



DARTMOOR MULTI ACADEMY TRUST CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022



WELCOME FROM DAN MORROW

TRUST LEADER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As both the term and the year draw to a close, my profound thanks to all who make our schools such wonderful places to be. With the prevailing feeling of anxiety and frustration in our communities and society, it is vital that we approach education with the optimism and determination that our young people deserve. We know that as a family of schools we still have much to do to improve our offer, communication and work to reconnect us all after the lockdowns and effects of the pandemic and appreciate the partnership that is foundational to this between our schools, parents and wider communities. I am hugely proud of the staff across our schools and their determination to make sure that we offer excellence at every level; they work tirelessly for the children we serve and I know that their care, compassion and professionalism is appreciated deeply by so many of you. I wish you all the very best for Christmas and hope you have the time and space to really enjoy time as families, celebrating with hope and cheer the gift of connection.

CRADLE TO CAREER

At the start of the academic year, Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust have had the tremendous opportunity to engage in an exciting national project called Cradle to Career led by the Reach Academy in Feltham, West London.

What is the Cradle to Career partnership?

The Cradle to Career Partnership is a two-year partnership of likeminded academy trusts and schools, committed to studying ways of breaking down barriers to learning, especially for disadvantaged students. The partnership focuses on four key threads:

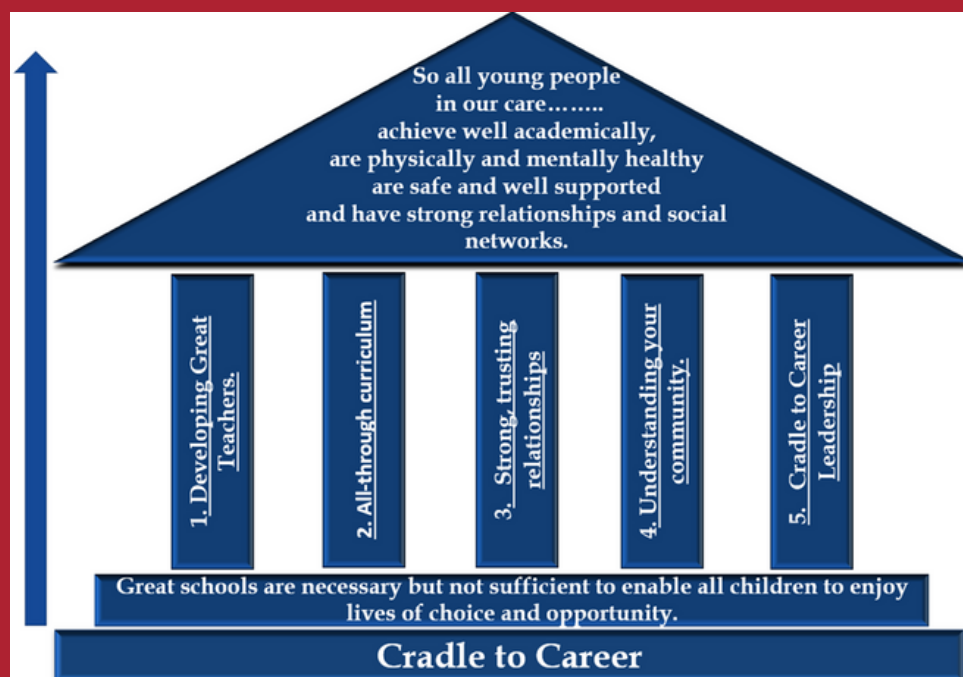
1. Vision of excellence and developing great teachers
2. Developing and enacting a great all-through curriculum
3. Strong, trusting relationships with children, families, community
4. Understanding your community and developing a locally appropriate operating model

The values and ambition of the partnership very much chime with those of The Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust and our desire to provide the very best teaching and learning through the development of all our teaching staff into excellent practitioners. To also ensure that all our young people have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. To develop a consistent relational

approach across our academies and our communities to develop strong, trusting relationships. To listen to our parents and young people and to better understand our different communities and so offer appropriate support for parents and the community more generally.

As we come to the end of our first term of the partnership and the discovery phase of our work, we are pleased with the progress we have made and look forward to presenting our work at the regional conferences in January.

Derrick Brett, Executive Director of Civic Leadership



DARTMOOR TRUST CAREERS FAIR 2023

We are excited to let you know about our Careers Fair for Years 9 -12 from our 3 secondary colleges (targeting at least 2500 students) on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th March, to be held at The Ashbury Hotel near Okehampton.

With over 100 trade stands, a programme of speakers for students to experience, bespoke sessions for SEN students, and an open evening for parents to attend, we are confident this will be a successful event and of huge benefit to our young people.

If you, or your friends and family, know of a business which may want to be a part of this brilliant event, please scan the QR code to access the sign up form and find our further info.

This is our inaugural event and therefore we are not charging organisations for their stands but if businesses feel they would like to make a donation as part of your corporate social responsibility, please follow the details on the form.

Please contact Melissa Trudgill, Community Engagement Manager, Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust mtrudgill@dmatschools.org.uk with any queries you may have. We are looking forward to seeing you at this event.



NEW COMMUNITY FRIDGE TO OPEN

Melissa Trudgill, Community Engagement Manager at Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust has been working with Holsworthy Library and Holsworthy Rotary Club to set up the first Community Fridge in Torrridge. The Community Fridge is due to open in the New Year and will be located in front of the Library in Holsworthy. The project has been sponsored through grants from Live West and Devon County Council and a generous donation of materials from local business, Tamar Trading. Melissa said 'this is an example of community collaboration and I am so grateful for both the enthusiasm of the local retailers for this project and the support from our sponsors. Tamar Trading have kindly provided the material for the Fridge Cabin and the students from Holsworthy Community College are going to build it. We are on the final steps and we cannot wait for it to be open!'

'This is a green project and we have been encouraged by the support from local food suppliers who are keen to see their food surplus stay within the Town and be used by the community rather than go to waste'. With rising living costs this service is much needed by everyone. No one is turned away or has to meet certain criteria to take food.

OKEHAMPTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Okehampton Choir are a newly formed group and have performed 4 carol concerts so far, one at Redrow Homes, The Rotary Clubs Christmas Coffee Morning at Charter Hall, and twice at Ashbury Hotel for the older residents over Christmas lunch. The performances have featured classic carols, hymns and poetry. Mrs Ambrose, who teaches in Y4, leads the choir and has allowed the students to shine in something new. Well done to all!



CHAGFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

'O Little Town of Bethlehem' is sounding just wonderful thanks to the care of the children and Mrs Armstrong's brilliant work. Another particular joy was Christmas Jumper Day on Wednesday. The students from Chagford also had a visit from a Local MP this term. Mel Stride met with a group of children from Years 5 and 6 who got to ask him questions about what he does. The children showed themselves and the school off really well. Students have also been enjoying outdoor learning sessions. Children explored the site, made maps from found natural materials and investigated the skin of a fox. Once again, some children astonished us with their knowledge of the natural world while others showed how much they enjoyed this way of learning by drinking in all the new knowledge.

ST JAMES COE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The St James singers raised an incredible grand total of £60 at the Okehampton Edwardian evening . Well done and thank you to all who were involved in making this such a successful and enjoyable event for all



HOLSWORTHY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Students at Holsworthy Community College participated in empowering mental health and wellbeing workshops run by Humanutopia, an organisation which aims to support young people to make positive changes in their lives. Students from all year groups participated in the workshopsest which examined how to build resilience and how students interact with one another.

Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust and Dartmoor Community Engagement Rangers have been working together to allow more students to explore and experience the Dartmoor countryside. a group of students from Holsworthy Community College have named the themselves as the 'Dartmoor Dudes' and the project will aim to create a safe and open space for young people to experience the outdoors whilst learning more about the wildlife and countryside. The young people will partake in a 6-week range of outdoor activities which will include practical based, sensory, and creative tasks where they will use tools, gain key skills, and develop an awareness of their local area.





EXBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Students took part in wellbeing sessions with the Devon Wildlife Trust in their church yard this term. The sessions offered a space for calm and reflection as well as nature based learning for the vulnerable pupils to increase their self-esteem and sense of belonging in the world.

There was a girls football tournament at HCC too where Exbourne and Highampton girls joined forces. The girls had the chance to meet like-minded pupils from other schools as well as practice their football skills.



HIGHAMPTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

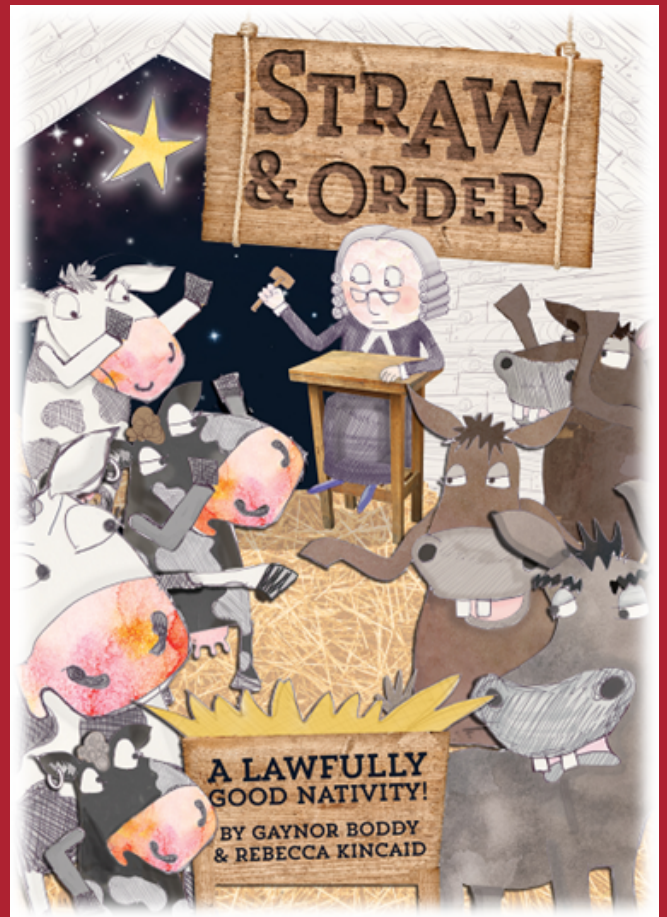
Students from Highampton performed their nativity play, Stable by Starlight, which the whole community enjoyed. The children excelled in singing and acting out the traditional nativity story. The PTFA were instrumental in making this event special with extra stalls, raffle and refreshments. The turnout was amazing and this really elevated the children's lived experience



BRADFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

It's been a busy month in school, starting with our open evening, which was a lovely opportunity to show off our school. Students also held Children in Need Coffee afternoon and bake sale which Mrs Luxford expressed how wonderful it was to see the school full of people once more.

Black Torrington and Bradford students have enjoyed rehearsing for their Christmas performance of Straw and Order this term. They have thoroughly loved showing off their acting and singing skills to their families and friends as the term has come to a close.



BLACK TORRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

As part of the schools harvest appeal, lots of very generous donations have been gifted by the community for the North Devon Food Bank. The volunteers at the Holsworthy branch of the Foodbank invited Students to go along and learn a bit about how the charity works. Two of the Year 6 children met the volunteers and learned how the food is weighed, checked, sorted and distributed to those who need it. Black Torrington have also been very busy learning traditional Swedish songs for their Lucia procession and Carol Service, The incredibly talented Rebekah Lyons came in to teach the students and was very impressed with their singing and how quickly they picked it up. Finally, they wouldn't be Black Torrington without using any excuse to get the cooking equipment out! Students produced mini Christmas cakes and will be baking ginger biscuits and saffron buns on Lucia day.

THE PROMISE SCHOOL

The students from The Promise School have enjoyed a busy term, from partaking in Sensory work with Salt Dough to enjoying a nurture breakfast every morning with one another. One project included learning more about feelings and emotion through questions and discussion. We are excited to open the doors to our new purpose built school to students in the spring and are pleased to advise the contractors remain on target for the handover date.



TAVISTOCK COLLEGE

There have been many fantastic sporting events at TCC this term. Several students took part in the South West regional Cyclo-Cross championships in December. There were a many Cross Country success's this term, including the East Cornwall Cross Country League and the Plymouth and West Devon championships where 43 TCC students took part. Other events such as Netball, basketball, football, rugby and hockey have also taken place.

A lot of students have been getting creative with a fantastic selection of entries were made to this years Christmas card competition.





LYDFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Congratulations are in order for everyone at Lydford primary school as they have been awarded 1st place in Devon Wildlife School of the Year. The judges were very impressed with their thriving Forest school and the activities the children take part in. Well done to all the staff and children, especially Mrs Waddington who has put so much time and effort into the provision.

Students also put on a spectacular festive performance at Castle Drogo alongside Bridestowe and North Tawton in December. They sang Christmas songs for National Trust customers and family.

BRIDESTOWE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bridestowe's Nativity "It's a Baby!" was performed to family and friends on Tuesday 13th December in the Methodist Chapel. All children had practised really hard and remembered all their lines, with some very beautiful singing and dancing. The teachers were very proud of them all! Families stayed for a warm cup of tea and hot chocolate afterwards, kindly provided by our PTA, Friends of Bridestowe Primary.



OKEHAMPTON COLLEGE

The talented students of OCC have been working tirelessly to put on a modern adaptation of The Beauty and the Beast Jr this term. Despite unfortunate weather conditions which led to their first night's performance to be cancelled, they have wowed the audience with their talent and enthusiasm.



NORTH TAWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Students from North Tawton also enjoyed a trip to castle Drogo in December where they sang Festive songs to guests and family. North Tawton School Christmas Fair was a great hit with all.

A huge thank you to the staff and FONTS for all of the hard work organising this event, to all the children for making crafts, games and treats, to our traders and of course to all who came along!

BRIDGERULE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Class One children from Bridgerule C of E Primary School performed the Nativity story IN St Bridgets Church, Bridgerule for families and friends this week. They all sang traditional carols and raised a fantastic £170 for Bude Food Bank. Principal, Mrs Bunning, said that the children sang and spoke beautifully.



NORTHLEW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Students from Northlew and Ashbury Primary School performed their Christmas Fireside nativity in their beautiful school grounds. It was a chilly event but never the less, the students put on a great performance which was enjoyed by all.



BOASLEY CROSS

Lights, Camel, Action was the title of Boasley Cross' Christmas nativity. It was a beautiful performance by all. This term, Friends of Boasley Cross Primary School (FOBCS) have collaborated with the school's student librarians and teaching staff to devise a peer lead reading for pleasure scheme. Each Friday the book raffle winner gets to choose a new book they would like to read that isn't in the school library, FOBCS purchase the book and the winner takes that book home for as long as they wish to enjoy it.

Every child in the school will get the opportunity to choose, enjoy and recommend a book, and whilst they wait for their name to be drawn on a Friday, they have the newly refurbished library with its recently refreshed reading selection to continue their reading journey.

A fantastic £610 has been raised for Boasley Cross by sales of hot chocolate, cake, biscuits and raffle tickets during the festive season. Such an enormous amount for such a tiny (but mighty) rural school.



SOUTH TAWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The students and staff of South Tawton Primary have been very busy this term, from Year 6 taking part in their Bikeability training to Years 4,5 and 6 students visit from Mr Cooper from OCC to discuss all things transition! The students honoured remembrance day by laying a wreath at St Andrew church.

Students from Year 5 and 6 Cross Country team competed at Castle Drogo Cross country event whilst year 2 and 6 have enjoyed weekly swimming lessons. We hope that they enjoy a well deserved Christmas break!

