

Welcome

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

Welcome to our December newsletter which will give you a little flavour of news across our schools this month. This time of year is always incredibly busy and a very special time as our young people take part in a large number of extra festive activities and events. Thank you to all our parents, carers and friends for your support and interest in these events as many of them wouldn't happen with you.



This month's newsletter features Baxter College as our school in focus whilst also capturing a variety of different activities and learning opportunities involving students in all of our schools. Particular projects of note this month have included enhanced learning days at Jaguar Land Rover and Thinktank for primary schools and enterprise and university competitions and visits for high school students.

As a Trust and group of schools we are committed to ensuring our students experience a breadth of experiences and on page two we have included an outline of what we are continuing to work towards for all of our students. Whilst we know the importance of academic achievement for our students, the broader curriculum and enrichment that we offer we know helps build our young people into well-rounded individuals ready for their next steps.

We hope you enjoy reading about some of the work across our schools this month and thank you for taking the time to read a little more about our students' successes. From us all have a safe and enjoyable break.

Chris King

**Chief Executive
National Leader of Education**



School in Focus – Baxter College



Christmas Activities



(See pages 5 and 6)

Don't forget to check out our
Twitter for the latest updates

@SevernAcademies



Trust Pledge



Our Pledge

All children and young people within our Trust will experience an extensive range of enhanced curricular and extra-curricular activities designed to prepare them as confident, independent individuals. Each young person will be equipped to make a significant contribution to their school and local community and empowered to become the best that they can be, maintaining a sense of ambition, aspiration and well-being to live a happy and fulfilling life.

Pledge 1

To provide a safe, respectful learning environment where all students feel safe, secure and valued, and able to seek support and guidance at any stage of their schooling.

Pledge 2

To provide high quality teaching and learning alongside the most appropriate provision, which ensures all young people leave school with the qualifications, skills and attributes to thrive socially, emotionally and economically throughout their lives.

Pledge 3

To provide an array of personal development opportunities to nurture a wide range of individual and social skills which enhance self-esteem, confidence, open-mindedness, resilience and self-motivation whilst growing leadership potential.

Pledge 4

To provide the challenge, support and education to ensure all children and young people fulfil their potential, maintain their individuality through having a voice that is heard and have respect for themselves, others and our community.

Pledge 5

To promote an active and healthy lifestyle to help students achieve physical, social, intellectual and emotional well-being.

Pledge 6

To prepare students for the future including providing independent, expert careers education, information, advice, guidance and work related activities to develop employability skills, aspiration and positive attitudes to lifelong learning.

Opportunities For All

All children and young people within our Trust will experience a wide range of opportunities to inspire, challenge and instil a love of learning whilst developing lifelong transferable skills, values and qualities.

- Attend a cultural, academic or national sporting event
- Attend a variety of after-school activities on a regular basis
- Develop enterprise and entrepreneurial skills
- Represent the school in a sporting, cultural or academic event
- Take part in at least two outward bound residential programmes
- Take part in a school production or event either on stage, behind the scenes, or in an administrative capacity
- Be actively involved in an international experience
- Be actively involved in a community experience as a volunteer

- Participate in a fundraising event
- Take responsibility for something or someone as a leader
- Undertake at least one work experience placement
- Visit a university
- Visit the nation's capital and explore its rich history
- Spend time in other SAET schools
- Visit a variety of local amenities within the communities in which we live
- Visit a variety of local attractions to explore our history, heritage and environment
- Take part in outdoor learning experiences in the natural environment and woodland





School in Focus – Baxter College

End of Term

As we approach the end of term, Baxter has organised some fantastic celebrations. Their Christmas concert on 18 December was amazing, they were stuffed from their Christmas lunches on 19 December and thoroughly enjoyed their last day together. Let's hear what they got up to!

Fundraising

As part of the recent Remembrance activities, Year 7 students have completed a study into local memorials which include the names of soldiers. Part of this involved fundraising so that Baxter could have its own memorial, a place where students can peacefully reflect on life past and present.

Year 7 raised over £150 through cake / sweet sales, making poppy themed jewellery and carrying out other varying jobs.

Baxter now have WW1 Ambassadors, who have planned the memorial garden and they will be solely responsible for the maintenance. Everyone has written a message on a poppy which was included on the wreath.

Student Parliament

Although students are too young to vote in a General Election, Baxter College has been demonstrating some active democracy of its own by setting up its own Parliament.

Student Parliament is the body through which the students exercise their rights and protect their interest during their time at school.



Student Councillors and Ministers of Parliament with Principal Mr Carpenter

Christmas Festivities

See page 5-6 for more festive activities from Baxter



Sports Star

Nathaniel represented Wyre Forest Swimming Club at Hereford Winter Swim Meet. He entered 12 out of 14 events attaining 6 golds, 3 silver and 3 bronze, results that meant he was awarded the top 15-year-old boy!



Civil War Experience

Students have been learning about King Charles I and the Civil War recently with Mrs Taylor. Mrs Walker, TA, was dressed up in a Civil War outfit, which was very unusual. She also had a cannonball, a musket from the war and a long stick called a 'half pike' which was used in fighting. Here is Mrs Walker in action (right):





Severe Weather Policy

Severn Academies Educational Trust academies aim to maintain safe access, egress and routes across all school sites as far as reasonably practicable within the resources available however, responsibility for safety in severe weather conditions lies with adult individuals (whether employees, parents or visitors). Our best endeavours should not be taken as an absolute guarantee of safety.

The Severe Weather Policy will come into effect during periods of severe or adverse weather conditions, typically snow and ice, or when snow and ice has been forecast however, may include any other severe or adverse weather conditions.

In the event of adverse weather conditions, all reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that our academies remain open as normal. During adverse weather conditions the partial closure of an academy will always be considered before any decision to completely close is made.

The Principal/Headteacher in each academy will make the final decision as to whether an academy will close. In the case of any closure or partial closure, parents/carers will be informed by text message and/or the school website. We will also endeavour to communicate school closure by other means such as local radio and Twitter.

Term Dates - Spring

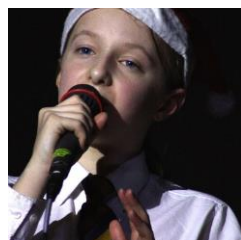
A reminder of back to school dates:

TERM STARTS for students	Monday 7th January 2019 – <u>Stourport Primary Academy & Hartlebury CE Primary only</u>
TERM STARTS for students	Tuesday 8th January 2019 – <u>Stourport High, Baxter College, Wilden All Saints, St Bartholomew's, Wolverley Sebright</u>
HALF TERM	Monday 18th February to Friday 22nd February 2019
TERM ENDS	Friday 12th April 2019



Christmas Festivities

WOW! What an end to the term, we are so excited to share all the wonderful things our schools have been doing in the run-up to Christmas.



SHS students (pictured above) enjoying Christmas lunches, creating beautiful hampers, performing at the recent Christmas Showcase. They also embarked on a trip to the German Christmas Market and to Worcester Cathedral to sell a range of Christmas products at the Young Enterprise Trade Fair.



SPA staff were heavily involved in their recent Christmas fair. Students enjoyed the Christmas fayre, their lunches and a visit from Santa!



Wilden All Saints has successfully raised £845.77 from their recent Christmas Fayre. This will go towards new books for the school. Thank you to everyone who attended. As part of Wilden's Christmas celebrations, Snowy Owls made Christmas hats as part of their homework and the Christmas lunches were served by some very special people.



'I just wanted to say how fantastic last night's show was!'

Hartlebury have received praise for their Christmas nativities from parents. It was 'apparent just how hard everyone had worked' – well done Hartlebury!



At St Bart's, the naughty Elves were caught red-handed after capturing and tying up Mrs Helps!

Year 1 students have also been very busy baking and decorating and they also had a pyjama day.

Year 2 also experienced a Polar Express day and Father Christmas visited Nursery during their open afternoon, which was a huge success.



Students from Baxter College 9SC (pictured right) were heavily involved in making, creating, baking and selling to raise money for the local Foodbank. This arose from an assembly sharing their favourite Christmas memories and actually, others might who not be as fortunate. Hampers were created by students throughout the school and gifts were brought with the money. These were collected by volunteers from the Kidderminster Foodbank, along with hampers. What an amazing thing to do for those less fortunate!

Year 11 students studying Health and Social Care have been learning about the care values that are important in health and social care settings. As part of this they visited the Gables Rest Home to demonstrate these values in practice whilst making Christmas cards and



"Visiting the Gables Rest Home was an eye-opening and emotional experience. I enjoyed talking with the residents".

Students at Wolverley Sebright have performed amazingly in their nativities and recent performances. The singers, narrators and performers were all credited for their hard work. For Christmas trips, Year 1 have been on the Severn Valley and Reception went to the Safari Park.





Little Acorns Provision at St Bart's

St Bart's are now catering for two-year old children at their new setting – Little Acorns. The setting is run by school staff who have a high level of expertise. Play, to support positive learning, is at the heart of provision. The children experience both indoor and outdoor facilities and parents/carers can share these experiences as often as possible.

There was an open afternoon on 13 December which was well attended by prospective and existing parents.



Hartlebury awarded £9K Grant

Hartlebury CE Primary School has recently been successful in an Awards for All grant application for £9,800 to enhance outdoor provision. New, all-weather equipment will be available to all children in the school in the spring term, designed to encourage physical activity and healthy habits. The project has received overwhelming support from members of the Parish Council, parents, teachers and children, highlighting the importance of developing a new play area for local children.



SHS - Premier League Enterprise Project

On Friday 7 December, students from SHS took part in the Premier League Enterprise challenge. This activity has been delivered by Premier League and English Football clubs since 2008 and students were lucky to complete the challenge at Aston Villa Football Club. Students were tasked with increasing the number of 18-23 year olds who attend matches and the group created a presentation outlining their ideas and the research they had collated. They pitched their final ideas to a panel of judges from Aston Villa FC and competed against 5 other schools to win a place in the regional finals.

Whilst waiting for the judges to deliberate and decide on a winning group, students had a tour of the grounds including: pitch side, dug out and press room. Unfortunately, the students did not win on this occasion, but did themselves proud with their presentation skills and team work. Well done all!

The objectives of the programme are;

- inspire young people to engage positively in enterprise education
- develop important life skills



TESCO Bags of Help



SPA – Tesco Bags of Help

A reminder to please support Stourport Primary Academy in their Tesco Bags of Help scheme. You can vote at all local Tesco stores within the Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley areas and if you do not get a token please ask the cashier. This will go towards their Stourport Girls Enterprise Club project. You can vote throughout the Christmas holidays until 31 December 2018 – happy voting!



Hartlebury's Soukie the Superstar!

Hartlebury CE's student Soukie, Year 5, wanted to help those who might be struggling this year and asked her school to help. Soukie designed and distributed a poster asking for donations of advent calendars to be donated to the local food bank.

Soukie wanted to donate approx. 50 but through the kindness of everyone, over 100 advent calendars and selection boxes were donated! Tesco also supported this cause by donating 10 selection boxes. Thank you to everyone!

'I love our school and the love we show other people!'



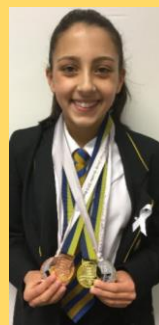
University of Wolverhampton

Post-16 students from Baxter College and SHS visited the University of Wolverhampton on Wednesday 12 December. In addition to being shown around the sports campus and meeting with student ambassadors, course leaders and lecturers, students also took part in practical strength and conditioning testing. Of those involved, Baxter College students are currently studying for OCR Technical sport whilst students from SHS were those on the AASE (Achieving Academic and Sporting Excellence) rugby programme.



SHS – Rock the Blocks

Congratulations to Year 9 student, Mollie who won gold, silver and two bronze medals for Wyre Forest at the Rock the Blocks Hereford Open Swimming Meet on Saturday 8 December.



STEM Day

Students from Stourport Primary Academy and Wolverley Sebright Primary Academy recently took part in a STEM Day (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) at Jaguar Land Rover's engine manufacturing site in Wolverhampton. The visit was a brilliant opportunity to tour the Jaguar Land Rover factory and also take part in a variety of challenging STEM activities designed to develop teamwork and thinking skills.



Genetics Day - ThinkTank



Students from Wolverley Sebright Primary Academy, St Bartholomew's and Wilden All Saints visited the Thinktank in Birmingham for a Genetics Day, as part of a series of enhanced learning opportunities organised by SAET and University of Wolverhampton.

As part of the day, students extracted their own DNA from their cheek cells and also visited the planetarium and visit the Medicine Matters gallery!

Rugby Success for SHS

Well done to Year 9 and 10 students from Stourport High School who beat Christopher Whitehead School 49-10 and are now through to the semi-finals of the County Cup. The game was played at Worcester Warriors' Sixways Stadium and was a fantastic experience for all students. The venue was arranged through Ryan Watkins, AASE Manager at SHS (Achieving Academic and Sporting Excellence).

