

Welcome

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

As we approach the final few weeks of this academic year we hope you enjoy reading about just some of the activities that have taken place across our schools over this last month.



It's great to see so many events taking place and so many additional opportunities that are available to our students. As a group of schools and a Trust we are committed to ensuring that our young people have a rich and diverse curriculum that goes beyond the classroom. We know that students' academic progress is vital to secure their next steps in life but the importance of wider experiences is also pivotal to help them develop the skills and broader knowledge that will allow them to thrive.

With this in mind and to support our aims, we have as a Trust put together a project to raise additional funding to grow this work and to help support all our students to gain these experiences. Our 'Journey to the Outdoors' campaign will look to engage with local businesses and organisations to raise funds, the details of which are at the back of this month's newsletter. If you can help us share this with any organisations that may be interested, we would be grateful.

I am also grateful for all the support parents, carers and staff have given to students who have taken part in external exams over this term. Much has been written in the press about the new and more challenging GCSE and 'A' level examinations that students across the country are sitting and our collective support of these young people will have made this period of time a little easier. With much change in education over recent years our role as a Trust, working with schools across all the key stages, gives us a unique opportunity to collaborate so that everything done in both our primary and high schools can complement and inform each other.

Thank you to all our parents, carers and friends for your continued support.

Chris King
Chief Executive and National Leader of Education



School in Focus — Wolverley Sebright VA Primary School



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to the outdoors



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School in Focus - Wolverley Sebright VA Primary School



Wolverley Sebright VA Primary School is a small village school based in the heart of Wolverley. With 146 pupils the classes are divided into a Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 class and three registration classes in Key Stage 2. However, Maths and English is taught in the four separate year groups in key stage 2. Dedicated and highly skilled staff promote a 'Can do' culture through a variety of opportunities for the pupils. From an exciting Forest School setting within the grounds to themed weeks including our recent Spanish Week the pupils are fully involved in the development of the school.

In February 2012 the school had just 102 pupils and standards were just in line with the national average. The appointment of the current headteacher in September 2012, who has been in post now for nearly six years, has with all stakeholders driven standards, expectations and outcomes to above the national average for the past five years. In September 2013 the school was judged as Good (2) with the dynamic leadership qualities highlighted as a strength of the school.

The school is entering an exciting period with a timeline for conversion to Academy status by joining Severn Academies Educational Trust this school year. Being part of a cross phase sponsoring Multi Academy Trust will allow the school to grow and secure excellent school to school support. Working alongside colleagues from the Teaching School Alliance and SCITT will ensure future professional development of all staff.

Characteristics of an Effective Learner (CEL)

Across Wolverley Sebright Primary school, the characteristics of an effective learner are actively promoted. These range from 'Have a go Joe' a character that shows perseverance to Lincoln the Spider who makes links in his learning.

Each month the focus is on a character's main message and opportunities in school for our pupils to develop these qualities. The full set of characters can be found in school's main entrance in a CEL display.



Spanish Week

All classes immersed themselves in the culture and traditions of Spain. In house groups with mixed aged children they tried several types of food, made a sangria mocktail, researched the history, spoke some language whilst exploring the geography, made masks for a carnival session, danced the Despacito and did some Spanish maths!

The children loved learning in different groups and then shared their thoughts and feelings in class reflection time.



School in Focus - Wolverley Sebright VA Primary School

KS1 Visit to Little Owl Farm

They started our morning off by looking at the meerkats, birds, tortoises, peacocks, ducks and the foxes. They also went into the Critter Cabin and saw some BIG tarantulas, scorpions and other insects. Then, they went on a nature trail, where they saw a bat box, the insect hotel, a bird box, a beehive and a foxes den. Next, they went to see a bottle feed, where all the students in Robins had the chance to feed either a piglet or a goat. Jasmine who works at Little Owl Farm, showed everyone some other animals, including chicks, rabbits and guinea pigs which they could hold and stroke. They also saw the sheep race, where the blue sheep won! Last but not least, the students had a lot of fun playing on the bouncy pillows!



Key Stage 2 Activities

Key stage 2 took part in River Rangers Week, the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and Environment Agency supported the week with sessions in the school grounds and a fieldwork morning at Springfield Park. Students learnt about what conditions were needed for a healthy river and how humans can impact on this. They had the chance to see real fish, which live in the River Stour and identified invertebrates during a stream study (*pictured below—left*).

Students were also involved in a session of making music from junk, following the space theatre trip. Hazel and Andy Hiles were amazing at inspiring the children in a percussion session using objects from around the home; a watering can, plant pot and garden hose has never sounded so good! Finally students had the opportunity to listen to an entire drum kit made from junk! (*pictured below—middle and right*)



Community Focus



Crafty Chippies meet the Somerset Bodgers!

Following on from their fantastic success in the Tycoon in Schools competition before Christmas, Stourport Primary Academy's 'Crafty Chippies', were rewarded with a trip to Tyntesfield National Trust to develop their woodwork skills further.

Six pupils and their Dads spent the day with an organisation called the 'Somerset Bodgers', a group of retired woodwork teachers. Dads and Lads worked together to make a mallet from ash. As a team they had to saw and chop wood before producing their mallet on a pole lathe.



Collaboration with Fareshare

Parents came together on 15 June for two 'coffee in the community' events at Stourport High School and St Bartholomew's as part of a pilot initiative to not only bring parents together and inform them about Fareshare, but also take home hampers of good quality food.

Fareshare is an organisation that is fighting hunger and tackling food waste and works with the food industry to turn their surplus food into social good. 1.9 million tonnes of surplus food goes to waste every year simply because of over-production, labelling errors or short shelf-life!



Parents, students and staff involved in the community events at Stourport High and St Bartholomew's



Performing and Creative Arts Day at Baxter College

Over 120 children across the Trust took part in a new collaborative Performing and Creative Arts Day at Baxter College on Tuesday 19 June.

Year 4 children from Trust schools experienced a fantastic day of music, drama, dance and art led by specialist staff from Baxter College and Stourport High who were superbly assisted by Student Leaders from both secondary schools.

Children took part in a carousel of motivating and inspiring activities throughout the day before performing and presenting their outstanding work to a packed audience of parents at the end of the day.

Well done and thank you to everyone involved especially Rich Ravenhall, Head of Creative Arts at Baxter College and Mrs Rose, Trust Improvement Leader and Head of Performing Arts at SHS. This collaboration enabled staff from Baxter College and SHS to join together to organise an excellent day of learning in the performing and creative arts department and will now become an annual event.



Cricket Success at SHS



On a glorious summer's day SHS hosted an invitational cricket festival held yearly at Stourport Cricket Club. This is their third year of doing so. The previous two years were between SHS and Shireland Collegiate Academy (Smethwick).

This year they decided to expand it to try and help cricket grow in the local area and so invited a team from King Charles I. With 6 teams entering (3 x SHS, 2 x Shireland & 1 from King Charles) they split the teams into two groups of 3.

SHS teams won both groups with some excellent personal performances from Dan Houghton (35 runs in each game) and Bailey Chamberlain with a brilliant penultimate over to win the tournament. There were also notable performances from Josh Roberts and Tom Worton who both bowled and batted very well.



Art Project at Hartlebury CE Primary

As part of Hartlebury CE Primary's 140 year celebrations, students from Stourport High School have collaborated with Reception children to revamp the playground walls. Collectively, students and staff agreed upon using the four seasons as a fitting theme to decorate the walls with Reception children involved alongside SHS students. Well done to everyone involved especially staff members Miss Nicholls and Mrs Kelly plus GCSE Art students for making it happen — it looks amazing!

Well done to everyone involved.

Before...



After...



Summer Fun at St. Bart's

A fantastic evening was enjoyed to all at this year's Summer Fayre at St Bartholomew's. Well done to all involved in making the event a huge success.



Left: KS2 students Connor Farley, Grace Kimberley and Lacey Seal. Right: SHS students Ellis Brogan and Runa Avery who performed at the summer fayre.

Above: Thank you to former St Bart's students, Owen Bourne and Brad Cooper, now at SHS, who volunteered to support the summer fayre.



Celebrating Sporting Success

Olivia @ the Athletics

Olivia O'Sullivan, Year 8 student at Baxter College, continues to impress with her performances in Athletics. Liv recently represented Baxter College at the Wyre Forest District trials and chose the events she wanted to compete in based on her recent performances for Birchfield Harriers. Taking the whole event in her stride Liv competed in 100m sprint, long jump and shot put.

Against tough competition Liv achieved a 1st place and received a personal best in 100m (13.71 seconds) and in long jump (4.52m). Liv also came 3rd in the shot put competition with a distance of 7.45m. Liv was selected to represent the Wyre Forest District at the county athletics competition on 9 June in shot put, long jump, 100m and relay. This is an amazing achievement as no other student from Baxter College has ever been selected for 3 events and 1 relay!

At the County Championships, Liv again competed to her very best and improved her shot put PB to 7.66m! She was also been selected to be a kit carrier for the British Athletics Championships on 30 June/1 July and is sponsored by Aston Villa. We wish you continued success in Athletics for the rest of the season at Birchfield Harriers.



PB for Hayley Smith

Hayley Smith, 10JH - SHS, has successfully achieved not one but three personal best records for her hammer throwing during the Hereford & Worcester Schools Athletics! She has now set herself a new PB of 30.37m and has the confidence to go above and beyond! Well done



Hayley pictured above in action and to the right afterwards.



Ellie's Tour of Pembrokeshire

Eleanor Wall, aged 9 student at St Bartholomew's, recently completed a 25 mile tour of Pembrokeshire with her Dad. It involved them riding out from St David's, Wales, heading north-east to Abercastle and Mathry before returning to St David's. It was a glorious sunny day and Ellie was the youngest rider taking part this year!

Ellie is already an accomplished long distance runner, and has only recently taken up road cycling. She will also be completing her first triathlon in 3 weeks time! We wish Ellie all the best for this.



Outdoor learning area officially opened

Following two successful grant applications to develop the outside learning environment at St Bartholomew's CE Primary was officially opened by our Director of Performance & Partnerships, Mr I James, on Friday 15 June.

The school community is now able to enjoy their new learning space named 'Whispering Way'. In addition to the planting of new trees and hedges, the outdoor space now boasts a fantastic outdoor classroom and seating areas.



Y6 pupils selected to officially open Whispering Way.

Industry and education work together to enhance learning for local students

An entrepreneurial student, Toby Ferris in Year 10 at Baxter College approached local technology company, OGL Computer to ask if they could provide valuable equipment to enhance his, and his fellow IT students' learning. Toby, who is currently studying for his GCSE in IT & Computing wrote saying: "I am in Year 10 and wish to help my classmates understand more about the hardware side to computers rather than just the software and theory. I was wondering whether you had any unused computer parts that we could use at school as I think it would be amazing for me and my friends to be able to work with our hands and not just our brains."

As a local business, already employing over 75 technical engineers, it was an easy decision. Emma Porter, Head of HR commented: "Recruiting talented IT engineers is always a challenge and having the opportunity to work closely with our local schools and colleges is a great way for us to help these budding young engineers develop the skills and knowledge they need to go on to becoming one of our growing team later on."

Mr Hutton, Coordinator for Computing at Baxter concluded: "I'm so pleased that Toby took the initiative to contact OGL. Receiving these computers will provide the students with another opportunity to get hands on with hardware and develop their computing skills further. It's also nice to create links with local technology businesses as our students could well be their future employees."



Father's Day celebrations across the Trust

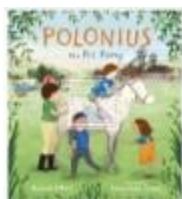
Fun around the camp fire at Wilden All Saints



Author Richard O'Neill at Stourport Primary Academy

To celebrate Father's Day, Stourport Primary Academy had a fun packed day including a visit from the famous author and storyteller Richard O'Neill.

The day started with dads being invited in together with their child for breakfast with Richard. Everyone had a great time looking into what makes a great dad. At the end of the session, children had the opportunity to tell jokes to win prizes. One prize was a pair of bright pink socks which the child's father wore with pride!



Richard will be officially launching his new book, Polonius the Pit Pony, at the Bradford Festival on 4 July.



Father's Day at Hartlebury CE Primary

Hartlebury CE Primary invited Dads into for a special lunch. This was a lovely time had by all and it was a joyous start to their weekend.



SPA students ring the old school bell school bell for the last time!

Ambassadors from Stourport Primary Academy joined over a hundred special guests and dignitaries to the grand opening of 'Stourport Gardens', a brand new retirement living development set on the site of the former Tan Lane Primary School.

SPA students were honoured to ring the old school bell for the last time and were special guests to the event. Amongst the special guests was former Tan Lane student Judith Knowles (below) who attended the school in 1928!



Left: Judith Knowles (née Bourne) with students from Stourport Primary Academy

Above: Students holding the old school bell with Mayor David Little and Bromford CEO Philippa Jones



Mindfulness at Wilden All Saints

Students at Wilden All Saints have recently taken part in a Mindfulness Club learning about peer massages and the importance of relaxation during their day.

What is Mindfulness? It means maintaining a moment-by-moment awareness of our thoughts, feelings, bodily sensations, and surrounding environment. When we practice **mindfulness**, our thoughts tune into what we're sensing in the present moment rather than rehashing the past or imagining the future.



Ex-student inspires students across the Trust

Former Stourport High School student Sophie Blundell has been into several of our Trust schools including Wolverley Sebright, Hartlebury and SHS, to inspire girls and help them to become independent and confident about themselves both physically and mentally.

Sophie is currently Miss Wyre Forest and Miss England semi-finalist and is a Miss England ambassador. Sophie said: "The Miss England Organisation works really hard to break the typical pageant stereotype - it is more about being a well-rounded individual. I want to encourage students to believe in themselves and aspire to do what they want to do, regardless of their race, religion, size or sexuality."

Sophie has devised a body confidence workshop called 'Love Yourself' which shows students that they do not need to look a certain way to feel good about themselves, based upon what they see in magazines and on social media. Students from Wolverley Sebright shared some really positive feedback saying that they appreciated the opportunity to think about what was important especially putting personal attributes above personal appearance. Sophie spoke with the girls in Years 4-6 and the feedback has been really positive, which we are thrilled about. Thank you Sophie - we will all be writing letters to ourselves reminding us that we are beautiful and amazing - please come again!



'Love Yourself' - Sophie's Body Confidence Workshop



Opening Doors to Business across the Wyre Forest

Over 130 students from Stourport High School and Baxter College took part in this year's 'Opening Doors to Business' initiative, organised in collaboration with the ContinU Trust and over a dozen local businesses and public service providers. A huge thank you to all businesses involved who provided our students with excellent experiences: OGL Computers, Rotary Creative Group, Witley Jones Furniture, Beakbane, Hogarth's Stone Manor, West Midlands Safari Park, Specsavers lens Online/IGS, Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue, Community Housing Group, MFG solicitors, Elements Hair and Beauty, Avensys Medical Equipment and Kidderminster Police.



Dan Barker from Baxter College with Year 9 students from SHS at Kidderminster Fire and Rescue



Harry Boulton (left) from Baxter College and Yoel Perry (right) from SHS with Witley Jones Furniture Chairman Chris Jones



Students from SHS and Baxter College enjoyed a morning with staff from Rotary Creative Print



Students from Baxter College at West Midlands Safari Park



JOIN US ON OUR JOURNEY TO THE OUTDOORS @SevernAcademies | #supportSAETOutdoors

We would like you to join us on our journey to raise £15,000 for all our Schools to access the very best Outdoor Adventure Learning Activities!

We are raising much needed funds to provide **outdoor adventure learning experiences to all pupils; experiences that enhance life skills with a direct and measurable impact on academic attainment in the classroom.**

Existing Forest School activities and Outdoor Learning at SAET schools shows that skills and characteristics like: **emotional intelligence, resilience, confidence, communication, and a positive attitude to challenge** not only improve the academic achievement of our pupils; they prepare them effectively for life beyond the classroom and the real world of work.

*"Surf Works are proud to support Baxter College and the SAET Schools. Outdoor Ed is just as important to me as academic tuition. Being out of the classroom and engaging in physical activity; builds health, a strong character and helps young minds to focus, all critical to succeeding later in life. Great to see the youngsters being given a chance to get outdoors and get involved in these activities", **Chris Parkes, campaign supporter, former Baxter student and owner of creative agency 'Surf Works'.***

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) also report that **pupils who take part in outdoor learning make "approximately four additional months' progress over the course of a year"** (EEF). All our schools are committed to the vision of 'educating the whole child' and developing well-rounded citizens who make a positive contribution to society. To see this vision become reality, we invite all our supporters to join our new fundraising campaign – 'SAET Outdoor Adventure Learning' (SOAL).

The money raised will allow pupils to access life-enhancing activities such as:
Low Ropes|Quad Pole|Problem Solving|Team work and initiative challenges|Archery|Hill walk| Night walk|Canoeing|Kayaking|Climbing|Abseiling|Nightline (Blindfold trail) |Orienteering|Bush Craft|

Thank you very much for your generosity, to support the campaign, you can:

Watch and share our campaign video: <https://vimeo.com/277062217>

Follow and share our campaign on Twitter: @SevernAcademies | #supportSAETOutdoors

Visit our Fundraising site and sponsor SAET at: <https://spsr.me/c6Zn>
or

To give direct to SAET via BACS:
Email Ian James on IJames@saet.co.uk
or SAET Finance on finance@saet.co.uk

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