

Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our May newsletter which highlights just some of the many fantastic events and activities that have taken place this month across our Trust.

It has been a short half term but an incredibly busy time in our schools with key stage 1 and 2 children completing their SATs and our senior students beginning their GCSE and Level 3 examinations. Well done to all our young people for their hard work in preparation for the tests and exams and thank you to all our parents and carers for their support of our schools and staff to ensure that all the hard work is rewarded.

As always, the broader curriculum and enrichment that we offer helps build our young people into well-rounded individuals and is equally important to their academic achievement. In line with our vision and values, we celebrate this month the many achievements that have taken place. Just some highlights have been the visit of Charlie Walker, writer, adventurer and speaker which involved over 1000 students during the day and a community event at Baxter College in the evening. Over 120 children and staff across the Trust enjoyed a wonderful day at Wembley for the Women's FA Cup Final, whilst our early years and key stage 1 children enjoyed the National Smile Month Campaign to promote healthy teeth.

Thank you for taking the time to read about our schools and students' successes, your support of our schools and staff in what they do for all our young people is much appreciated. We wish you all an enjoyable half term break.

Chris King
Chief Executive



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

@SevernAcademies





School in Focus – Wolverley Sebright Primary Academy

May has been a very busy month for Wolverley Sebright students. From special guest Peter Rabbit, to scouring the local park for litter, supporting learning buddies, diving into forest school, electing members for the Children's Council and working with those closest to us through mixed year groups.



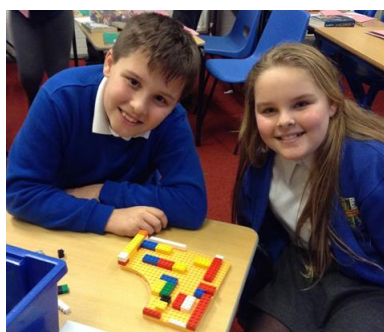
Early Years, Hedgehogs, have had a special visitor - Peter Rabbit and his friends are helping the children build a vegetable patch. Their topic began down in the forest school when Peter Rabbit and his friends left clues for reception children to find.

The pupils have been exploring the natural environment, plants and the habitats of animals. They have designed and are in the process of creating a vegetable patch in the school grounds.

Year 6 took part in a six-week programme with The Kidderminster Harriers, which promoted how to stay **healthy** and examined the dangers linked to a lack of exercise and unhealthy life choices, including the effects of using nicotine and alcohol.



Each workshop encouraged students to recognise the biological and chemical changes that happen to our bodies dependent on the choices we make. The sessions were both enjoyable and informative.



Students from Year 3 and 5 have kept their **community links** strong and have recently taken part in a local litter event at the Memorial Playground and surrounding areas.

Over 20 large bin bags of rubbish were filled and collected by the district council. Their next project is underway... collecting crisp packets and bottle tops!

Learning Buddies, one skill that is promoted throughout the school is for our pupils to develop the ability to collaborate with each other.

Learning from one another and recognising each other's talents is key in fostering healthy relationships in our school.



School in Focus – Wolverley Sebright Primary Academy cont.

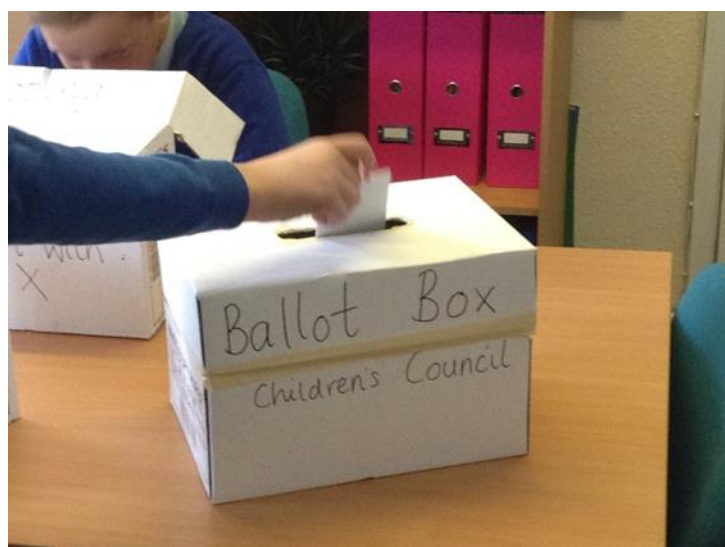


Students are fortunate to have a fantastic forest school on the school site which now boosts its very own eco toilet.

The **Forest School** area is used by all the pupils in the school. Regardless of the weather each class has the opportunity to spend quality time developing their knowledge and understanding in our amazing Forest School. This term Year 3 have spent each Friday morning covering many aspects of the curriculum including Science and Design Technology. The range of activities the children including cooking also creates a rich writing stimulus for the pupils.

At Wolverley Sebright they have a School Council, a Parliament Cabinet and now a **SAET Children's Council**.

Every student had the opportunity to vote and elect two pupils from Year 5 to represent the school at the SAET Children's Council. Each candidate presented to the whole school and shared the reasons why they should be elected. The ballot boxes and voting booths were set up with everyone casting their vote. Benji and Jayden were elected and look forward to their first meeting after half term.



Mixing it up!

Each pupil belongs to one of the School Houses (Attwood, Drakelow, Kingsford and Blakeshall). Throughout the year there are opportunities for members of each house to learn and work together. Sports day and Theme Weeks have proven popular and rewarding for all pupils. Coming soon we have a Spanish themed week where pupils will develop further their knowledge and understanding through a variety of tasks including cooking, music, dance and drama.



Primary students across the Trust visit Wembley for Women's FA Cup Final

Over 100 students from schools across our Trust enjoyed a fantastic day at Wembley Stadium on Saturday 4 May for this year's Women's FA Cup Final.

The event saw Manchester City beat West Ham 3-0 for the biggest cup in English women's football in front of an amazing 43,000 supporters.



Schools inspired to be adventurous!



On Wednesday 22 May, we were thrilled to meet adventurer, writer and motivational speaker, Charlie Walker. During the morning, Charlie met with Year 5 students across the Trust and Year 7s at Stourport High School and inspired all students as he discussed the 43,000-mile bicycle journey he did in 2010 which took 4.5 years!

During the afternoon, Charlie met with Year 9 Baxter College students and Year 5s from Wolverley Sebright and St John's Primary plus a community event in the evening. Charlie talked openly through a series of images, all the landscapes he'd seen, the importance of adjusting to your current surroundings enabling you to adapt, the difficulties he had faced (having his bike stolen and multiple punctures) but most importantly of not giving up when times are difficult.



National Smile Month

As part of National Smile Month, which runs between 13 May and 13 June, we visited our primary schools to discuss the importance of healthy teeth with Early Years and KS1. Students across our schools were very knowledgeable and most had been learning about teeth already so the timing was perfect!

We quizzed them on how many times a day they should brush their teeth, if they do brush twice daily, if they visit the dentist regularly, what toothpaste they use, how long they should brush their teeth and the motions for doing so. We challenged them to guess how long two minutes really is by pretending to brush their teeth whilst we gave them some tips and tricks. Amazingly, a lot of students knew to brush their tongues which is fantastic! Once two minutes was up rewards were given and competitions and stickers were handed out. This is such an important cause for students of a young age.

Thank you to our schools.



Pictured above are Wolverley Sebright students, below Stourport Primary Academy Students and bottom left Hartlebury students.





Success for SHS

Two Year 12 students at SHS have been successful in obtaining excellent Summer School programmes for this upcoming summer. Jasmine E has been accepted onto the Sutton Trust Summer School programme, which will see her spend a week at University of Bristol studying law. Shauna S has been accepted onto a fully-funded project at the University of Gloucester to study health and social care for a week, supporting her with her career aspirations of being a social worker.

Both of these excellent opportunities will enable the two students to experience university life, explore academic study and will aid their UCAS applications. The summer between Year 12 and 13 is a crucial time for students to gain as much experience as possible to make them stand out to universities or apprenticeships.

Well done!

Midland Arden Region Public Speaking Competition 2019



Being asked to speak in public is a very daunting thought, but not for a couple of Baxter College students. Hugh J and Megan F were selected, by the Soroptimist Kidderminster and District group, to take part in the 17th annual Public Speaking Competition through Soroptimist International.

Both students were asked to write, learn and present a speech on given topics. Hugh chose, 'Climate Change' and Megan selected, 'The most important lesson I have learnt so far'. Their knowledge and courage shown through their speeches was incredible. For Hugh, his passion for his topic was definitely one the audience and judges observed. Megan, on the other hand, displayed a very personal message about the struggles she has faced growing up and how she has become the person she is today. This was a really emotional account which touched the hearts the judges, the audience and other candidates. The determination from both students saw them being successful in winning awards. Hugh gained third place and Megan was awarded the Special Achievement Award.

'Third time lucky' really did exist, well done to Hugh and Megan!



Nigel Huddleston MP officially opens new classroom at Hartlebury CE VC Primary

On Friday 17 May, Nigel Huddleston MP officially opened the new classrooms at Hartlebury CE VC Primary School. He and Mrs Unitt were joined by several guests including Mrs C Gumbley, Chair of Governors, at Hartlebury (all pictured right here).



Baxter College's Legally Blonde Jr, the Musical!

Legally blonde was truly amazing. Everyone was on point and brilliant, Katy C as 'Elle Woods' the lead, was the best person for the role, she could dance, act and has one of the best voices I've heard. As she hit a high note I recall the person sitting next to me whispering 'I have goosebumps' she was phenomenal.

Every single actor didn't have one bad thing about them and costume changes were so fast and smooth; there wasn't a single wardrobe malfunction in sight! Jack Gallacher as 'Warner' and Emily Passey as 'Vivian' kept their facial expressions throughout and kept me on the edge of my seat. The pair had amazing voices, their acting, together and apart, was full of confidence and power. Don't get me started on the talented Max Coleman and Tom Gallacher who played 'Emmett Forrest' as one of the lead male roles in a dominating female play, you pulled it off fabulously, you

were hilarious. Also congratulations to Max on getting into BOA they are lucky to have you and we will all miss seeing your brilliance here at Baxter.

Every single person that was part of that great play did such an amazing job, that I'm running out of words to describe it because it was jaw-dropping. The amount of work everyone did these past months paid off as I know I really enjoyed it and everyone I talked to couldn't stop saying good things. A great big round of applause to everyone involved, great show and can't wait for the next.

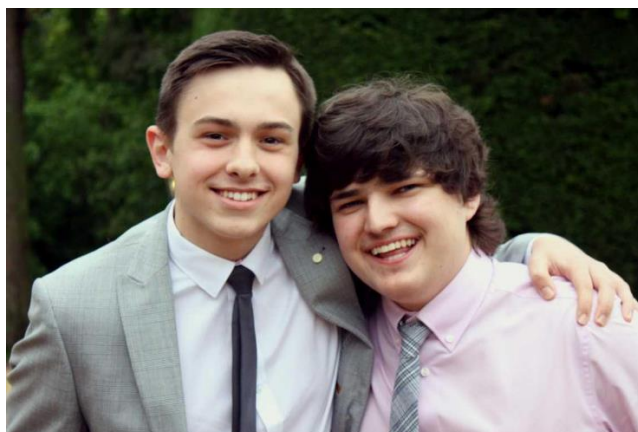
(Article created by a member of Baxter College's Student Newspaper community)



SHS Post 16 Spring Ball

On Friday 10 May, Year 13 students at Stourport High celebrated the end of their time with the school at Spring Grove House. It was a well-attended evening and both staff and students danced the night away!

Here's just some of the photos of students...



Nureva Interactive Boards at Stourport Primary & St Bartholomew's

Earlier this month, Stourport Primary Academy and St Bartholomew's took delivery of the fantastic Nureva collaborative touch panel. Not just one but two of them! These have been installed in both schools and are available for everyone to see and use.

This is going to bring a new way of collaboration around to both schools and is going to enable students to work in collaboration with each other and develop the skills they'll need for future success. Stourport Primary and St Bartholomew's are really looking forward to working with the students not just in different counties but different countries from around the world.

Keep an eye out for future updates on how you can take part in collaborating with the children and allowing them to Explore, Dream, Discover and Achieve with the new Nureva setup.





Success for Ella at SHS

Stourport High School student Ella was very successful at the county combined athletic event on Wednesday 22 May. She represented the school and scored an amazing 3000+ points, winning the event.

Ella will now progress to represent Hereford and Worcester in the upcoming regional event on 22 & 23 June at Sutton in Ashfield.

Congratulations to Ella and best of luck for June!

Voices and Vision Visual Art Exhibition

Do you remember St Bartholomew's Three Kings?

We certainly do! These fantastic masterpieces are on display in the 'People and Places Exhibition' at Chapter House, Worcester Cathedral from Saturday 18 May until Sunday 16 June.

Admission to the exhibition is free during Cathedral opening hours.



Wilden All Saints's Residential at Woodfield House

On Thursday 16 & Friday 17 May, Year 3 students had a jam packed few days away at Woodfield House, Wolverley. Both students and staff were exhausted after camping, early rises, bushcraft and survival skills.





Head Students Elected at Baxter College

We are pleased to announce that our new Head Students for 2019-2020, as voted for by students and staff are Izzy White and Sam Tabussom.

They will be assisted in their duties by Megan Fletcher and Danielle Powell.

After a closely fought campaign, I wish to thank all the candidates for showing tremendous bravery, confidence, and composure when speaking in front of large groups of people.

I am sure that students have developed these life skills and have enjoyed their first experience of politics. Best wishes to you both on your role as head students.

May Pole Dancing

Wilden All Saints celebrated May Day by dancing around their May Pole on Friday 3 May. Unfortunately, due to the bad weather they had to dance inside. All students were involved and everyone had lots of fun keeping the tradition alive!



Children's Council Elections – St Bart's

On 22 May, following a secret ballot, Lloyd L and Elizabeth B were elected to take up places on our Children's Council. The first meeting will take place in June at our offices and Mrs Helps has every confidence that St Bart's delegates will represent all students with integrity and passion.



Renovations for the Bow Top Wagon

A huge thank you to Roy Davis, parent at St Bartholomew's, for very kindly renovating the bow top wagon. His fantastic work has saved the school a significant amount of money. Roy took on this project whole-heartedly and has replaced the tarpaulin and shafts, made new steps and repainted the whole wagon.

St Bart's are extremely thankful to Roy for his kindness.



Baxter College Launches "BAXNews"!

I am incredibly proud to announce the launch of our Student Newspaper, BAX News. It was an idea grown from our Student Parliament and is written in its entirety by the students, truly demonstrating the active voice our students have. Well done to everyone who has contributed through ideas, writing or sharing their stories.

Mr Carpenter

You can view BAXNews here:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/151Y72nA5WsA8yvndifDQQVLn6_n63K2o/view

