

Welcome

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends,

It has been an exciting start to the new term - our young people have achieved so much already. The coming term is always a busy one, particularly for those students and their teachers preparing for tests and examinations in key stage 4 & 5 and of course our year 6 students who will also be working hard towards their SATs.

We know as a group of schools the importance of academic achievement in supporting our young people on the 'next steps', whether that is through a key stage, onto high school, 6th form, university and/or employment. But our Trust does, and will always, recognise the wider curriculum and experiences that support our young people in their development into well rounded adults, able to thrive in the ever dynamic and changing world in which we live.

With this in mind I am delighted this month to see so many students across our schools getting involved in a whole range of experiences including a Genetics Day, a live Skype Q&A session with the Senior Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords, a Land Rover 4 x 4 engineering contest and a debating competition to name but a few. We are of course looking forward to a whole host of inspiring events and opportunities during 2018 to motivate, challenge and stimulate all students. This week we are delighted to have Dr Michael Foale, a six times NASA astronaut, spending the day with us so that all students in years 5 and 6 plus hundreds of students in key stages 3, 4 and 5 can learn and hear about his experiences of space exploration.

This month we have started a series of articles in our newsletter to share more about our Trust's vision, aims and activities which we hope you will find useful. Our aim is to develop continued excellence in every phase of our provision to ensure that we support all our young people in achieving their very best. Thank you as parents and carers for your support as it ensures our schools can do the very best for all our young people.

We very much hope you enjoy this month's SAET newsletter.

Chris King

Chief Executive and National Leader of Education



Students inspired at Think Tank Science Museum – Pg. 4



Students from Stourport Primary Academy (top) and Stourport High and Wilden All Saints (above)

Baxter College Debating Champions

Congratulations to Baxter College who won this year's ContinU Debating Competition which included Mark Garnier MP and Ian Miller CEO Wyre Forest DC on the judging panel. The standard was excellent throughout - well done to all competing teams.



Students L-R are Nathan Gallacher, Dan Correia, Corey Jukes & Ryan Bishop



Trust Vision

Our vision is to develop excellence in every phase of provision from Nursery to Post 16 and to be considered an employer of choice, education provider of choice and community partner of choice.

Each school will be:

- Recognised as a centre of excellence as well as a nurturing environment for its learners.
- Independent, strongly-led and self-improving, while sharing the values of the Trust.
- An integral part of its local community and valued as such.
- Giving and receiving support from other schools within the Trust and within our wider networks.
- Successfully engaging with parents/carers to support learner progress, well-being and achievement.
- Through collaboration, offering opportunities for learners beyond our school.
- Committed to developing the Trust's core values, promoting respect and the skills for life-long learning.



School in Focus – St. Bartholomew's CE Primary

Visit from British Police Service Orchestra for PlayOut

Children in Year 2 were treated to a visit by members of the British Police Service Orchestra for a PlayOut session which involved the children having 'hands on' experience with a variety of instruments from different sections of the orchestra.

After a variety of games using the instruments, the children re-told the story of Hansel and Gretel through music. Parents joined the workshop at the end of the afternoon to enjoy what their children had learned and show their appreciation to the PlayOut team who had inspired the children.



Grant to redesign new Three Kings for the annual parade

For the past 5 years, the children of St. Bartholomew's CE Primary School have been the proud custodians of the Three Kings and it is with great honour that we lead the annual parade every November to support the illumination of the Christmas lights in the town.

However, old age is now taking its toll on the Kings who are looking tired and past their best. Therefore, it is with great excitement that we can share with you the news that St Bartholomew's CE Primary School has been awarded a grant by the Committee of Stourport Town Council for £300 to help with the construction of three new Kings for the 2018 parade with the children from the school being involved in the design and construction of the new Kings.



Year 2 pupil Jessica Jordan and Year 3 pupil Callie-Rae Smith join Donna Waterall and Ricky Brezwyn, Manager of the newly -opened Greggs on Minster Road.

Project Dirt

Having received a £2,000 Greggs Foundation Environment Grant, developments are now underway on 'Project Dirt' at St. Bartholomew's. The project enables the delivery of a creative curriculum which builds children's social and emotional resilience and recognises the importance of positive relationships with parents, families and teachers.



Opening of the New Play Area in Stourport Memorial Park

Children from Year 5 at St. Bartholomew's took part in the opening of the new play area in Memorial Park, Stourport. The children met Councillor Violet Higgs and other local dignitaries as part of the school's annual Remembrance Service in November, and learnt about the various memorials in Stourport installed to commemorate the last two world wars. Pupils saw photographs of the impressive gates of the park where the engraving of the war memorial park 1914 – 18 is mounted in gold.



Having fun at the same time as learning about the town's history is always a bonus!



Help for the Homeless

After an assembly led by Methodist Minister Reverend Hoar on compassion, children from St Bartholomew's decided they wanted to support a local homeless charity by collecting unwanted gloves, scarves, hats and blankets. Once the collection had been wrapped in readiness for Christmas, Katie Grinell, from the Worcestershire Homeless Appeal, came into school to collect the children's contribution.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) students excel at Land Rover 4 x 4 schools competition

Year 10 and Year 12 students from SHS and Baxter College joined forces to take part in this year's Land Rover 4 x 4 challenge held at Shireland Collegiate Academy, Smethwick. Students worked as a team to develop their model car following the technical specifications that were provided. The designs were put to the test throughout the day in a variety of situations to see if the students had designed a car to cope with the challenges put before them.



Year 10 students from SHS coding the tilt sensor (left) and collecting a judge's discretionary prize (right)



SHS and Baxter students constructing their 4 x 4 car

Many thanks to Simon Gough and the science department at Baxter College and Paul Colburn and the DT department at SHS for their support throughout.



Genetics Day at Think Tank, Birmingham

Students across the Trust visited the Think Tank in Birmingham on Wednesday 10 January as part of a series of provision arranged for academically-gifted students.

As part of an interactive, practical experience, students extracted DNA from their own cheek cells before separating their DNA in solid form from a solution through a series of chemical reactions called precipitation. Students were able to take home a small amount of their own DNA in a micro tube.

DNA is the hereditary material in all cells and students also had the opportunity to extract DNA from a variety of fruit including strawberries, kiwi fruit and bananas!

A visit to the Think Tank is not complete without visiting the many exhibits in the Science Museum including the 'Medicine Matters' gallery. The award winning science museum is home to array of over 200 hands-on displays over 4 floors including steam engines, talking robots and the amazing planetarium!



Wilden All Saints CE Primary



Wolverley Sebright Primary



Stourport Primary Academy



Hartlebury CE Primary

Senior students get the opportunity to question Lord McFall

As part of a 'Lords Live' initiative, students from Stourport High and Baxter College took part in a unique opportunity to spend 45 minutes in a question and answer session with Lord McFall of Alcluth, the Senior Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords. Through a live video conferencing call, senior students from both schools were able to put challenging questions to Lord McFall on subjects including education, the electoral process, the welfare system and of course Brexit.

Students initiated their own questions and received in-depth answers and opinions from Lord McFall. The event provoked many discussions amongst students with sixth form politics students from Baxter College continuing to discuss the points raised from the morning during their afternoon lesson.

