his entry, titled 'One Choice'.

QE has exciting plans for its £1,000 prize money – it is planning to use the funds to create a reading 'oasis' – a comfortable space in the English department for quiet reading and reflection.

Headteacher, Katie Boyes, said: "Our young writers have done us extremely proud indeed.

"I was thrilled that so many of our students participated and produced such high quality and consistently good work.

"It is a real honour to win the overall competition when our students' work was up against so many fantastic entries from across the country."



### WAT goes social

Did you know you can receive news from the Trust all year round via social media?

Wimborne Academy Trust has both a Facebook page and a Twitter account – and we'd be delighted to see you all follow us!

Our Facebook page can be found by following this link [www.facebook.com/wimborneacademytrust](http://www.facebook.com/wimborneacademytrust) and you'll find us on Twitter @TrustWimborne

### WAT wordsmiths

Our children have become quite the wordsmiths thanks to special events and lessons hosted last term. All our first schools held dedicated lessons and special events to expand their pupils' vocabulary.

One such event saw youngsters at Colehill and Hayeswood celebrate their learning by coming dressed to school as a word.

To make this more of a challenge all nouns were banned. This meant any child who dressed up as a character had to explain the adjective or adverb they were depicting – from 'beautiful' princesses to 'fearless' superheroes.

And over at Hillside First School they held their very own 'wacky words' day. For this the children had to choose one word to



Children at Hayeswood First School know their adverbs from their adjectives

celebrate and had to either dress up as the word, create a poster celebrating the word's meaning or make a wacky hat to describe the word.

CEO of Wimborne Academy Trust, Liz West, said: "A rich vocabulary can massively change children's understanding of the world and their ability to learn new ideas and information.

"Our focus days are encouraging children to be daring, experimental and creative in the words they choose."

### OUR TRUST SCHOOLS

