

Welcome

Dear Parents, Carers and friends

Welcome to the May edition of our Trust newsletter. As we start what is always a busy summer term all our staff are working hard to support the progress of our young people in their final main term of this academic year. It can be a challenging time with our young people sitting external examinations in high schools and 6th forms and in the primary schools the children are sitting their tests. Your continued support for the work done in our schools to support all our young people, whatever their phase, is vital to ensure they make their very best progress.

In this month's edition it's great to see so many students from across our schools working together and supporting each other's learning. We can only ever sample some of the work our schools do each month here but the breadth of our students experiences this month is impressive to see. From the entrepreneurial skills of our young enterprise winners, our work to support charities and the community to cyber security, all demonstrating that the curriculum offer in our schools continues to be wide and enriching. Much is talked about nationally of testing and the formal curriculum, which we know are important for young people to succeed. Our Trust will, however, continue to support the breadth of experiences and opportunities that support our young people's growth and development. The opportunity, for example, for some students from Baxter College to perform at the Commonwealth Games handover last month won't feature in a government test but we all know that it is opportunities and memorable experiences such as these that enrich students' lives and develop students' skills that will no doubt pay dividends in the future. We might, therefore, not always agree with the government's direction for education, but will always endeavour to do what is right for the young people in our schools to secure them the very best future.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in our Trust.

Chris King

Chief Executive and National Leader of Education



**Year 12 students
inspire nursery
pupils - see page 5**



**SHS win 4 awards at
Young Enterprise**



Year 12 SHS students Emily Darby, Charlie Hudson, Beth Phillips and Kelsey Rossiter won 4 awards at the Wyre Forest round of the Young Enterprise competition last week for their 'Little Hands Big Paws' handmade range of pet products and will now compete in the county final on 3 May.



School in Focus - Hartlebury CE Primary

The whole school had a truly lovely afternoon recently finding out about the police and fire services. The pupils met real police dogs, tried on uniforms, sat in a police car, met Peeler the police mascot, toured a fire engine and found out all about how to keep themselves, their homes and their possessions safe.

Early Years pupils even got an extra-special visit from two of the lovely police officers who came and answered all the questions they had been writing down as part of their 'People Who Help Us' topic. The police then stayed and spoke to parents about keeping themselves and their possessions safe, offering advice and handing out handbag bells and UV pens. A big thank you to Inspector Jake Wright and Miss Bagnall for organising such a wonderful event — they definitely do much more than just catching baddies and putting out fires!



Jack Best, George Haydon and Olivia Woodall sit inside a police car while the children in Reception Class explore the fire engine



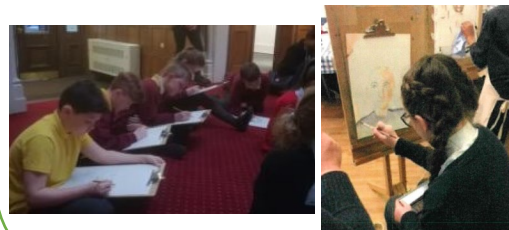
Saskia Mulcahy dresses in uniform

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Year 6 pupils from Hartlebury and Wilden All Saints visited the Wolverhampton Art Gallery for a portraiture workshop, working with amazing resident illustrative artist, Rob Conway.

During the day, pupils looked at and identified portraits within the gallery, learnt how to draw a face with proportion measurements and then mix skin tones from just the primary colours and white paint. They also journeyed their way through a collection of puppets including: Thunderbirds, Captain Scarlet, Prince Charles, Basil Brush, Button Moon, Ivor the Engine and the Clangers.

All pupils were thoroughly inspired and enthused and very proud of their final portraits!



Sport Relief

Sport Relief week was a great success with the children taking part in a number of activities throughout the week. The whole school took part in climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in steps, cycling from Lands End to John O' Groats on an exercise bike. Year 6 pupils ran multi-skill festivals for the all the Key Stage 1 children and the school even had a special message from a Great Britain Paralympian at the end of the week.

Congratulations to all parents/carers, pupils and staff who took part in Sport Relief — over 300 people walked a mile (and more) to raise money for this fantastic charity. The total raised was £222.85. A special thanks must go to Miss Branagh with help from Mrs Odell for organising such a fabulous week.



Niamh Kilkenny takes her turn on the exercise bike



Hunted - off the grid!

Year 11 GCSE and A Level IT students from SHS and Baxter College attended a workshop on cyber security and took part in an interactive activity to learn how to stay 'off the grid'. The workshop was delivered by Jordan Allison, Outreach and Widening Participation Support Officer (Business & Computing) at the University of Gloucester.

With the growth of cyber security, all of our day-to-day cyber activity can be tracked and monitored, and the workshop gave the Year 11, 12 and 13 IT students a valuable insight into the importance of online safety and maintaining online privacy settings.

At the end of the session, Jordan discussed the courses on offer within this specialism and the career options which are possible with a degree in IT security and forensics.



Wolverley Enterprise



Year 5 students: Ossie Doyle, Callum Hartridge, Heather Brisker, Alice Manterfield, Abigail Turvey, Megan Griffiths

Year 4: Emily Stiles, Sam Harris, Max Rose, Evie Rose, Henry Mason, Logan Manning

Students in year 4 and 5 at Wolverley Sebright have set a high standard for the rest of the school to follow as the first group to put their business and enterprise skills to the test.

As part of an initiative involving Year 4 teacher Rachel Stiles and Ian James, Director of Performance & Partnerships, the students have developed their business skills leading to setting up an enterprise project. In total, the students have raised over £230 from making and selling a variety of Easter products.

The money raised will now be used to develop 'Wolverley Enterprise' across the whole school for the benefit of all students. Watch this space to see what the next group of budding entrepreneurs will produce!



Easter fun at St. Bartholomew's

Holiday staff, children and parents came together for a variety of Easter activities that had been arranged in the school nursery.

The children made Easter biscuits, hunted for Easter eggs and made cards and puppets. Everyone had lots of fun and this year the children were joined by those whose parents were considering a place at Acorns Nursery. These new children very quickly made new friends and had a lovely morning.

The children were joined by nursery children who will be 2 years old very soon and will be coming to the school's new provision in September when, for the first time, St Bartholomew's will be taking 2 year olds into the new setting.



Baxter College leaders at Commonwealth Games Handover

Baxter College Head Girl candidates, Eve Wallace and Charlotte Hale (pictured in the group in Centenary Square), performed at the Commonwealth Games Handover festivities in Birmingham which was televised on 15 April 2018. Organisers planned a 'mass participation dance' for the handover event on a live link from this year's hosts, Australia. They recruited 2,022 dancers aged 16-25 from the local area.



Brigid Jones, deputy leader of Birmingham City Council, said: "This is one of the first ways in which citizens can get directly involved with the games. This opportunity sets the tone for an exciting four-year period in which there will be many varying ways for people of all ages from all communities to be a part of the Birmingham 2022 experience."



Year 12 students bring 'Jack and the Beanstalk' to Stourport Primary Academy

Talented drama students from The Stourport High School & Vlth Form College planned and delivered an interactive performance of Jack and the Beanstalk to our youngest children in the Trust before Easter. Year 12 students Jess McPhee, Vicky Harvey, Lara Clarke and Chloe Roehead, brought the theatre to Stourport Primary Academy, with a brilliant performance and also bought chocolate for the children to enjoy—of course, the golden chocolate eggs were captured from the friendly giant!



Vicky Harvey and Lara Clarke are both planning to pursue an acting career and drama degree; Vicky is studying Drama, English Literature and Philosophy whilst Lara Clarke is studying Drama, English Literature and Media Studies.

Jess McPhee is currently studying Biology, Psychology and Drama and is considering a career in midwifery or primary teaching.

Chloe Roehead is studying Drama, English Literature and Media Studies and is considering a variety of options in the future. She has a work experience placement arranged at the Civic Centre, Stourport.

Rainforest Adventures

Erin, Charlie and friends from Kestrels and Falcons

Year 3 and 4 pupils from Wilden All Saints CE (VC) Primary School visited 'The Living Rainforest' in Newbury last month where they were able to watch birds, butterflies, lizards and even a well camouflaged two-toed sloth roam free in the tropical glasshouses. Pupils were able to get up close to animals such as toucans, monkeys, tropical fish and tarantulas!

The visit allowed them to experience the beauty and wonder of the rainforest and gain a greater understanding of the enormous variety of vegetation and foliage within this particular climatic zone. During their visit, children attended workshops on sustainability, foods of the forests, animal adaptations as well as learning about how common medicines use ingredients that come from plants of the forest. The visit made an incredibly memorable start to this new topic by bringing the children's learning to life.

