



The STAR
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



We provide the best possible education in a fun and enjoyable learning environment.

THE NEWS LETTER



CEO UPDATE



December 2022

As we close for the festive season, I would like to thank you for your continued support at Trust, school and of course individual student level.

High quality education is always a partnership between home and school and as a Trust rooted in its communities, we care with an absolute passion to get things right.

During this autumn term we have welcomed hundreds of new families, some 80 new staff, celebrated fantastic results from 2022 and seen some eight inspections across our schools. Every single school continues to build on its strengths and vitally, all inspections record the care, passion and resolute response to safeguarding within the Trust. With some 4200 students in our care, getting things right for every young person is complex and challenging but remains our definitive vision. Watch out for more news in the Spring of our Student Well-being Strategy and also next term, we will be surveying the views of our young people. This time of year is always exciting and very special in schools - our STAR shines with joy, love, concern for others and hopes for the future.

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year for 2023 when it comes.

Kind regards,

Ian Yapp
CEO



From the Chair of the Trust Board



This term has been as hectic as ever with the majority of our schools having Ofsted inspections. Whilst this can be a stressful time for schools, the outcomes have largely been fabulous and all of our schools should be very proud of themselves. From a Trustee and governor point of view, having some external view of our schools is also very helpful and a great way to help us understand, from an external perspective, how our schools are doing. As has been widely reported in the media, funding for our schools, like many other sectors, is proving to be a challenge. Our Trust Board does have a continual balancing act to perform in trying to provide high quality teaching and learning for our young people; to support the amazing staff within our schools and to balance the books each year. We are surviving at the moment, but who knows what the future will bring. All we can do is say thank you to all of the wonderful staff we have in our schools who often go above and beyond to help our schools flourish, sometimes no matter what the personal cost. As a Board, we have also had a bit of a recruitment drive for local governors. Being a school governor is really rewarding and allows you to support and challenge our school leaders to help ensure that the experience of the young people in their care is the absolute best it can be. If you believe you have the skills and time to help as a school governor in one of our schools then please do get in touch as we are always on the lookout for more great people to join. You don't necessarily need to have been a governor before nor to have an education background as full training is given. If this is of interest to you, a family member, friend or colleague, please contact us at clerktogovs@starmat.uk For more information <https://web.starmat.uk/vacancies/> On behalf of the Board, I wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas season and I look forward to seeing what the New Year brings for our fabulous group of schools.



Safeguarding, Inclusion, Equalities & Diversity and Wellbeing Lead - Cayte Mulhern

I joined the Central Team in September, previously I had been Deputy Headteacher at Tadcaster Grammar School for the last seventeen years. This experience means I know our schools, the local community and partner organisations well. I hope it is this level of understanding and experience that means I can really assist our schools as we develop as an organisation.

As the Safeguarding and Inclusion Lead for the Trust, I work alongside schools supporting their core function of safeguarding the children in their care. However, leading on safeguarding support is just one element of the role as the job title suggests! Reviewing our provision and working closely with our SEND teams to develop our inclusive practice is another key responsibility. We have a wealth of committed and talented professionals in our Trust and I am keen to facilitate partnership support amongst key teams in our schools.

Getting to know our schools better this term has been a rewarding experience and is helping to ensure I am as responsive as possible to their needs. The development of our Student Wellbeing Strategy has been an important part of my work and the draft strategy will soon be able to be shared with parents and carers. As a Trust, supporting the wellbeing of all in a safe and inclusive environment is central to what we stand for.

NSPCC Online Safety Workshops



Back in October we held a series of parent and carer workshops, delivered by the NSPCC, exploring online safety. We know this is a key concern and worry for our parents & carers. The event, held at three of our schools, received very positive feedback. Parents and carers learnt more about what children and young people are doing online and how to manage these risks as a parent. If you would like to know more about this, here is the presentation that was given at Tadcaster Grammar School: <https://web.starmat.uk/assets/About-Us/Newsletters/NSPCC-December-2022.pdf>



STAR EATS

As Christmas is fast approaching, no better time to look back over the first term of STAR EATS. Whilst it is never straightforward launching a new service, overall, we have made some really great progress!

The EATS Team have provided the new 3 cycle menu which includes a wide variety to support all diets and looks forward to the roll out of our new 'meal selector' to further schools after a successful launch at Sherburn Hungate Primary. We pride ourselves on our themed days, so far including bonfire and most recently, of course, Christmas. Over the festive period we have utilised local suppliers for our meats, alongside the majority of our produce.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the new term.



The excitement around our curriculum at Appleton Roebuck has been a pleasure to see flourish this term. We welcomed Mr Snowden (Assistant Headteacher & Mastery Teacher) and Mrs Kirkpatrick (English Specialist Teacher) to the team and we set about creating wonderful learning experiences for our children. The community around our school is alive and our amazing PTA have helped to support our reading drive and

It's also been a pleasure to welcome many prospective parents for tours of our school and to see us in action. Should you wish to visit, please call us or email. You will see the spirit of our values in action and you can't fail but to be impressed.



really foster a love of reading amongst all our pupils. The new library looks stunning and is very well resourced with the latest range of texts.

We've also taken part in lots of musical and sporty activities, with our after-school clubs being very popular indeed. We even made a radio appearance on York Mix as part of their 'sleeps 'til Santa' jingle. The reindeer dash was also a huge success!



If you'd like to know more about our school, please follow us on Twitter (@ApRoPrimary). Merry Christmas everyone!

Brayton CE Primary School ~ [Visit us here](#)

We returned after the summer holiday to lots of improvements around school: the refurbishment of one of the mobile classrooms and the outdoor area for Nursery; and a new space created within the Hall that is used as a space for interventions and support around children's wellbeing and mental health.

We marked Armistice Day at the war memorial on Brayton Green, with poems and prayers from Key Stage 2. Members of the Parish Council and the community joined us, with the Parish Council providing wreaths to be laid. Everyone joined together for silent reflection at 11am, which ended with Josh Colley (Y6) playing the Last Post on his cornet: a very special and poignant moment.

Before



After



Next on the list: installation of our outdoor gym equipment.

Our sports teams have continued their unbeaten run, with big wins (10-1!) in the football leagues, including the new girls' football league. We also had our first try at golf, thanks to Rick Weights, and joined Monk Fryston & Saxton pupils at Fulford Golf Club.



All the staff at Brayton Primary would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

I have had a wonderful first term as Executive Headteacher at Kellington Primary School. It has been brilliant getting to know the staff, parents and children. We have had a very busy term with lots of achievements to celebrate.

This half term, we have welcomed our Early Years and Key Stage One parents into school for a phonics and reading at home meeting. In the session, we shared our methods of teaching phonics through 'Floppy's Phonics', discussed the importance of reading for pleasure and navigated our way through exciting games which can be used to support the development of early reading. A huge thank you to our parents who attended. We do hope you found this useful!



We have had a real treat from all of the children this year as we have held both KS1 and KS2 performances. Our KS1 children have blown the audiences' socks off with their fabulous rendition of 'The Inn-spectors' - very fitting following our own recent visit!

The KS2 children have also dazzled with their incredible performances of 'Stable Manners'. The children were confident with their acting, the singing was beautiful and everyone had a great time.

Our Young Voices choir has been working hard this term learning the exciting new songs and dances ready for our performance in January. Each Tuesday night has been immensely fun to join in with the practises. The children are understandably very excited to be performing once again in Sheffield Arena!

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas

Kirk Fenton CE Primary School ~ [Visit us here](#)

What a busy term we have had at Kirk Fenton! It was fantastic to welcome our new children and staff in September, who quickly settled into our school community and there have been so many moments where children's lights have been shining brightly as they embraced the new school year.

We started the term with a KS2 singing workshop, where we spent the day developing our singing skills with two visiting musicians, who showed us how rewarding and exciting singing can be. Other visitors we have had this term have included a theatre company, who worked with children to put on a performance using drama to think about the impact of bullying. We also welcomed the Battle of Towton Society, who came to spend time with our year one children, giving them the chance to be hands-on with our important local history.



It has been particularly lovely in the last few weeks, to hear so much music happening around the school. Our KS2 classes have all enjoyed discovering the new instruments they will be learning how to play this year, and they are looking forward to sharing what they have learnt so far when they perform at our musical celebration in the last week of term. Our Young Voices choir has been busy learning all of the songs they will be singing at the Young Voices concert in February, and in our singing workshops, we have discovered that we have lots of talented soloists!



Last year, we were awarded the bronze Global Neighbours award, and this term we have started to work towards the silver accreditation by thinking about the actions we can take to become active global citizens. Our new school council met to decide who our focus charities should be for this year, and they decided on Childline and the DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee.) They chose to organise a cake sale to raise money for these charities in the run up to Christmas, and worked hard to make this a success, raising a great amount of money.



Our school library has had some exciting deliveries since September, with lots of new books hitting the shelves. This is one of our favourite places in our school, and the librarians and Reading Ambassadors are busy making plans about what they can do next term to share their love of reading. As we head towards the end of the term, we have been



particularly pleased to be able to welcome full audiences back to our nativities. It has been a delight to see the children proudly performing on stage to their families, showing off their singing and dancing. We finished the term with a very exciting and enjoyable whole school trip to the pantomime in York, which was a lovely way to celebrate Christmas together. Everyone at Kirk Fenton would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.

Pupils meet HM King Charles III

We were very excited this term when two of the pupils at Monk Fryston met the King. Their classes had entered a competition run by York Minster to design a stone carving representing their hopes and dreams for the next 70 years, linked to the Platinum Jubilee of HM Elizabeth II. Their designs were then carved into stone by the masons at the Minster, and were unveiled at a ceremony attended by HM King Charles III and the Queen Consort when they visited York in November. The pupils and their parents, accompanied by their teacher, were introduced to the royal party and asked to explain their designs. They also featured on BBC Look North that evening. We were very proud of them!



Following recent Ofsted inspections at both schools, Saxton received a SIAMS (Church of England) inspection in November. This looked at the effectiveness of the school as a Church school. We were delighted that the inspector judged the school to be 'Good' and wrote a report that highlighted the family feeling and strong relationships that exist: "Genuine care and kindness permeate the actions of all members of the school community Saxton is a happy, nurturing school, proudly committed to its local area." This reflects the school that we know and love and we are very proud of this achievement.

The community events that both schools organised this term have been lovely family occasions and have raised a great deal of funds for our schools. In particular, our Christmas Fairs have been brilliant and a great way to start the festive season. Saxton Church held the Christmas Tree Festival with contributions from the school, and stalls including the ever-popular chocolate tombola and raffle. Monk Fryston fair saw Santa visit and had an array for craft stalls from local providers. Both were well attended and brought the whole community together. We are very grateful to everyone who volunteered, helped and attended them.

Merry Christmas from us all



Riverside Primary ~ Visit us here

It has been a very busy term here at Riverside. We have welcomed our new Headteacher, Nick Styles, into the school. Then, in only the 3rd week of term, we also welcomed Ofsted into the school, too! It was a hectic couple of days but a really positive experience. You can read the report [here](#).

This term has seen the return of school trips, including a Y3 & Y4 visit to Ledston Estate and we have hosted the Wonderdome (a portable planetarium) for Y5 and Y6 and a very exciting visit from our local firefighters for our Reception children.



We have also raised £321 for The Royal British Legion, £901 for Children in Need and over £350 for Children with Cancer UK through our Christmas cups tradition, where children take home a disposable coffee cup, decorate it and return it to school filled with loose change. Our School Council run this initiative and selected the charity that we're raising for.

We have also come together as a school community to help others who are less fortunate than we are. We had an amazing response to our Harvest Festival collection, which we shared between the Selby Foodbank, the Wetherby Foodbank and the Tadcaster Salvation Army. It was lovely to come together as a community in St. Mary's Church and be thankful.



In completely different news, we have our very own bat expert on staff now as Mrs Wright has been working with bat experts from across the country to develop a research project that the whole school is taking part in!

The Autumn term always covers such a wide variety of activities and events. Merry Christmas everyone!

As Christmas approaches, it's time to reflect upon the achievements of the last term with pride. Sherburn High 6th Form have much to celebrate as two students completed their D of E



Gold Awards and our wonderful Year 13 students have already sent off their UCAS applications, and there are lots of top-grade universities in the mix. Staff and students put on a magnificent 6th Form Open Evening to

welcome the next cohort of students as Post 16 education goes from strength to strength.



In sporting terms, younger students have been busy demonstrating their sporting prowess; the talent has been off the

chart this term with

our netball and football teams securing sound wins against other schools in the district.



Leadership was order of the day back in September when students took to the polls to select student leaders for their forms. All chosen leaders then got together to discuss what they wanted their role to reflect and also to decide on the big matter of what their student leader badges should look like!

Life-saving lessons were order of the day in October when Year 8 were taught essential skills by the fire brigade, paramedics and first responders on Restart-A-Heart day; students were amazing as they pumped chests to the Baby Shark song!



Last month, we all celebrated Children In Need day; students dressed in non-uniform which is always a popular choice and for the first time ever we held a staff Bake-off! A wide variety of cakes and other baked delights were on offer for staff to pay for and sample, they voted for the best in show which was a beautiful sponge with vanilla and raspberry cream filling!

Finally, excitement for the festive season builds as trees and decorations go up around school. Students are readying themselves for the whole school Christmas lunch on 14th December, where many a sprout will make an appearance! Our talented musicians are hard at work preparing for the Winter Festival of music on 12th December where performances are sure to bring out the festive spirit in us all. All at TeamSherburn wish staff and students of the STAR MAT a safe, happy and restful Christmas and New Year!



Sherburn Hungate Primary School ~ Visit us here

The Autumn Term has been an incredibly exciting and rewarding one at Sherburn Hungate. On top of an incredibly rich curriculum, our children have been exposed to a wide range of extra-curricular activity.

Y6 visited High Ropes in Skipton for the week, where they took part in team bonding and outward bound activities such as river walking, zip-lining and abseiling to name a few. We've also taken part in many multi-school sports competitions, with our KS1 team becoming the dodgeball champions. Additionally, our Y5/6 girls, together with the Appleton Roebuck Y5/6 girls, visited the Rugby World Cup at Headingley Stadium, Leeds. A truly wonderful experience.

In the second part of the term, we were visited by Ofsted, as many of our family of schools have been. 'Sherburn Hungate is an inclusive school at the heart of the local community' was the opening line of our glowing report and we are very proud of this Hungate family achievement.

If you'd like to know more about our journey this term, come and visit us or follow us on Twitter (@sherburnhungate). We can't wait for the Spring Term.

Merry Christmas everyone!



The children in Reception and Year 1 had a lovely visit to Fairburn Ings this term. They enjoyed being detectives during a nature discovery walk and looked for clues to identify the season. The children used their senses to search for different colours, sounds, textures and smells. They also searched for plants and animals and then worked as teams to share what they had found.

These activities gave the children the opportunity to work scientifically and develop their; communication and language skills, personal, social and emotional development and understanding of the world.



The children at South Milford have really enjoyed being able to meet other schools in the sports competitions this year and already many different pupils have had the chance to take part in something. Two of our favourites were the year one and two dodgeball events and the indoor athletics for key stage two children. At each we were delighted to see lots of great sportsmanship and each and every pupil putting in their best efforts.

The children have really enjoyed the chance to sing, act and dance together in our Christmas productions - Key Stage Two in week six and Key Stage One in the final week of term. It has been lovely to see them all dressed up in their costumes and it has given those amazing actors and singers a real opportunity to shine, with lines to learn, solo parts and harmonies galore!

On Wednesday, 7th December, the year five and six members of the choir performed in the church hall at the coffee morning. There were some old favourites - 'Silent Night' and 'Once in Royal David's City' - and some new, rousing numbers, too. The children were absolutely amazing and sang so beautifully that they soon had the audience clapping and singing along!



Tadcaster Grammar School ~ Visit us here

A stunning display of Year 8 art inspired by the works of [Yayoi Kusama](#)



Tadcaster Grammar School was chosen as the secondary schools winner of the Alex Timpson Attachment Research Community Award for Best Practice in the area of Trauma Informed Practice/ Attachment Awareness. Assistant Headteacher, Mel Carroll was presented the award by ARC Trustees at the ARC Annual Conference on 22nd November. She is pictured here with Olympic athlete, Kris Akabusi, who was a Keynote Speaker at the Conference in Birmingham.

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On 11th November, our staff and students all paid their respect during Armistice Day. A year 9 student played The Last Post prior to our two minute silence. To listen to our tribute, please click on this link <https://youtu.be/1Br9j6G95Lw>



Students have earned an international accreditation recognising their amazing work in making their school more environmentally friendly and raising eco-awareness with fellow students. Eco-Schools is an international education programme that prompts young people to explore sustainability and climate change and take action. Activities included taking part in the Big School Clean Up, growing fruit and vegetables in the school greenhouse/vegetable patch and monitoring the wildlife using bird feeders.

This term we have focussed again on the importance of being kind and speaking out if you are bullied, or see someone else being bullied. As the World Cup opened in Qatar, we had another opportunity to discuss values, traditions, beliefs and acceptance of those who are different to ourselves. We celebrated diversity with Odd Sock Day.



After our 2-day ungraded inspection by Ofsted in October, Mr Parkinson (Headteacher) noted:

"We are pleased that the inspection report reaffirmed what we already know - that our students enjoy learning at Tadcaster Grammar, that they feel safe and well looked after, that the school has an ambitious curriculum which is taught exceptionally well, and that we are firmly committed to providing the very best quality of education for every student both now and in the future."