

# All Through the Year



## Trust Update

### Dear parents, students, staff and governors

We returned in good spirits after the Christmas holiday and, across our campuses, everyone quickly settled to their studies. For the older students, it meant practice examinations for the summer and the younger pupils were soon engaged in the work identified through our all-through curriculum.

The major event this term is our Evening of Music and Dance at The Apex on 1st April and rehearsals are well underway for what is always a very popular, high quality event. In recognition of the music at County Upper and its contribution to

music more widely in our Trust, County Upper has been awarded the Music Mark by the UK association for Music Education and we congratulate them on this prestigious award.

Our sports programme has continued and with the lighter evenings, there is even more to come and all our Trust clubs continue to run to complement the offerings at our individual campuses. The final event for this half term was the Languages Day at County Upper and we bring you news of this and our other activity in this edition.

### Inside this issue:



#### The Modern Languages Day

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#### Music Success

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#### News from the Sports Partnership

Alongside all the regular specialist teaching and clubs, there have been four major events this half term.

## More Latin Certificates

We congratulate the students in the beginners' group in the Middle phase who have recently passed their certificates on the Cambridge Latin Course. Well done to: **Izzie Meredith, Emily Balchin, Beatrice Greer-Walker, Ralph Greer-Walker, Sophia King, Melis Korkmaz, Philippa Meyers, Ume Newland, William Russell and Gabe Sorooshian.**

We thank Mr Hopkins for all he does for Latin across our Trust where the

subject is offered through to GCSE and 'A' level.



# Charitable giving

One of our Trust values is to help those less fortunate than ourselves. At Christmas, as we reported in our December edition, Trust pupils took part in a number of civic performances to raise money for a variety of local charities. In addition, each campus engaged in different activities

designed to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Tollgate pupils wore 'something spotty' and involved themselves in the '**Children in Need**' day. At Westley, pupils collected donations for **Gatehouse** and were pleased to send a lot of goods to be used over the Christmas season.

Meanwhile, both Horringer Court and County Upper held their annual Charity Campaigns. Horringer Court raised a fantastic **£5,632**, while at County Upper students raised **£15,764** taking the total through the **£350,000 barrier** since the charity weeks began.



# Music Success

Specialist teaching across the Trust is a real strength and our pupils of all ages benefit from this. Two recent successes highlight this. Firstly, **William Russell at Westley** became the youngest person ever to be awarded the Royal School of Church Music's; 'Voice for Life' Gold Award. Westley choirs and instrumental ensembles go from 'Strength to strength' under the leadership of **Mrs Hart**. We

were also delighted that the quality and quantity of music at **County Upper** and its impact on our wider trust has been further recognised with another **national award** in January from the UK Association for Music Education in conjunction with Arts Council England. We congratulate the **music staff and students at County Upper**.



# The Modern Languages Day

County Upper was praised by the British Council last term for its uptake and results in languages, being **one of the top fifty schools nationally**. This is shared in various ways across the Trust including **German lessons** taught at both Horringer Court and Westley; a

weekly **Latin club** for the middle phase and a shared languages group across the schools. This half term students from Westley and Horringer had a **taster day** learning some **Japanese, Latin and Spanish**. The activities were prepared by our sixth form captains of

languages and **Wilf Harvey** helped with their delivery. The pupils picked up the languages very quickly and all received certificate to mark how well they had done. We congratulate them and thank **Mrs Browning, Mr Goodchild and Mr Hopkins** for an excellent experience.



# The Chinese New Year

We marked this across the phases with an assembly in the upper phase and a range of activities in the first and middle phases. At Tollgate, pupils spent a week looking at Chinese culture and how the New Year is celebrated. They ended the week with a **dragon parade**. In the middle phase, year seven students organised a variety of activities to celebrate the year of the rat. They **made lanterns and book marks** and held a **chopstick race** in some very well organised lunchtime sessions. Everyone enjoyed learning about a very different culture and took part enthusiastically. Well done!



# Internet Safety Day

Across the Trust, we keep parents and students informed in a variety of ways to help ensure children and young people stay safe online. This month the annual internet safety day was held nationally and we used it to reinforce the important messages. At Tollgate, parents and pupils learned how to ensure their children can play **'Minecraft'** and use **'TIKTOK'** safely.

In the middle phase, pupils looked at **online privacy** and the **'digital 5 a day' concept**. While at County Upper, the latest age-appropriate materials from **internetmatters.org** were used and parents were given resources at the parents' evenings this half term.



# News from the Sports Partnership

Alongside all the regular specialist teaching and clubs, there have been four major events this half term.

**Years seven and eight** in the middle phase enjoyed an excellent **rugby festival** at Horringer Court. Both Horringer and Westley are known for their strong rugby and pupils of all abilities were able to enjoy playing and developing their skills. We thank **Mr Kent** for making it possible and congratulate all who took part on their enthusiasm, their sense of fair play and the standard reached.

**Year five** pupils at Horringer Court have enjoyed coming to County Upper weekly for a **trampolining club** this half term. On the big trampolines with qualified coaches, they have made excellent progress as well as having a lot of fun.

We believe strongly in encouraging **leadership skills** and the **sports leaders' programmes** are an excellent vehicle for that. Alongside our other schemes, we have **launched two programmes accredited by the Youth Sports Trust**. Students develop their confidence, resilience, communication

skills, creativity, self-management, teamworking and a range of other skills that will help them with their wider learning and development as young people equipped for the modern world. **Year ten students at County Upper** have embarked on the **Bronze** programme while we have launched the **'Go' leadership scheme with year eight pupils across our middle phase**. We remain very grateful to the PE staff across the Trust for the excellent sport we enjoy both as part of the curriculum and as an important part of our wide extra-curricular offering.

