



Welcome from Dan Morrow, Trust Leader and Chief Executive Officer

Let me start by saying thank you to our outstanding committed staff and our wonderful pupils who have all experienced another very challenging year with Covid and the absence this has caused, which has led to much disruption and ongoing issues. Thank you for your support, care and empathy that you have and continue to show to each other.

None of us would ever have wished to see such continued and prolonged disruption to the rhythm and regularity of education. Even as I write this, we are seeing sharp increases in Covid infections amongst staff and pupils, causing further absences and operational issues, as well as taking opportunities away from young people at the end of a long year. We must continue to put health and safety first and to look out for each other.

It is fair to say there is work to be done on communication across the Trust and your understanding and patience through this transition piece is appreciated. We all have a part to play in our attitudes and behaviours as we seek to lay the footsteps for our young people to follow.

Best wishes for summer the break when it finally appears.

Poem by Violet, a pupil at the Promise School

The Promise School is soon
Hopefully the adventure will be good
Each student making friends
Promises all around
Really excited though nervous
Open minds all around
Mindful children to respect each other
Is a new adventure
Soon it will begin
Exactly what is needed.



St James CofE Primary Race for Life

A great day was had by all recently at the Race For Life event. The St James team were keen to raise funds for Cancer Research UK in support of their colleague Suzie Stevens, Principal of St James CofE Primary School. They included Geraldine Carter, Emma Goodwin, Anne-Marie Lethbridge, Andy Bolton (representing Connie Bolton), Lora Medland and Rebecca Tooms.

Geraldine Carter, Associate Principal, St. James CofE Primary and Nursery School, said 'We're completely overwhelmed by our running total! We've had so much support from everyone at St James and the wider DMAT team. Thank you to everyone who has supported us!'

The Promise School's First Student!

I am delighted to introduce you to Violet. Violet is the very first young person who consulted for a place at The Promise School and was then accepted onto the school roll. As a result she has become the proud foster carer of 'Cooper', our school praise mascot. Cooper is a 'Do your best' Carebear and represents the co-operative values that we hope all members of our community will embody. Cooper has been on a number of adventures with Violet already, including accompanying her to a hospital appointment.



Primary Schools benefit from RiPL funding for French activities.

Vicki Jordan was successful in securing funding from RiPL for an online subscription to the Language Gym for some of the mixed aged KS2 classes in schools across the Trust. Pupils have been completing weekly online games to practise language learnt in lessons. RiPL is a group of researchers, practising teachers, teacher educators and policy makers interested in Research in Primary Languages.

Vicki's research project will be presented at the 'Languages Across the Primary Curriculum' RiPL event on the 21st July 18:30-20:00. There will also be a roundtable answering the question, "what can primary languages bring to young children's learning and development?"

Gina Ruby from North Tawton was also successful in securing some RiPL funding to arrange for a French theatre company to perform to Key Stage 2 pupils from North Tawton and South Tawton Primaries.



## Our Trust Value of Equality



### Holsworthy College wear the rainbow!

On Friday 1st July, Holsworthy Community College celebrated its inaugural Rainbow Day! Our students and staff came to school in their own clothes to “wear the rainbow” to raise money

for the Intercom Trust, a local LGBT charity, along with raising money to help us buy a new defibrillator with Jay’s Aim. A fantastic £422 was raised for these great causes through the “wear the rainbow” initiative.

The day was a great success and the first of many going forward. Holsworthy College is an inclusive school which welcomes and celebrates diversity and is proud to support the young people who are a part of our community.



### Bridestowe’s Rainbow Day

At Bridestowe Primary, children celebrated diversity within our school and community with a parade of rainbow-coloured clothes. The children engaged in discussions about equality and inclusion as part of an assembly and completed activities linked to Pride Month and the meaning behind the 6 different colours of the Rainbow Flag.

### Pride Month at Okehampton College

Students and staff at Okehampton College marked Pride month with assemblies, tutor time sessions, lessons and a different LGBT+ icon in the daily student bulletin. The daily bulletin included famous LGBT+ people from history and today – from Leonardo da Vinci to Welsh Rugby captain Gareth Thomas.

The Pride Alliance group has been running in the College for 8 years and is for LGBT+ students and their friends and supporters – it aims to stop homophobic and transphobic bullying of students. Students from the College’s Pride Alliance have taken our message of tolerance and diversity into the local community. Over 20 students from the Pride Alliance joined Exeter Pride – the biggest Pride event in Devon with thousands attending and Staff from the College and students also joined Tavistock Pride on 25th June. This was the first such event in West Devon and had strong support from the local community with local businesses and local people turning out in their hundreds.

Members of the Pride Alliance finished the month on 30th June by attending a Schools Conference in Bodmin run by the Intercom Trust, the leading LGBT+ charity in the South West. This brought together nearly 200 students from schools across Cornwall and Devon to mark 50 years since the first Pride march in the UK. Students learnt about the history of the movement to achieve equality for LGBT+ people and discussed how far we had come and what priorities there are now. Students from the College took a leading role in the day, contributing to workshops and speaking in the main sessions. They were a credit to the College.



### Okehampton Primary School Create a Rainbow

The children and staff at Okehampton Primary School looked wonderful in the colours of the rainbow to celebrate the final day of Pride Month!

A large group of children of all ages gathered onto the playground where an attempt was made to create an OPS rainbow!

The children have spent June in PSHE and Assemblies learning about Pride and it was a fantastic opportunity for them to come together as a group and celebrate how they are all unique and special.

Elena, Year 3, said ‘Pride is important because it shows that we are all different and unique. Rainbow Day showed that because all the colours are different like we are.’

*Erik, Year 3, wrote this poem in celebration of Pride Month:*

**Pride is in everyone  
Remember the past when the LGBTQ+ community wasn’t a thing  
Individuals are all important  
Drown in Independence  
Everyone is different**



## Equality

Inclusion is the soul of our Trust. Opportunities are given to reveal the champion within all of us. We nurture everyone, especially those in greatest need, to ensure equality for all. Every member of our Trust family is unconditionally loved and respected.

## Opening of Phizzilab at Okehampton Primary School

On Thursday 26th May, OPS had their official opening of our own Science laboratory called the Phizzilab. We celebrated the day with Science demonstrations and Science experiments. It was a brilliant day and we were joined by staff members and children from across the Trust. A big thank-you to Miss Radbourne for organising such a fantastic resource and event for our children. We particularly enjoyed the large explosion in the music drama hall and getting to hear the noisy jet engine which could be heard all over the school!



## South Tawton Primary Music Concert

Last month, the whole of South Tawton Primary School came together for a music concert. This is the first event we have been able to invite parents to since Christmas 2019 and it was absolutely stunning! The event showcased the talents and hard work of all our pupils, teachers and peripatetic music teachers.

The atmosphere was electric - think Glastonbury meets Glyndebourne - with parents enjoying the sunshine sitting on the field together, joining in with the songs and dancing in the back row. The PTA provided drinks and cream teas, the sun shone, and every pupil produced an outstanding performance.

A big thank you to everyone who helped, got involved and came along to enjoy the show.



## Okehampton Primary School Car Wash

This month Year 5's at Okehampton Primary School decided to hold a staff car wash after learning about charity and supporting others less fortunate in their PSHE sessions.

They used the Trust value of **democracy** to vote for the charity and decided they would like the money raised to go to Tor Support.

We are so proud of how they all behaved and the staff are very happy with their shiny cars!

Well done to all the Year 5's who did such an amazing thing.



**SJS ARTS**  
**SJS DANCE ACADEMY**  
Weekly Classes  
in Tavistock

**SHOW IN A WEEK 2022**  
22/08 - 26/08  
An exciting week of drama, music and dance  
with a free public performance  
at the end of the week!

For more information and to sign up,  
contact:  
suzanne@sjsdanceacademy.co.uk

@sjsarts @sjsdanceacademy



## Trust Wildlife Champions Conference, Meeth Quarry

On Wednesday 15th June, Primary 'Wildlife Champions' from across our Trust came together in the stunning grounds at Meeth Education Centre to increase their natural literacy and improve wellbeing and participate in some amazing outdoor learning experiences. This was a collaborative learning opportunity, part of our ongoing work with the Devon Wildlife Trust.

107 pupils from our 14 primary schools explored 'The deep' looking at what lives in the deep and how humans have an impact, explored the local wildlife in pond dipping and bug hunting activities and worked together using tools to create their own small fire. We even spotted some rare species of butterfly and found a few dragonfly larvae in the pond area.

Our Wildlife Champions can now go back to school and share key messages with their peers as well as start to take action for wildlife themselves. The day provided an opportunity for fantastic team building, communication and making new friends.



Coming together as a Trust to reflect on our wild learning



Children from Exbourne Primary School exploring the nature reserve



## Holsworthy Community College Took on the 44 Day Challenge

which was to give up either cake, chocolate, sweets or crisps (some students gave up all of them!) or to ensure you completed 20 minutes of exercise every day. With the ongoing challenges of Covid this was a timely event which encouraged staff and students to come together on a joint project and staff and students were keen to get involved. A total of £1066 was raised in total and went towards extra gym equipment for the benefit of our students and the other half of the money will go towards the people of Ukraine.. Steve Vanstone, Head of PE said 'This is just so amazing and as Head of PE at HCC I believe we have such special students who really do go the extra mile. Prizes for all pupils have been given out to show our appreciation for the hard work of these students!!'



Highampton Primary on the lookout for wildlife



Northlew Primary teamwork activities

This newsletter is printed on paper made from virgin pulp, grown from sustainable sources

## Our Trust in the Community

### Devon Air Ambulance provides new defibrillator to St James CofE Primary and Nursery School

Earlier this year, the charity launched their 'Help with all your Heart' campaign to raise awareness about cardiac incidents and help the public to recognise the difference between a heart attack and cardiac arrest and provide information to help people become more confident in stepping in to help someone in cardiac arrest should the need arise.

After looking at potential sites for a defib in Okehampton, Operations Manager at DAA, Darren Goodwin, approached St James Primary School to see if they would like to host a defib on their premises.

Darren Goodwin said:

*'We were incredibly pleased that the team at St. James accepted our offer of fitting the spare defibrillator at their school. Positioning it at school will also help to familiarise our younger generations with the kit and enable them to see these as something 'ordinary' that can be used by anyone to help to save a life.'*

Devon Air Ambulance is hoping to hold more Defib/CPR training sessions in Devon communities later in the year. If you would like to be notified about future training locations as they become available, you can register your interest here: [Inform me about future DAA Defib/CPR Training](#)



### Sensory garden provides reflective space for Okehampton school children



Volunteers from South West housing association LiveWest worked with our Trust community team to create a sensory garden as a quiet reflective space next to the playground where children can connect with nature and sit and have a quiet chat with a friend, at Okehampton Primary School. Emily Cannon, Year 6 teacher at Okehampton Primary School said 'after the pandemic, more children are experiencing anxiety and so we are pleased to provide them with this space for quiet discussions about how to learn to cope in a calm, sensory space.'

The area is taking shape with glorious planters of colourful flowers, logs seating, habitats for insects, climbing plants and sensory experiences to interact with.

Melissa Trudgill, Community Engagement Manager for Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust said: 'Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust's AWE (Awe, Wonder & Environment) Projects rejuvenate school facilities, with the help of willing teams of staff, governors, older students, local businesses and organisations and the wider community. We are incredibly grateful to LiveWest for providing such an amazing team of volunteers to make this possible.'

Alison Knight Community Connector at LiveWest said: "We were delighted to support. LiveWest staff volunteering support projects to improve outside play or learning environments to help improve children's health and wellbeing. LiveWest have funded £240 towards the material costs for this area. We have substantial housing in the catchment area of this school and will have many children from our properties attending."



### AWE Project Day at Bridgerule

Our Community AWE day was so well supported by families - that day was full of laughter and chatter - as well as some hard work from the very youngest to oldest! Huge thanks go to: RGB for supporting our plans; to our families and staff who planted, painted and shovelled; to our community who even supported us with machinery to lift bags of stone; to DMAT who supported us with grant applications and to our children whose reaction on Monday morning was priceless.

### Mary Poppins Jr

A successful run of Mary Poppins Jr at Tavistock College last week! The 60 strong cast worked really hard to bring you the musical version of this classic story. Picture: Caitlin Turner as Mary Poppins



# Schools' Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

## Okehampton Primary Jubilee Celebrations

The children at Okehampton Primary School enjoyed a wonderful tea party on the playground at lunchtime and dressed in red, white and blue. We sang the National Anthem, had entertainment from Footsteps Dance School and both children and staff had a wonderful time!



## Exbourne CofE Primary School: A Jubilee Celebration Performance in Exbourne Church Yard

The children of Exbourne Church of England Primary School engaged in a magnificent celebration for the Platinum Jubilee through their Show Up performance in their local churchyard. Mrs Harriet Davis and the staff at Exbourne worked exceptionally hard to make this an afternoon to remember for our parents, carers and children. The performance took a 'music through the decades' theme with a narrative running through the piece.

The set up was spectacular! A large screen showing all the delights of each decade was impressive, not to mention all the costume changes – in such a

small school, some pupils had to take on multiple roles and this was a challenging ask. They pulled this off beautifully! KS1 rendition of 'Big fish, little fish, cardboard box' was a firm favourite and the whole school engaging in 'Radio Gaga' and Live Aid too.

What a way to top off all our local community celebrations – from a school so small to a production so big! It was like a mini-festival through the decades!



# Pub Walk

SATURDAY 30th JULY 2022  
EVENT BEGINS AT 2pm

Register at Bridestowe Village Hall

White Hart

Gross Roads (pop up tent with pints and pasties)

The Fox and Hounds

Lydford House

The Castle Inn

To finish at Lydford Sporting Green for an after party

£5 per adult  
£2 per child  
Under 5 free

Pushchair and dog friendly

BBQ FOOD

MUSIC

All profits to Treetops Preschool, Lydford and Bridestowe Primary School

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult



## The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and 160 Years of Bridestowe School Celebrations

On Friday 27th May, the whole school enjoyed an afternoon of celebrations. There was lots to celebrate with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the School's 160th Anniversary. The afternoon started with a picnic on the field and a special Jubilee cupcake kindly prepared by Mrs Berry. Later we welcomed guests from the community including parents, grandparents, the Mayor, residents from Springfields and the local vicar. The playground was decorated with artwork created by every child in the school. The boards displayed photographs and memories from across the 160 years of the school's history. The atmosphere was wonderful with everyone enjoying the opportunity to celebrate – it is sure to be a day the children will remember.

# Festival of Hope 4th – 8th July 2022



This year's Festival of Hope Week involved children from all 17 Trust schools getting together to celebrate being part of our family – it was great for pupils to meet children from other schools in friendly competitions and also to mix with older students from our secondary colleges.

Our events included a poetry competition, Rounders at Okehampton College, Netball at Holsworthy College, Cricket and Multi Skills at Hatherleigh Cricket Club and Athletics at Tavistock College.

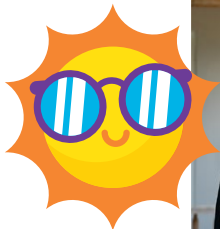
Huge thanks to the Young Leaders from the Colleges who helped put on the events, Devon Cricket, Exeter Chiefs and of course our sponsors.



Year 1 and 2 children with Aron Struminski from Exeter Chiefs



Exeter Chiefs with winning cricket team from Okehampton Primary School



Derrick Brett with Alex Jopling and Niall Leahy from Devon Cricket Board



Netball at Holsworthy College



Okehampton Primary rounders winning team



BTEC Sports Level 3 sports leaders from Tavistock College



Okehampton Primary School years 5 and 6 athletics team winners held at Tavistock College



Poetry winner Joseph Tucker and runner up Furie Cummings

Events and Awards kindly sponsored by:



# TRAIN LIKE A CHIEF THIS SUMMER

**EXETER RUGBY Community CHIEFS**

**AUGUST**

MON 8 - BUDE RFC  
 TUES 9 - BARNSTAPLE RFC  
 WED 10 - TAVISTOCK COLLEGE  
 (COST SUBSIDISED BY DMAT TO £15 PER PERSON)  
 THURS 11 - EXETER ATHLETIC RFC  
 TUES 16 - CALLYWITH COLLEGE  
 WED 17 - TORQUAY RFC  
 THURS 18 - IVYBRIDGE RFC  
 FRI 19 - EXMOUTH RFC  
 MON 22 - TRURO RFC  
 TUES 23 - OKEHAMPTON COLLEGE  
 (COST SUBSIDISED BY DMAT TO £15 PER PERSON)  
 WED 24 - BLUNDELL'S SCHOOL  
 THURS 25 - EXETER ATHLETIC RFC  
 TUES 30 - REDRUTH RFC  
 WED 31 - SANDY PARK

**SEPTEMBER**

THURS 1 - CHARD RFC  
 FRI 2 - NORTH PETHERTON RFC

**9:30AM - 3:00PM**  
**COST - £35.00 PER DAY**

**Elysium**  
 HEALTHCARE  
 PRINCIPAL PARTNER




**CAMPS.EXETERCHIEFS.CO.UK**

# Our Summer Programme for August

**OCRA**

**SPORT & ART**

**Sport & Art**  
 Tues 2, 9, 16, 23 Aug,  
 Thurs 4, 18, 25 Aug

Breakfast Club, Afternoon Club and All-Day tickets  
 \*See us at Okehampton Show Thurs 11 Aug



**Activity Camps & Mini Camps**  
 Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays throughout August

Archery, Athletics, Create & Craft, Dance, Free-g, Football, Gymnastics, Tennis, Mountain Biking, Trampolining,

Book online now:  
[www.ocrasport.org.uk/holidays](http://www.ocrasport.org.uk/holidays)

**OCRA** OCRA IS A CHARITY THAT DEVELOPS AND DELIVERS RECREATION FOR ALL. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FUSION



## Worried about your finances?

Share your concerns and get advice.



**Navigate the money maze**

Free workshop

For more information contact our friendly admin team on 01822 613701, visit our website [learndevon.co.uk](http://learndevon.co.uk) or visit us in Okehampton Library on a Tuesday and Thursday

    **learndevon**  **Devon** County Council

## Cost of Living Support

The government has now announced 'cost of living support' and any families struggling can contact their relevant LA. Parents and families can see what support is available, including information on the HAF programme.

<https://costoflivingsupport.campaign.gov.uk/>

We are always keen to hear your **feedback** about our Trust newsletter, please email us at: [news@dmatschools.org.uk](mailto:news@dmatschools.org.uk) with any of your comments and/or suggestions

To find out more and to enrol visit our website [learndevon.co.uk](http://learndevon.co.uk) or call us on 01822 613701 or for information call Amanda on 07815014543

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Anyone interested can call 01822 613701 or Text 07815014543  
 Visit our website, Facebook page or Twitter account  
<https://www.learndevon.co.uk/>

## Courses in Holsworthy

Sign up! Learn Devon will be offering Improve your English and GCSE English classes for anyone aged over 16. They will also have ESOL (English for Speaker of other languages) classes starting in September and a series of wellbeing/mindfulness workshops, all of our courses/workshops are FREE!!!!