

Welcome...

Welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter to keep you updated with news across our Trust.

You are receiving this newsletter because your child attends a Wimborne Academy Trust (WAT) school – and we are proud that your child and their school is part of our Trust.

2019 began with some exciting news when we welcomed two more schools to our Trust –

Verwood and Hillside first schools. That now brings us up to 11 first and middle schools, making us one of the biggest multi-academy trusts in Dorset.

What we're particularly proud of is that while we are growing, we are keeping the same principle at heart – we are a local trust, in the heart of the local community and serving local families.

In this issue of the

newsletter we will tell you more about our newest schools and share some successful stories from our other schools. It has been a very busy and productive autumn and winter.

By bringing our news altogether in one newsletter we hope to enhance that sense of working together and being part of one Trust family.

Everyone in the Trust



community plays an important role in our success and we are always keen to hear any feedback or ideas parents may have.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Academy News.

Liz West, Trust CEO

Now we're in double figures!

Our powerful partnership of academies has been furthered strengthened with the addition of two new excellent first schools – Hillside and Verwood.

This means three of Verwood's four first and middle schools, including Verwood Nursery, are now WAT members, after Emmanuel CE Middle School joined the Trust last year.

CEO of Wimborne Academy Trust, Liz West, said: "We are absolutely delighted to welcome Verwood and Hillside First Schools to our Trust.

"The vision and ethos of both schools fit very much with ours – we're based in the local community, serving the local community.

"Having two excellent schools join us really strengthens our team and we have in place a powerful partnership of schools all working together to provide the best possible education for our children."

With the addition of Verwood and Hillside, WAT now has more than 3,300 pupils and 508 staff.

Hillside First School headteacher,



Hillside and Verwood First schools join Wimborne Academy Trust. Both schools feed into Emmanuel CE Middle School and pupils from all three schools are pictured with Trust CEO Liz West, Verwood headteacher Adam Parsons, Emmanuel executive headteacher Ron Jenkinson and Hillside headteacher Jeremy Harrison.

Jeremy Harrison, said: "We've just celebrated our 50th anniversary and with such a milestone, it's not just about looking back but also looking forward. To ensure Hillside is here for another 50 years we wanted to join a bigger multi-academy trust and WAT, being local and successful, was the perfect fit."

Verwood First is also home to Verwood Nursery, which caters for

children aged two to four, for 50 weeks a year. Adam Parsons, headteacher at Verwood First, said: "We have been really impressed with the excellent work WAT has done at our close neighbours Emmanuel CE Middle School and we're excited to be part of that same team.

"This is providing the best possible education for our present children and the future children of Verwood."

BSO Resound strikes a chord with pupils

The world's first disabled-led ensemble, which forms a core part of a professional symphony orchestra, filled one of our schools with the sound of music.

Lockyer's Middle School in Corfe Mullen was treated to an inspirational performance from the BSO Resound ensemble, followed by a question and answer session.

The musicians performed to a packed school hall for 45 minutes, with seven pieces of classical music, including Mozart's Marriage of Figaro Overture and Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata. They then spent time answering questions and showing their instruments to the children.

Headteacher, Mark Legge, said: "It was an absolute honour to welcome BSO Resound to our school. Their performance was incredibly uplifting and a real inspiration.

These talented men and women demonstrated there is no barrier that cannot be overcome – and what an incredible message to leave with our children."



Conductor James Rose and the BSO Resound ensemble meet pupils

BSO Resound was formed from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's Change Makers project, which began in June 2017 when disabled conductor James Rose started an 18-month training placement.

A core part of the BSO Change Makers project was to create a professional, disabled-led ensemble for James to curate and direct, that would also be embedded in the orchestra.

Their formation saw the BSO become the first symphony orchestra in the world to have a professional

disabled-led ensemble as a core part of its activities.

James Rose, BSO Resound conductor, said: "It was a sheer delight touring schools in Dorset and meeting so many enthusiastic young people interested in our music. It is always a little uncertain as to whether there's going to be any questions from students when it comes to the post-concert Q&A session. However, at every school we played at, we couldn't keep up with the number of questions being asked. It was fantastic."

'Benchmark' for fantastic plastic recycling

Children, parents and teachers at Colehill First are setting the benchmark when it comes to recycling plastic.

The whole Colehill First school community are rallying together to create their very own 'eco bricks' from plastic, which will eventually be made into a new friendship bench for the school field.

But before the bench can be made, the school is calling on all its children and their families to make as many eco bricks as possible.

One brick consists of an empty one litre plastic bottle filled with as many thin plastic bags and films as possible.

Colourful plastic is placed at the bottom of the bottle to create an eye-catching 'brick.'



With pupils are parents Zara Thorpe, Sam Purcell, Caroline Buckman and headteacher Andrew Turrall (left)

Headteacher Andrew Turrall said: "We are very excited about this project to design and build our own buddy bench, which will be used when children are playing on the field.

"With the bench made out of eco bricks, we will be raising everyone's awareness of the disposal of single-use plastics, at the same time as doing something useful to benefit the children.

"Now it's over to everyone

to start making as many eco bricks as possible."

The school has set up special bins to collect all its single-use plastic, which will be used to make the eco bricks. It is also asking every family to make their own eco bricks over the next two terms.

Pupils on the School Council will be collecting the plastic and overseeing the design of the bench. They will be supported by parent volunteers.

Then, at the beginning of the summer term, every eco brick that has been made will be used to construct the bench.

Liz West, CEO of Wimborne Academy Trust, said: "This is a fantastic initiative, which really brings the whole school community together. As a Trust we pride ourselves on our partnership work with parents – and this eco bricks project is a perfect example of that."

A small school with a big vision

Our smallest school showed it has big ambitions when it launched a brand new vision.

Witchampton CE First School brought the whole community together in developing a new statement of intent.

After months developing their vision, Witchampton held a celebratory event to formally launch it.

Through art, clay, craft and discussion, the children put the vision – which vows that the school's Christian foundation will enable children to grow, flourish and be ambitious – into action.

Head of school, Jo Hancock, said: "It was very important to us that everyone had a say in our new vision, so we worked closely with pupils, staff, parents and the



wider community on this. Our vision is very much about how the nurturing environment of our school enables our children to reach their full potential.

"To help everyone, and particularly our children, understand our new vision, we launched it by getting them to demonstrate what it means to them."

Children live out Christian values at Christmas

Pupils at St Michael's CE Middle School raised more than £2,000 for children with cancer after a series of pre-Christmas fundraising events.

Five students donated their hair to the Little Princess Trust, which makes wigs for young people with cancer. In addition, a Christmas jumper day and a 4km run held at the school raised hundreds for Piam Brown Children and Young People's Cancer Ward at Southampton General Hospital.

Headteacher, Ron Jenkinson, said: "This fundraising initiative came directly from three of our Year 8 students, Hala Hazarika, Ambrose Evamy and Jabez Lee, who approached me to ask if we could do this.

"It is particularly heartening to see young people care so much about other children who are very poorly.

"Christmas is about giving and receiving and it was wonderful to see the whole school embrace this fundraising drive and



Evie Prianes (left) and Imogen Cable (above) donated their hair to charity in school!

give so much, including their hair, for others less fortunate than them."

The five students who had their hair cut for the Little Princess Trust were Evie Prianes, Caitlin Dalrymple- Irving, Kacey Esposito, Imogen Cable and Verity Stevens.

Evie, 10, and Imogen, 12, went for the chop in the last week of term in front of 580 students, while Caitlin, Kacey and Verity, aged nine and 10, donated their hair in the New Year.

We remember the fallen from WWI



In November, we all took time out to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Armistice, ensuring our children will remember them.

Pupils from Allenbourn Middle School (above, left) took part in a special arts workshop to create 112 poppies from recycled materials. These poppies were added to others made by the local community, to create one giant poppy wave for Wimborne.

The workshop was led by artist Peter Margerum and funded by East Dorset District Council.



Allenbourn's headteacher, Cindy Pritchard, said: "It was a great honour to be part of a very special act of remembrance for Wimborne."

Meanwhile, pupils at Emmanuel CE Middle School created a poppy installation for the front of school.

The art department created the poppies, made from plastic drink bottles, while the English department wrote thought-provoking postcards from family and soldiers' perspectives during the First World War.



We held our first ever conference to set out how we can ensure children from disadvantaged backgrounds reach their full potential.

The aim of our 'Removing Barriers' conference in the autumn was to spread our vision to more than 260 teaching, support staff, academy committee members and Trustees.

Held at Queen Elizabeth's

School in Wimborne, we welcomed four highly regarded experts in this field – education consultant Kerry Brown, Senior HMI Ofsted inspector Catherine Leahy, author and social worker Kate Cairns and Chief Operating Officer of Inclusion Expert, Sarah Conant.

CEO of Wimborne Academy Trust, Liz West, said: "As dedicated

Removing Barriers

Helping disadvantaged children reach their full potential

education professionals our ultimate aim is to help every single child we teach reach their full potential.

"One of the biggest challenges we face is ensuring our most disadvantaged children make the right progress and reach the attainment we know they are capable of. This conference was all about how we, as education leaders, teachers and support staff, can all work together to remove the barriers that can prevent those children from being the best we know they can be."

Wimborne Academy Trust has developed a

Disadvantaged Pupil Strategy to ensure every child reaches their full potential.

The strategy sets out how our schools will help the most vulnerable pupils develop and build resilience to grow into successful, happy adults.

Kerry Brown, of Go Fish Education and conference key note speaker, said: "It was a privilege to work with such a forward-thinking trust.

"A magnificent well-done to all the staff, teachers, headteachers and trustees for their commitment to raising standards for all."

Eureka! Ancient Greece inspires



Emmanuel CE Middle School made an Olympian effort when it came to inspiring children to learn about ancient Greece.

For one day only, the Year 5 pupils ditched their school uniform for tunics, sandals and laurel wreaths, as they turned back the clock more than 2,000 years.

The day was organised to help bring history alive for the children

– and it was not just a day for dressing up. Thanks to the involvement of Treehouse Theatre (above), the pupils were able to create a 'play in a day' to re-enact everything they had learned.

Head of school, Rob Christopher, said: "Our Year 5s had a fantastic time spending the day in Ancient Greece and have learned so much about the culture of the times."

OUR TRUST SCHOOLS

