

Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust

Easter Newsletter 2023



A Message from our CEO and Trust Leader, Dan Morrow

Welcome to the latest edition of our Trust newsletter, focusing on all the activities and events that unite us as one family of schools. I want to take this opportunity to not just thank our hard-working staff who go above and beyond the call of duty each and every day to provide the very best for the young people we serve, but also to acknowledge and appreciate the role you take as parents and carers. We firmly believe at DMAT that we as the schools and you as parent and carers are in a vital and important partnership- working together to create the best environment, provision and experience for children from 2 years old up to 19; we couldn't do it without you. The pandemic meant those relationships and partnerships were stretched and strained but this year in particular feels rebuilt and renewed. So many of you volunteer, support our work, send thank yous and show appreciation for the hard work and this is so valued. Our schools are improving and setting a true standard for excellence; by honouring this partnership between home and school, by letting all young people know that we as the adults are on the same side and working for them, by being authentic and optimistic for what we can achieve. Schools have forever changed since the pandemic and it is now a different world; together we can not just return to what education should be but can rebuild a better version for our children, our communities and our country as a whole. Thank you so much for your support and encouragement.

Newsletter Highlights

A Message from our CEO and Trust Leader, Dan Morrow

The Promise School update

The Festival of Hope: Better Together

DMAT Careers Fair 2023

St James C of E Ofsted success





The Promise School: New build project update

Construction work on the new build for The Promise School continues and is looking amazing. The original completion date for the school has shifted to 6th April and this is mainly due to the poor weather in December and delays to the fitting of the school's electricity meter. Despite this delay, the building itself is looking fantastic. Much of the focus for the contractors is now on finishing any electrical work, decorating the inside of the building, and working on the school grounds.

We have a window of time between 6th April and 17 April to move in and ensure that the school is ready for pupils and staff to transition into the new building from 19 April onwards.

If you are interested in following progress of the build, don't forget to check the site 'build cam' which can be viewed [here](#).

Net Zero Project



One of our Trust's priorities is to become net zero by 2030. We are not alone in this. Many charities and public sector organisations have made the same commitment and compared to many we are making great progress.

The pioneering work undertaken by Keith Webber across schools in the Trust, in developing the use of solar panels and wind turbines to provide electricity for our schools, was noted internationally through the Ashden Award in 2010 and the large number of meters - more than 130 across the schools- allow the estates team, through the work of Rachael Cleave, to monitor excessive use of electricity and water and rectify any issues. Formalising this monitoring of the meters and addressing any anomaly immediately was identified as a goal for this year and has had a tangible impact on energy and water wastage.

There is still a great deal to do, however. A school capital fund allocated to the Trust earlier in the year to be spent on projects that will lead to greater energy efficiency must be spent by the end of the academic year and Michael Coles and Mark Butler, with the help of Keith have identified some excellent areas of work which will be undertaken over the next few months to reduce our energy bills and take us one step closer to achieving our aims.

The Trust caterers are looking to improve energy efficiencies within our kitchens. Executive Chef, Steve Parr and his team are looking to automate daily routines where possible, to identify and eradicate practices that lead to excess energy usage and to ensure any new equipment is energy efficient.

Net Zero is not just about grand gestures. The difference can be made by all of us doing what we can. Turning lights, projectors and computers off when they are not needed, monitoring the temperatures in our offices and classrooms, turning radiators down before opening windows and bring to the attention of estates' staff things that don't look quite right will all support our campaign to drive to Net Zero and bit by bit, together we can support one another in achieving our goal.



The Festival of Hope 2023: Better Together

This year's Festival of Hope ran from 6th - 31st March 2023 and the theme was 'Better Together'. The goal was to bring all the schools together in the Trust and spread the message that everyone is part of something bigger and to increase student aspirations. Sporting events were planned, a reading programme that runs across the primaries and secondaries, a travelling art exhibition with submissions from all schools and a new song was written for the Trust entitled 'Make our Future Bright' - the video for which can be viewed on our website and involved almost all of the schools within the Trust. Schools also set up their own community events and encouraged parents, carers and the wider community to join in the festival in some way.



Sport Events

Throughout the Festival of Hope, we have provided opportunities across the Trust for students and staff to meet, engage, learn and compete with their Trust peers. As Nelson Mandela noted in 2006, sport and physical activity talk to young people in a way much cannot. The Festival of Hope was the prime opportunity to share and showcase the most amazing skills and facilities that schools in our Trust possess and everyone was encouraged to get involved. Our events have been an opportunity to raise student aspirations and evidence that pupils are part of so much more than just a school and are in fact part of a huge family of schools within our Trust.



Art Events

A cross phase art exhibition (from primary right up to secondary) was arranged which started its tour at Tavistock College and travelled onwards over the month to our other two secondary's. We are so proud to see all the effort our schools have put into this collaborative installation. A digital art gallery of all the contributions can be viewed on our website [here](#).

We also arranged Live Art session, led by an artist at three sites with a range of primary pupils attending, who also had the opportunity to create a 'DMAT Shoe' and tour the exhibition. Many members of staff from the secondary schools commented on the students' polite and well behaved manner and how it was a pleasure to host these events for them! Thank you to Tania Skeaping, Chair of the Trust and Sophia Clist Governor at Okehampton College, who judged the secondary contributions and determined who would be named overall Exhibition Artist of the Year 2023.



Reading Events

Reading is such an important skill and imperative to positive outcomes for students and is a key focus for the Trust. Y7 students from Okehampton College took part in several 'Book Club' sessions at Okehampton, North Tawton and South Tawton primary schools and Holsworthy College visited Bridgerule and Black Torrington primary schools during the festival, where they used reciprocal reading strategies to lead an academic discussions on Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief with Y6 students. These sessions also played another important part of the transition journey for those pupils who will be moving from the primary to secondary phase in September.



"Make our Future Bright" song

We are truly excited to share this film with you! The Trust's new song entitled 'Make our Future Bright' epitomises the theme of this year's Festival of Hope which is 'Better Together'. Enjoy watching this wonderful collaborative Trust piece.

[watch here](#)



DMAT Careers Fair March 2023



The event, held across Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th March at the Ashbury Hotel in Okehampton, saw more than 2500 students meet employers and educational institutions from across the region.

Organised in collaboration with principal sponsor Willmott Dixon Construction, the fair was the first of its kind for West Devon and Torridge.

Alongside a series of specialist talks, the main exhibition space welcomed more than 70 businesses and institutions – including consultancies, engineering firms, universities, colleges, the army, supermarkets, and more – to share information on the careers which are available to school leavers.



The Trust received positive feedback from all involved, with students inspired by the wide range of careers and educational options available to them.

After the success of last week's event, the Trust have already begun work organising a follow-up Careers Fair, taking place on the 6th and 7th December 2023. Organisations interested in taking part are encouraged to email mtrudgill@dmatschools.org.uk for further details.

Derrick Brett, Executive Director of Civic Leadership for Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust, said:

“This was a brilliant event for the whole community, and I would like to thank every organisation involved for their time and generosity. It was incredibly encouraging to see our students’ enthusiasm for the wide range of careers options which were on display, and I hope they all left the event inspired about the options available to them in the coming years.”

Holsworthy Community Fridge

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People living in Holsworthy will be getting a new community fridge as part of a project that collects surplus edible food and gives it away for free - Opening 31/03/23

Local housing association LiveWest has provided a £1,000 grant to Holsworthy Community Fridge Steering Group to help launch a community fridge, by paying for the electrical connection, which will be based outside Holsworthy Library and other vital set up costs. The project has also been supported by Devon County Council's National Lottery funded 'Food Rescue' project which has provided the fridge, sponsored the signage and provided ongoing support and advice for the project.

Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust, LiveWest, Geoff Cusick, President of Holsworthy Rotary Club and Holsworthy Library have been working together to launch the fridge working in partnership with local food suppliers such as Waitrose and Co-op, who have also been incredibly enthusiastic about the community fridge and are keen to work in partnership with the steering group. 'We are particularly thankful to Holsworthy Library for their ongoing support by supplying the electricity for the fridge'.



Melissa Trudgill, Community Engagement Manager at Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust said:

“We are hopeful that all members of the community will use it on a regular basis, this is a green project using food that would otherwise go to waste and is available for everyone. Once the project is well-established it is hoped the service will go mobile to service some of the isolated nearby villages. Food for children was affected during recent lockdowns in the pandemic so Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust has been hands-on, delivering food hampers across the Trust locality.”

Citizens UK & St James Primary School Road Safety Campaign

Following on from a listening campaign at the end of last year with year 3 and 4 pupils from St James Primary School, Sandra Lawson, Senior Schools Organiser (South West), from Citizens UK recently visited the School again. This time she engaged with parents and carers to understand issues which they believe are a priority in their local community.

This session, in part led by enthusiastic children from the School Council, was designed to encourage parents to discuss what is great about the places they live and what could be done to improve these areas.

Many views had been gathered from the children during their session on 8th December 2022, discussing what made them 'mad, sad and glad', which included worries about crossing the busy road outside their school, spending time with their families, eating chocolate and bad driving, in no particular order.



Kids Eat Free (or for £1) during Easter Half Term



PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING EASTER HALF TERM 2023

COURTESY OF MONEY SAVING CENTRAL



ASDA CAFE

Kids eat for £1 all day, every day with no adult spend until the end of Easter 2023

HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays & up to 2 Kids get free breakfast with 1 adult breakfast

SAINSBURYS CAFES

Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main.

WHITBREAD INNS

Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

THE REAL GREEK

Kids eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

PREMIER INN & TRAVELODGE

Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

TABLE TABLE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

SIZZLING PUBS

Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

MORRISONS

Spend £4.49 & get one free kids meal all day, every day.

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

BILLS

2 kids eat FREE all day, every day from Monday 3rd until Friday 14th April 2023

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.

YO! SUSHI

Kids eat free all day at YO! Sushi with any adult £10 spend from April 3rd 2023

SA BRAINS PUBS

Children can eat for £1 with any adult main. Valid All Day Wednesdays

FUTURE INNS

Under 12's eat for free with any adult meal. During the school holidays

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

TO BE CONFIRMED...

M&S, Tesco and Farmhouse Inns

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Tavistock College Sports Personality of the Year Awards

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The tenth edition of the Sports Personality of the Year awards evening took place with an electric atmosphere in the main hall at Tavistock College on Thursday 23rd February. This evening was hosted by the Tavistock College Physical Education faculty to celebrate the achievements of the fantastic PE students at the college. Whether this is through achievement in curriculum time; successes in examination courses; contribution to the college through sport or outstanding practical performance in the local community and beyond. The evening demonstrated the shared attributes of all the students, to have a positive mindset to improve, pride in their work, high levels of skill and the competitive edge to be successful. The students all demonstrate the ability to find an extra percent or source of energy to continue to beat personal bests or break records or in a team environment reach further in competitions. The evening also saw winners from the local primary feeder schools as well as the Hall of fame award to honour significant achievement to PE at the college and awards for contribution to PE at the college and the local community.

St James C of E Primary's 'inclusive, caring ethos' praised by Ofsted

St James Church of England Primary School has received a glowing Ofsted rating, with the inspectorate judging it to be 'Good' across all areas.

We are thrilled to announce that our school was praised for its "caring ethos", "calm and orderly atmosphere", and the "strong" relationships between adults and pupils.

Following an inspection held on the 24th and 25th January 2023, the result is a strong 'Good' in the school's first ever Ofsted report since it opened in 2018.

The excellent result is a true testament to the tremendous efforts of the Executive Principal Suzie Stevens, Associate Principal Geraldine Carter, their entire team of dedicated colleagues, and the wider school community. Together, their commitment has been vital in securing this positive report.



Okehampton Primary School Art Project

Live West have kindly sponsored an art project at Okehampton Primary School as part of an AWE project at the school. It is a 2 stage project with first an art workshop with children working on drawings, collages, sketches, etc based on themselves, food and their natural world. In the second stage, the students art work will be made into a digital piece to be printed as an outdoor piece for their pedestrian entrance at the back of the school.



Melissa Trudgill, Trust Community Engagement Manager said

'we are very grateful for this collaboration and support from Live West. The children have really enjoyed the art workshops with local artist Mary Goodman and are excited to see the final design by local muralist Franca Westaway who will turn the childrens' ideas into a beautiful piece of outdoor art for everyone to enjoy. The preparation work in the classrooms on the environment, planting, growing and food inspired their artistic endeavours.'

Vacancies

The Trust Board are seeking to appoint new trustees to strengthen the board further. We are keen to appoint a:

- **Foundation Trustee**
- **Primary experienced Trustee**
- **Secondary experienced Trustee**
- **Digital / Marketing Trustee**

Not all of these roles need to be based in Devon. The majority of our meetings are virtual so we can accommodate time commitments and locations fairly easily.

Please do get in touch with our Head of Governance, Mel Greener via mgreener@dmatschools.org.uk for an informal discussion or if you would like more information or check out our website for more information <https://dartmoormat.org.uk/about/our-governance/>

We are also seeking governors to join our Local Stakeholder Boards and Resolution Committees. For more information on this area of our governance structure visit our website [here](#) or have read our [Governor Information Pack](#)

Local Stakeholder Board vacancies

We are looking for governors to join our Local Stakeholder Boards (LSBs) across the Trust to help drive positive outcomes for the communities our schools serve. The LSB Governors' primary role is to triangulate the 'lived experience' of all our stakeholders (staff, pupils, parents, carers etc) within the Trust and to keep the Trust Board up to date, whilst being a critical friend to the Principal and school/s in their hub. For more information visit our website for an information pack. We are particularly seeking:

- **Co-opted Governors**
- **Community Governors**
- **Foundation Governors**

For more information contact Jay Hooper for an informal discussion via j.hooper@dmatschools.org.uk

Visit www.dartmoormat.org.uk for more information about the Trust



Resolution Committee vacancies

- Do you have the ability to listen?
- To be impartial without being swayed by emotion?
- Can you appreciate both sides of an argument and make reasoned decisions?
- Can you spare a few days or more a year to participate in this rewarding and interesting task?

This is a chance to contribute to the futures of young people in Devon. Resolution Committee Panels are convened to examine permanent exclusion cases, fixed term suspensions and Stage 2 complaints.

The choices are difficult, and there may not be an obvious "right" answer, but it is vital that access to this independent process exists for both children and the schools involved.

For more information contact Jay Hooper for an informal discussion via j.hooper@dmatschools.org.uk

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