



A termly newsletter brought to you by the Diocese of St Albans Multi-Academy Trust
Enabling all to flourish: Rooted in God's Love

The aim of this newsletter is to give a glimpse of some of the activity that has been taking place across the Trust

A welcome message from Carole Bennett, CEO

Dear DSAMAT parents and carers,

I am delighted to share with you the first copy of our school community's newsletter. The Diocese of St Albans Multi-Academy Trust (DSAMAT) works with schools across Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire to share good ideas, training, resources and expertise so that we can provide a good and improving education to all of our children.

We are really proud of the work of our staff and children, and hope that this newsletter gives you a sense of that work and support we offer your children, so that they can be the best that they can be.

Thank you for all of the support you give to your children and our schools, evidence is very clear that the work we do together will make a massive difference to your child's long term outcomes.

I hope you have a marvellous and joyful Christmas.

Carole Bennett
CEO, DSAMAT

A welcome message from Bishop of Bedford

As Vice-Chair of the Diocese of St Albans Multi-Academy Trust (DSAMAT) I am delighted to write this 'Welcome' to this, our new parents' newsletter. It is so encouraging to see both how DSAMAT is developing and its important contribution to education in our Diocese. As one of the Bishops, and Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education, I am deeply committed to the flourishing of young people and to Jesus' promise that 'all may have life and have it abundantly' (John 10:10). Thank you for all you do to support your children and our schools.



This Christmas, with the help of some students from Manshead Church of England School, one of the schools in DSAMAT, I will be encouraging all our young people to think about the gifts they give and receive. What makes a good gift? How do we both give and receive with generosity? In particular, how at the heart of our Christmas celebrations do we remember God's greatest gift to us of himself in Jesus? Many years ago I heard a story of a forgetful great aunt who sent an elaborate gift wrapped in many layers of paper. When eventually the recipient removed the final wrapping and opened the box it had enclosed, they discovered it was empty. She had forgotten to include the present! Christmas without Christ; Christmas without Jesus; is rather like that.

Happy Christmas! May the love and peace of Jesus be with you.

Rt Revd Richard Atkinson, OBE.

Governance

Being a school governor is a challenging but hugely rewarding role. It will give you the chance to make a real difference to young people.

Schools need governing boards that have a balance and diversity of knowledge, skills and experience to enable it to be effective.

Anyone aged 18 and over can be a governor (although there are some exceptions) and you do not need to be a parent. There is no requirement for you to have an understanding of the education system, just the necessary skills, character and time to contribute. There is plenty of training available to help you learn about education.

Currently, we have three Chair of Governors, Joan Bailey (Chair of East Hub) Sue Howley (Chair of West Hub) and Ali Brabner (Chair of Manshead CE Academy). Each term we will be asking them questions as a way to get to know them. This term it is the turn of Ali Brabner;

- What made you decide to become a Chair of Governor?

For my first Chair role, I had been Vice Chair for a year so that I understood the role and what to expect and felt ready to step up when the current Chair wished to stand down.

- If you were stuck in taxi, who would you like to be stuck with?

Well, my husband and our 2 sons of course, but if family isn't acceptable, I will go with Morton and Mags from A-ha, just so that I can decide whether my teenage self had chosen the right one!!!

- What would you say is most challenging about being a Governor?

I think it is ensuring that you always remain "eyes on, hands off". You build relationships with the schools and the people within them and you need to make sure you don't start overstepping your role. Finding the time when the schools need you can be a challenge.

- When you attended school, what was your favourite lesson?

Home Economics. Those were the days!!! It started my love of food technology and headed me towards my career in the food industry.

- What do you think makes a good Governor?

I think being a really good listener—and hearing what isn't always said! Asking the right questions too, in the right way. You always need to reflect on what you do and how you do it and make sure you keep yourself up to date.

If you have the skills, passion and drive for a governance role, please do call us to discuss the time commitments and support we can offer you. Our children get one chance to have the best education they can, so if you can help us provide the support and challenge our heads deserve, our Trust Secretary would love to hear from you on 01525 840183.

Student Councillors

A Student Council is a formal group of pupils within the academy who are elected by their peers to represent them and their views. They provide a representative structure through which students can debate issues of concern and undertake initiatives of benefit to the school and the wider community. It is important that they be given the opportunity to express their views on issues of concern to them in schools. The Student Councillors meet once or twice a week to share their ideas and views.

To become a Student Councillor, pupils who want to be considered have to prepare and deliver a speech to the whole school. Elections are then held in which everyone has to vote. Voting is done by way of secret ballot and pupils with the most votes are elected.

Student Councillors work on many different projects across the school, they are responsible for schools' recycling schemes and ensure the orange bags are emptied every week into the schools' large recycling bins. They also play an active part in fund-raising ideas and supporting fund-raising events. They work on helping to improve playtime and lunchtime for pupils, they help to select new outside play equipment for the school, making sure that all pupils in the school had their say and vote for their favourite items. They have discussed and helped to choose the wording for their **school vision**, so that all the children can understand what their school stands for.

The Student Councillors at Thomas Whitehead did an amazing job representing their academy at this year's Remembrance Service.

To help us get to know our Student Councillors, we will be asking a Student Councillor a set of questions each term. This term we have interviewed Taylor from Manshead CE Academy.

- **How long have you been a Student Councillor?**

I've only just become a member of the Year 7 Student Council, but I've had my first meeting and I enjoyed sharing my views.

- **What made you go for the position?**

I thought it would give me the chance to explain what needs to be improved in the school. I also get to represent my tutor group which is good because it gives them a voice too.

- **What would you like to introduce to your academy as Academy Councillor?**

I'd like more social activities for our Year groups, and a Rugby Club

- **If you could introduce your favourite dinner or pudding in school, what would it be?**

Toad in the Hole as a main meal, followed by just custard for dessert!

- **What famous person, past or present, would you have like to have gone to school with, and why?**

Dwayne Johnson, because I would like to see him rise up to how famous he is now, and I could be friends with him along the way.

Thank you Taylor for answering our questions.



Student Councillors from Totternhoe Academy fund-raising and recycling



Caldecote CE Academy

Caldecote Academy's term began with two new introductions to the Curriculum. The first introduction is Forest School. Every child takes part in Forest School session once a fortnight. Forest School provides children with exploration opportunities and allows their creative freedom to explore. The Forest School is set in our extensive grounds but mostly in our "Friendship Forest" which has developed from flat grass to a wild, natural area for children to explore. The feedback we have received has been positive, children are enjoying coming to school.



The second introduction into their curriculum this year was an Opening Minds Project. The project was designed to provide children with the opportunity to self reflect and build their understanding of the importance of education and lifelong learning. So far, staff at Caldecote Academy have seen some "green shoots" evolve with many children beginning to recognise their own values, their strengths and their areas for development.



Children and staff also got creative for Children in Need by filling a drawing of Pudsey's head with small change—they raised £159.00!

*"We raised
£159.00 for
"Children in Need"*



The academy says "We are looking forward to lots of fun and exciting events during December. All pupils and staff are looking forward to a trip to the Pantomime to watch Beauty & The Beast. We are all rehearsing very hard for our Christmas Performance to parents, and are very excited to be part of the Christmas Service at the Methodist Church."



Churchfield CE Academy

Churchfield Academy have had a very productive and exciting Autumn term with students of all ages taking part in a range of activities and clubs. Here are just a few of the activities that have been taking place:

Board Games club for Years 1 & 2. Enrichment clubs. Along with their Tree House Club which is available every day from 3.10pm—5.00pm—£6 per child per day. Girls Football Club, Fun Football. Year 5 & 6 girls Netball Club

Churchfield received plenty of donations of cakes and biscuits from parents and carers for the MacMillan “World’s Biggest Coffee Morning”. A parent even went the extra mile having her hair cut on the day, donating her hair to Little Princess Trust with donations to MacMillan.

Every school receives funding from the Government and this funding is determined from the information taken from the schools records on Thursday 3rd October. This year, Churchfield held a special menu on that day “Gourmet Burger Day” to try and encourage pupils to try the delicious lunch. We are delighted to report it was very successful and they saw an uptake in school lunches on that day.

Thursday 10th October was World Mental Health Day, HelloYellow. Staff and pupils got involved by either wearing yellow head-to-toe or a dash of yellow, and purchasing cakes which had been donated. An amazing £246.00 was raised and donated to Young Minds UK. You can find out more about Young Minds UK by visiting <https://youngminds.org.uk>

#HelloYellow

**“We raised
£246.00 for
Young Minds
UK”**

The Academy says “We are getting ready for a very busy but exciting few weeks in December. KS1 have been busy rehearsing their Nativity performance which we are eagerly awaiting. Pupils and staff are looking forward to a trip to the Pantomime.” We will be getting creative and making Christingle decorations ready for our Christingle Service and of course we are excited by the thoughts of our Christmas dinner.



Kensworth CE Academy

Kensworth CE Academy have had a very busy and exciting start to the new term. They have had a new introduction - Kidz Zone Club, Breakfast and Afterschool Club, where pupils are already enjoying a variety of different activities.

On Saturday 5th October Kensworth Academy joined Totternhoe Academy for their annual football festival. We were also joined by teams from Lancot Challenger Academy, Mary Bassett School and St. Augustine’s Academy. Many of the children came out of the festival gleaming with pride and there were lots of positive comments from visitors and parents.

We are delighted to tell you that Kensworth Academy has been chosen by the Diocese of St Albans to participate in its Lent 2020 project. A range of children from different ages across the school participated in discussion and games linked to the journey leading to Lent, this was led by Diocesan RE Advisor, Ryan Parker. The recording will form part of a suite of videos to be shown in schools across St Alban’s Diocese. We look forward to seeing the film and using the resources provided by the worship.

18 year 4 & 5 Pupils from Kensworth and Totternhoe Academies were very lucky to be offered the chance of a residential stay with the Christian Youth Enterprise (CYE) at the Sailing Centre near Chichester for 4 days. CYE is a charitable organization specializing in challenging, action packed water and land activity programmes. Children were presented with personal challenges through healthy, physical and exciting outdoor activities such as; kayaking, raft building, sailing with instructors in long boats. Children enjoyed all the home cooked food and were invited to share prayers before eating. There was plenty to keep children occupied at night with stargazing, listening to the creative story, songs, plenty of football and a film in the snug wrapped in duvets with a hot chocolate before a good night’s sleep. Feedback from the children included “It’s the best trip ever, because you get to go sailing and kayaking. The staff are really kind”, “Give it a try, if I can do it, you definitely can”, “awesome” “amazing”



Kensworth are very excited about their forthcoming festive celebrations, including their Nativity production; wearing their Christmas jumper’s for “Christmas Jumper Day”, as well as their Christmas dinner.



Manshead Academy

On Monday 11th November, we gathered to remember those that had sacrificed their lives for us. The names of past pupils at our predecessor school were read out. In response to this, a lovely poem was written by Isabelle a pupil in year 7:

*Red and White in the field
Marks eleven chimes
Two minutes not enough
For the millions that have died*

*Where a little red and black
In a pretty cluster,
to remember those
who died for our future.*

It has been a busy term for the Expressive Arts department at Manshead Academy. On the 18th September they held open auditions for their annual whole school production and were delighted to have their highest number of auditionees to date and the title role of Peter Pan going to one of their newest members of the school community in year 7. Rehearsals are going well with specialists in music, drama and dance supporting their learners to create the best possible production. Performances of Peter Pan JR are on the 29th, 30th & 31st January 2020 starting at 7pm.

Pupils and staff at Manshead Academy raised £70.00 for Children in Need by holding a cake sale and guess the number of sweets in a jar Competition during their break.

**“We raised £70.00 for
“Children in Need”**

Manshead are getting ready for a very busy festive few weeks. KS4 choir are heading out into the community to sing Carols at Christmas - lead by the incredible Ellie in year 11, the performance was held at St Augustine’s Christmas Bizarre followed by Dukeminster Care Home.



Roxton Academy

**"We raised
£360.00 for
NSPCC"**



Roxton Academy held a special assembly with a guest speaker from the NSPCC and this was accompanied by Buddy. Buddy is a speech bubble who encourages children to talk about their feelings. Following this assembly a sponsored event was held to raise money for the NSPCC. Children chose to either do a sponsored dance or a circuit course, which were held during their PE lesson. Children were very keen to be involved and all did fantastic. Thank you to everyone who sponsored us, we raised an outstanding £360.00. Thank you all so very much.

Thursday 10th October was World Mental Health Day, #HelloYellow. Staff and pupils got involved and supported the event by wearing yellow and making a donation. We are proud to have raised £81.13. **You can find out more about Young Minds UK by visiting <https://youngminds.org.uk>**

**#HelloYellow
"We raised £81.13
for Young Minds
UK"**

Pupils are eagerly awaiting their festive events in December. We are looking forward to watching our very talented drama pupils performance of "Roxton's School of Rock" which they have organised themselves. Younger pupils will be holding their Nativity production of "Born in a Barn" which will be held in the Church. Full House Productions will be in school on 16th December to perform "Light of the Moon" to all pupils. Our Christingle Service will be held in the Church on 18th December. Thursday 19th December pupils and staff will enjoy their Christmas dinner followed by a party for the pupils. We will be finishing the term off on Friday 20th December



Thomas Whitehead CE Academy

Thomas Whitehead Academy has had a very busy and successful term. Since September they have welcomed a Family Worker, Office Manager and two new Teachers to their team.

The Bishop of Bedford visited the academy and met with a group of pupils from across the academy who asked him many questions which ranged from who had inspired him to lead a life in the Church, to the meanings behind the clothes he wears.

In Key Stage 1 a new weekly Reading Morning for Parents has been introduced. We are pleased to see so many parents attending, not only to listen to their child read, but also taking the time to listen to other children read.

We celebrated Harvest Festival during our Church Worship on Monday 7th October. We were delighted to receive many donations from staff and parents which were delivered to the Dunstable Food Bank after Worship.

We are very excited to have our Golden Mile running track now installed. The Golden Mile is a safe, simple and measurable health and physical activity initiative accessible to all age groups regardless of ability. Every pupil can get involved by walking, jogging or running around the track within the safety of the school ground.

Monday 7th October the gardening club visited Houghton Hall Kitchen Garden and enjoyed a tour around the garden and received some useful advice for our own growing garden.

Staff got creative and baked cakes to sell for their "Breast Cancer Charity Bake Off" event. It was a huge success, and a lot of fun. They raised £96.80 for the charity.

On 28th November pupils, staff and even parents got sporty by taking part in a sponsored Race for Life in aid of Cancer Research, running around the newly installed Golden Mile Track, eight times around the circuit equates to 1 mile. Everyone who completed the Golden Mile were awarded with a medal. The event was a huge success, we are overwhelmed with the generosity, £1500.00 for Cancer Research UK. Thank you so very much.

We are all looking forward to our festive events during December, with a trip to the pantomime. Early Years and KS1 are busy rehearsing for their performance. Our Choir will be venturing out to sing to the residents at Rosalyn House. Pupils and parents have been getting creative with Christmas craft making. Tuesday 17th Pre-School and Nursery will be performing their Nativity in the Church. Key Stage 2 will be performing their Christmas performance.



Totternhoe CE Academy

Totternhoe Academy staff and pupils started the new term back having had a bit of a transformation in their school over the summer holidays. The heating and fire alarm systems were both updated, new windows were installed in the hall and the kitchen had a complete refurbishment.

Pupils have been very busy with sporting events, they took part in Run4Fun on 8th Oct along with taking part in their annual football festival on 5th October where we were joined by teams from Kensworth Academy, Lancot Challenger Academy, Mary Bassett School and St. Augustine's Academy.

Many of the children came out of the festival gleaming with pride and there were lots of positive comments from visitors and parents. We were extremely proud that we raised £557.00 which will be used towards resources for the school.

Year 3 & 4 pupils took part in a football tournament—this was as part of the Leighton Linlade School Sports Partnership, at Leighton United Football Club. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the event and a great time was had by all.

The Academy says "Pupils and staff are getting very excited about their forthcoming Nativity production. Everyone has a chance to wear their Christmas jumper's for "Christmas Jumper Day", as well as looking forward to their Christmas dinner."



Contact Information



Caldecote CE Academy

Headteacher: Leigh Pointon

Telephone: 01767 316206

Email: Caldecote@caldecoteceacademy.co.uk

Address: Manor Place, Upper Caldecote, Biggleswade, SG18 9DA

Twitter: @Caldecote_CE



Churchfield CE Academy

Headteacher: Kate Hardwick

Telephone: 01992 463289

Email: admin@churchfield.herts.sch.uk

Address: Cheshunt Wash, Cheshunt, Waltham Cross, EN8 0LU

Twitter: @churchfieldceac



Kensworth CE Academy

Headteacher: Olivia Bates

Telephone: 01582 872336

Email: office@ken.dsamat.co.uk

Address: Common Road/Clayhill Road, Kensworth, LU6 3RH



Roxton CE Academy

Headteacher: Alison Barden

Telephone: 01234 870230

Email: office@roxton.school

Address: School Lane, Roxton, MK44 3DR



Totternhoe CE Academy

Headteacher: Olivia Bates

Telephone: 01582 662959

Email: Totternhoeoffice@tot.dsamat.co.uk

Address: Church Road, Totternhoe, Dunstable, LU6 1RE



Manshead CE Academy

Headteacher: Andrew McBurnie

Telephone: 01582 679400

Email: office@mansheadschoo.co.uk

Address: Dunstable Road, Luton, LU1 4BB

Twitter: @mansheadacademy



Thomas Whitehead CE Academy

Headteacher: Val Britnell

Telephone: 01582 865466

Email: office@twa.dsamat.co.uk

Address: Angels Lane, Houghton Regis, Dunstable, LU5 5HH



DIocese OF
ST ALBANS
MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

CEO: Carole Bennett

Telephone: 01525 840183

Email: admin@stalbandsmat.co.uk

Address: Manshead CE Academy, Dunstable Road, Caddington, LU1 4BB

Twitter: @StAlbansDMAT

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) are an active part of school life across our Trust.

Examples of our PTA successes are raising funds for:-

- Outside gym equipment at Caldecote Academy
- A new minibus, iPads/resources/contribution to school trips at Totternhoe Academy, along with purchasing Pantomime tickets for pupils
- Year 6 Leavers sweatshirts, Pantomime tickets, sporting equipment at Roxton Academy, and currently raising money towards new lockers for year 5 & 6
- Contribution towards coaches at Churchfield Academy

A PTA has just been formed at Thomas Whitehead, they have already organised a Race4Life event, a Christmas disco, plus lots of other fund-raising ideas for the coming months.

If you would like to join, please contact your school office. If you are one of our PTA members, a very big heartfelt thank you goes out to you all.

Parenting Courses

The link below is to a website where you will find useful information on helping your child to be ready for school.

<https://www.flyingstartluton.com/transition/parent-transition-resources/>

If you would like to improve your Maths, English and IT Skills, you can find a course near you by clicking this link

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/courses/Pages/default.aspx>

Newsletter Feedback

This newsletter is produced electronically and posted onto the Diocese of St Albans Multi-Academy Trust website. It is also distributed to our parent community via email and uploaded onto each school's website. Our aim is to communicate with as many people as possible within the Multi-Academy Trust's family so that we can share the news, achievements and celebrations from across our Trust.

If you have any suggestions on how we could communicate more effectively, or would like to make a suggestion for our newsletter, please contact news@stalbandsmat.co.uk

On behalf of the Members, Directors, Regional Hub Board, Local Governing Board and all the staff from DSAMAT, may your Christmas be blessed with love, fun, peace, joy and happiness.

Hope; Nurture; Collaboration; Equality; Respect