

All Through the Year



Trust Update

Dear parents, students, staff and governors

Much of January is taken up with practice tests and examinations to help prepare our pupils for their SATs, GCSEs and 'A' levels this summer. In January, the performance tables for the 2018 GCSEs were published and it was good to see County Upper top in West Suffolk on all the key measures. Once again, the Trust's broad, rigorous curriculum and extensive extra-curricular programme ensured that the GCSE results were well above Suffolk and national averages and featured in 'The Times!'

Alongside this month's practice assessments, pupils across the Trust have continued with a full programme of extras. Since September, our drama clubs have met weekly, enjoying a

range of activities and preparing for the Trust's annual festival at The Theatre Royal. This was an excellent evening and forms the centrepiece of this edition. This half term we have also concentrated on our all-through extra-curricular sport programme, ensuring that our pupils have opportunities to keep fit and healthy even in this dark, cold half term.

Despite the emphasis on drama and PE, we also bring you news of our involvement in some national activities. As the half term ends, we have languages, history and mathematics days to look forward to before Easter as well as our annual Trust evening of Music and Dance at 'The Apex.'

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A fantastic sporting programme

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The Trust Astronomy Evening

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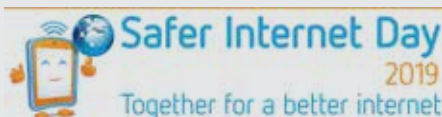


The national STEM awards

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Safer Internet Day

All our campuses, **led by Mr Hyndman at Horringer Court**, work hard to help pupils and parents make the very most of all the internet has to offer whilst staying safe online. We used the annual national safer internet day in February to share the most recent advice for pupils of all ages. We congratulate and thank our Horringer Court campus for leading our activities.



The Trust in Performance Drama Festival

On the eve of St Valentine's Day, the theme had to be Love! It provided the students across the campuses with a fun and engaging theme to work with. **The evening featured pieces produced in lessons and drama clubs across the Trust.** Some of the performances were devised and created by the students themselves while others were based on published scripts or poems.

During the day of the performance, students were able to work together on a joint piece and support each other in **two workshops with professional facilitators.**

The festival introduced the audience to the modern day Puck and Oberon from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' who guided everyone through all the

pieces on our journey of love in order that Oberon could woo back Titania. **Over one hundred performers took part.** We congratulate them all on an excellent evening and thank **Miss Cramer, Mr Morris, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Stoten, Mr Young and the show's director, Miss Lacey** for providing the pupils with such a valuable opportunity.



Artsmark is a nationally recognised award which is given to schools and organisations which demonstrate a sustained, broad offering across the arts and which place the arts at the centre of their ethos and values. Schools hold the award for two years

**Artsmark
Platinum Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

after which they are re-assessed. **We congratulate our Westley Campus whose reassessment led them to be given the new Platinum Award.** Well done and thank you to all the pupils and staff who made this possible.

A fantastic sporting programme

This half term we have had all our **regular clubs and fixtures** and another **six week block of trampolining** for years three and four. Our **sports leaders** have been in action across the campuses once again and always impress staff and pupils alike.

Alongside all this we have been able to introduce **new clubs** for archery, fitness, football and gymnastics at Horringer Court, archery and table tennis at Westley and dodgeball and Saturday morning football at Tollgate. The numbers attending have been excellent demonstrating that fun and fitness go 'hand in hand!'



National Music for Youth

As a former winner with both its **swing band** and **wind band**, County Upper has worked with Tollgate's Choir to enable them to enter the primary competition. The **hard work of all the pupils, Miss Brookman and Mr Jermy** came together this month when Tollgate's entry was recorded. County Upper formed a band to accompany the Tollgate Choir as they performed 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' and 'Naughty' from Matilda. We congratulate all who took part.



The national STEMM awards

STEMM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine. A new national scheme enables primary and secondary pupils to work towards **bronze, silver and gold awards**. Pupils have to build up hours spent developing their own knowledge and introducing others to the STEMM subjects. **County Upper** was one of the first thirty schools nationally to get involved and this term **students working towards their silver award** have run a special science and computing club for pupils at Tollgate campus. This allows the **Tollgate pupils to be amongst the first to work towards the new primary award**. The County Upper students have done an excellent job of planning and running the sessions while the Tollgate pupils have impress with their enthusiasm and ability. **We congratulate both sets of pupils** and thank **Dr Hanfrey** for making it possible



The Trust Astronomy Evening

Once again **GCSE Astronomy students and Trust STEM Ambassadors** worked with The University of Hertfordshire to run an evening for the community. All the places in the **planetarium** were booked and families were also able to **observe the night sky** through a range of telescopes. Students led a range of other activities including opportunities

to build a **rocket, a star chart** and a **clockwork model of the solar system**. There was an **interactive quiz** and a range of **practical experiments** including flame tests and spectroscopy. **Well done to the students** who were excellent ambassadors for the Trust and to the staff, led by **Mr Western**, who made it possible.

