

Beyond

SCHOOLS TRUST

Beyond Newsletter

Vol. 7 | SPRING 2024

One Vision, One Trust, One Family of
Schools Inspiring Outstanding Learning



FORT PITT
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



THE
**THOMAS
AVELING**
SCHOOL



THE
**ROBERT
NAPIER**
SCHOOL



PHOENIX
PRIMARY SCHOOL



BALFOUR
JUNIOR SCHOOL

Growth of the Beyond Community



In my letter to parents in November, I explained that the Department for Education (DfE) had recognised the support that the Beyond Schools Trust had provided to the Skills for Life Trust since March 2023. As a result, at the South East Regional Advisory Board meeting on Thursday 16th November 2023, it was decided that both Greenacre Academy and Walderslade Girls' School would become part of the Beyond Schools Trust. Simultaneously, the two Trusts submitted a Merger application for the remaining three Primary schools to join Beyond Schools Trust, which was approved.

As soon as the decision by the DfE was made, work began at pace to prepare for the schools to join our Trust. It has been a very busy few months, and already new structures have been implemented to enable us to have as smooth a transition as possible.

With effect from January, Nicky Archer will take up her post as Director of Secondary Education and will oversee the five Secondary schools. Gavin Evans will oversee the five Primary schools as Director of Primary Education. Both are experienced senior leaders and Ofsted Inspectors, so have the necessary skills and experience to support the changes that are required, whilst still maintaining the Quality of Education delivery across all schools.

This new structure will not only provide increased capacity for school improvement, but also raise the support, where it is needed, at Primary and Secondary level.

I know that change can be challenging, however, our Trust has already proven to be more than capable of supporting and guiding other schools. Therefore, I am incredibly excited to be embarking on the next stage of this merger which I know will enhance the educational provisions for the students in Medway. Please be assured that all stakeholders will be kept updated as and when necessary.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your continued support and look forward to welcoming the parents of these schools in my next newsletter.

Buildings Update

Fort Pitt – West Wing

The Trust has been busy with the final stages of the Fort Pitt West Wing Project. We hope to reclaim use of the block, and teachers to take up residence, in the next few weeks. Details and photos of the newly refurbished area will be shared once the project has completed.

Robert Napier – Science Block

The renovations and improvements to the Robert Napier Science block are also underway, and we are in the final stages of selecting a contractor to carry out the works.

We will be replacing the old pre-fabricated block with a new building, which will house science laboratories and provide additional classroom space, further improving the flow of students around the site. Illustrations of what this will look like, will be shared in the next newsletter.

Child Friendly Medway



Child-Friendly Medway's Signs of Youth

[Child-Friendly Medway](#) launched their Signs of Youth initiative in December 2023, which takes the thoughts and opinions of Medway's youngest residents to display as permanent aluminium signage across Medway, installed in high streets and within the community.

I have had the pleasure of sitting on the Child-Friendly Medway Strategic Board since its launch in April 2021. The aim of the Child-Friendly Medway team has been to listen carefully to the children and young people of Medway about what improvements they want to see. The children and young people have said they want Medway to be cleaner and greener.

Children and young people chose the themes for this initiative and fed back to Child-Friendly Medway that they want cleaner: air, high streets, community spaces and parks. They dislike littering, pollution and dog poo in the parks and on the pavements.

If you are interested in finding out more, visit the [Child-Friendly Medway](#) webpage for more details or follow them on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) and join their monthly newsletter.

[Child-Friendly Medway February Newsletter \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Balfour Juniors

Balfour Juniors have a highly active School Parliament, involving pupil representatives from each class in the school. The School Parliament gives pupils in the school a voice. Members of the School Parliament work very hard to identify ways in which they can improve the school, raise funds, and make a difference within their community. They are great role models to others, demonstrating our school values and promoting the importance of service and volunteering.



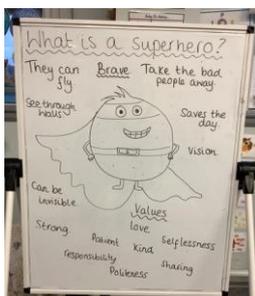
School Parliament have built a brilliant relationship with the residents of a local Extra Care housing facility. They have written letters and made regular visits to spend time with the residents and play games. In December, they visited to sing Christmas carols and chat to the residents. The pupils were great ambassadors for the school through being polite and friendly during the visit and made a positive impact.



The next chess grandmaster could be among us at Balfour Juniors, as they have a very talented chess club. The club meet regularly to sharpen their skills, learn new strategies, and play tournaments against each other. Playing chess has been proven to improve your memory and concentration, strategic thinking, problem solving and creativity, as well as being a lot of fun.

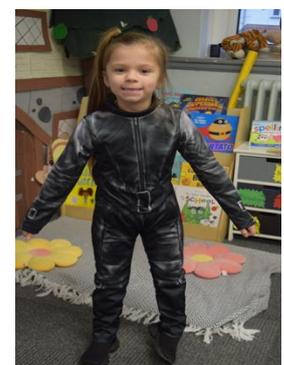
Chess club were recently invited to Join the Medway Chess Club tournament at Rochester Cathedral. Dilan in Year 5 said it was a fun and interesting experience; they were able to learn new chess skills as well as play mini tournaments against each other. The school also received a lovely email from a member of the public to share how impressed they were with our pupils' exemplary behaviour and manners - we are so proud of them.

Phoenix Primary - Superheroes



Pupils at Phoenix have had fun this term focusing on being a superhero. The children had the opportunity to dress up and design their own mask and cape.

Each class were able to discuss what they think a superhero is and what values a superhero shows.



Fort Pitt – Christmas Kindness Appeal

The Fort Pitt community raised £1507 and collected an enormous amount of food donations as part of its Christmas Kindness Appeal.

In all, 35 families from within the school community were helped, all of whom were extremely overwhelmed and grateful for the support.

Mr Blight and the Sixth Form House Team Leaders packed up the bags.



Robert Napier

Lara N in Year 8 is having a poem published in "This is Me: I am - a Whisper of Words". A copy of the book will be in the National Archives of the British Library forever. "This is me" will be featured in the publication and was chosen from thousands of entrants nationwide. Lara aims to become an author and getting published, is the start of what we hope will be a long career in writing.

We are very proud of Danielle S in Year 9 who has been recently promoted to Corporal in her Royal Air Force Air Cadet squadron. Danielle has been with the Cadets for a year and attends twice a week. Following her promotion, Danielle will take on some extra responsibilities, including helping higher ranks.

Danielle will also help other cadets if they are stuck with any task and will be calling drill. Danielle will also oversee assigning chore roles to cadets as well as supervising jobs within the cadets. Well done, Danielle!"



Well done to all those who celebrated achieving their Duke of Edinburgh Awards



Thomas Aveling

Aspire Scholarship Programme

Over the past few terms at Thomas Aveling, the Year 7 students have been busy applying and interviewing to be part of our new Aspire Scholarship Programme.

The school is incredibly pleased that over half of the year group applied, and 60 students have now been awarded a scholarship over 8 different subjects. Well done Year 7, this is amazing work.

The whole process has shown how talented and eager to learn the Year 7 students are. They will now develop their skills in these subjects over the coming years through additional extra-curricular activities, school trips and have workshops from external professionals.



Sir David Attenborough Responds to Students' Letter

Two Year 8 students at Thomas Aveling (Grace & Coralie) decided to write to Sir David Attenborough, as part of their termly English homework project. The aim was to produce a piece of non-fiction writing with the focus on diverse voices. The letter was sent off during the Christmas holidays, and both students were delighted that they received a hand-written response from this remarkably inspiring man who is surely one of our national treasures.



Below is the content of the letter, the original of which has been framed and will be put on display in the school for students and visitors to see.

'Dear Grace & Coralie

Thank you for your letter. I have had too many adventures and seen too many wonderful animals to be able to pick a favourite of either. I think the natural world is of the greatest importance and we should do our best to care for it.

Best Wishes

David Attenborough'

What an inspiring man and a thought-provoking message, made possible by two Thomas Aveling students.

School Facebook/Instagram Links

I hope you have found the information in this newsletter interesting. Below are links to the Facebook pages of our schools, which provide more details of the great work being delivered.

Below are links to the Facebook pages for our schools.

Fort Pitt Grammar

www.facebook.com/pages/Fort-Pitt-Grammar-School/106143552749239

The Robert Napier School

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Robert-Napier-School-1971776316427054>

Thomas Aveling School

[The Thomas Aveling School - Home | Facebook](#)

Phoenix Primary School

<https://www.facebook.com/phoenixprimaryschool>

Balfour Junior School

https://www.instagram.com/balfour_junior_school?igsh=MWhoMmtzZ2swb3I1ZQ==

If you have any suggestions as to items you wish to have featured in our Trust Newsletters in the future, please contact Mrs Mallion at pmallion@beyondschools.co.uk

Andrew Minchin

CEO