



South Cumbria Multi-Academy Trust

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024

*Inspiring young people and changing lives through
excellence in education in South Cumbria*



Excellence



Respect



Innovation



Celebration



Ambition



Support



UPDATING OUR PARENTS AND CARERS

Wishing you a cracking Easter break

Welcome to the latest edition of the SCMAT newsletter for parents/carers of our member and associate member schools. We have enjoyed seeing the Easter assemblies this week and the array of competitions from bonnets and egg decorating to visits from the Easter bunny - who had a huge supply of chocolate. It has been a packed term both inside and outside the classrooms and we hope you enjoy seeing some of the highlights in this e-publication.

We really enjoyed the first set of pupil awards this term – SCMAT Superstars – to recognise pupils that live our values of excellence, respect, innovation, celebration, ambition and support.

The feedback from pupils, their families staff and Trustees was great so we will look to include this as an annual event in the SCMAT calendar.

Wishing you a wonderful Easter break and see you for the summer term!

Best wishes



Professor Andrew Wren
Chief Executive Officer
South Cumbria Multi-Academy
Trust



Staff and pupils at South Walney Junior School are celebrating a successful start to the year with the completion of the school's external renovation. Full story [here](#)

COMIC INSPIRES CREATIVITY

Year 4 pupils from Cambridge and Vickerstown primary schools had a chance to be the hero of their own story when they took part in a specialist comic-writing workshop. They created stories about their own lives during the Comic Potential events. [Full story here](#)



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Check out the chess champs

Newbarns Primary and Nursery School held its annual chess championships. All participants showcased outstanding sportsmanship and perseverance throughout the very popular chess league. The overall winner in an extremely tense final was Charlie. A big well done also to Lucas who finished in 2nd place, Tommy in 3rd place and Oscar in 4th place.



TRUST BOARD UPDATE

Trustees met pupils from the school council and long-serving members of staff when they toured some of our member schools this week. At South Walney Juniors they presented teacher Diane Atkinson with a certificate to mark 30 years' service and they heard from Year 1 school councillors at Vickerstown how they look after all the children and make sure everyone is being kind. Our visitors, who also went to Ormsgill School, said they were very impressed with the passion of our headteachers and now had a greater appreciation of the wide-ranging nature of their role and insight into the ways we, as a Trust, are supporting schools. They also acknowledged how each of our schools was different and the importance of keeping each schools individuality.



Congratulations to Diane Atkinson who has taught at South Walney Junior School for an amazing 30 years. School Governor Anne Constable presented Mrs Atkinson with some gifts and a card of thanks for all her years of dedication to teaching.



School pays tribute to former pupil turned celebrity chef

Staff at Cambridge Primary School in Barrow have paid tribute to former pupil Dave Myers saying Barrow has lost its 'greatest ambassador'. The Hairy Biker was a pupil of the school when it was known as Abbotsmead and returned a few years ago to film as part of a BBC series. Headteacher Jenny Lavery said the celebrity chef showed a genuine joy to be back in the school, telling stories about his time in school and his childhood in Barrow. "Dave was a lovely person to meet, no hint of the fame or celebrity; a down-to-earth, genuine man. He was warm and friendly with staff and children, allowing us to take photos and signing recipe books for us to raffle," she said. "He spent longer at the school than planned, filming pieces to camera, recording the voice over in my office and was generous enough to spend time answering questions the children had and allowing them to shadow him during filming. It really was such an event for us all. "We are so sorry to hear of his death and send our sincerest condolences to his family and friends."

FESP launches Green Careers

Year 6 pupils from Ormsgill Nursery and Primary School enjoyed a factory tour of Oxley Group at the start of a new Green Careers project.

They visited the Ulverston-based aerospace and lighting systems specialist, which is their business partner, to discuss ideas to shape a project based on an issue that is important to them and the local environment.

The overall project is led by FESP (Furness Education Skills Partnership) and focuses on future jobs in the renewable energy and net-zero sectors. By 2040, the sector aims to create 20,000 new jobs creating a wave of opportunities in careers across the country. The pupils enjoyed an insight into the work at Oxley from CEO Darren Cavan before being challenged to consider the impact of plastic pollution and to undertake a project to reduce plastic bottle waste using the reduce – reuse – recycle model.

A team from Oxley will visit the school to work with the pupils on researching the topic and designing a creative solution and will then present their work back to the Oxley CEO.





Beauty and Beast a big hit

Pupils from Chetwynde School starred in a magical production of Disney musical Beauty and the Beast.

Imogen Jones and Zofia Garbacz alternated playing the lead role of Belle and Charlie Heigh secured the part of the Beast.

Katherine Parkinson, head of creative faculty at Chetwynde School, said it involved 65 children from across the senior school.

"We hired the costumes from a professional company so that everyone looks and feels the part of their characters and it looks absolutely brilliant when they are all on stage together."

"Chetwynde is known for its strong focus on performing arts and we had some really outstanding pupils in the cast this year. It's such a good experience for them all to be on stage performing to packed crowds and growing in confidence."

The musical featured songs Be Our Guest, Something There and Gaston as well as dance routines.

Pupils from other SCMAT primary schools enjoyed a preview.



WINDRUSH ASSEMBLY

Pupils in Year 6 at Ormsgill School shared their insights into the Windrush Generation at a special assembly.

They have been learning all about the positive things the Windrush pioneers brought with them to Britain between 1948 and 1971.

[Full story here](#)





DONATION BOOST FOR LITERACY

Pupils at Newbarns Primary and Nursery School will have an extra incentive to read after a £1,000 donation for new books. Les Hall, who is a local councillor and governor at the school, has donated his ward allowance for the year to the school to restock the popular vending machine.

Pupils are rewarded for work in class with tokens to use at the vending machine, in the school library, and can 'buy' books to keep.

Sci-fi fan Les, who represents Hawcoat and Newbarns ward on Westmorland and Furness Council, said he was delighted to be able to help.

"I'm an avid reader and when I saw one of the council's aims was to increase literacy I decided to donate my ward allowance to the school for books. The vending machine is a great idea to keep the pupils interested in books throughout school and I'm happy to support."

Newbarns Headteacher Gary Birkett said: "This is a fantastic donation and we will be using it to increase the number of books available to our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils. We are very grateful as our pupils value their reading. Our school's librarian also ensures they have access to a wide range of resources."



'MATHLETE' NATHAN WINS SILVER

A Chetwynde School pupil has proved he is among the brightest mathematicians in the country in the UK Senior Maths Challenge. Nathan, pictured, secured a silver award in the prestigious national challenge which is designed for sixth form students to show skills required at university level – even though he is still in Year 11. The Chetwynde Head Boy had to complete a 60-minute paper with multiple choice questions. "There were five answers for each question but if I got one wrong then I lost marks," he said. "It was quite difficult as it's aimed at A-level students but I thought I'd done alright and I am really happy with a silver award."

Head of Mathematics Stefan Olfert said he had put Nathan forward based on his performance in the recent country-wide Olympiads. "Nathan's score puts him in the top 25 per cent of students nationally who are currently at sixth form which is a remarkable achievement when he is 15 years old.



A huge well done to Year 5 and 6 girls from Ormsgill School who played in their first football tournament this year. They showed great determination and teamwork despite the winter conditions and every single one of them made Ormsgill proud!



Mini Police at Cambridge School have been continuing their work on road safety and helping to keep the community safe by using the speed gun to track motorists' speed on busy Roose Road. Drivers who were in the limit got a green thumbs up.



SCMAT celebrates Superstars

Pupils from across South Cumbria Multi-Academy Trust were recognised for their achievements this week in the very first SCMAT Superstars Awards. Winners from across six schools were rewarded for living the Trust's values of excellence, respect, innovation, celebration, ambition and support in their daily lives. They packed the theatre at Chetwynde School for the glittering event, which was held in front of staff, family and friends.

There were 34 winners from across Chetwynde, Ormsgill, Vickerstown, South Walney Juniors, Cambridge and Newbarns Primary and Nursery schools.

Trust Board members attended including Chair of Trustees Phil Huck who gave a speech and presented the awards to pupils. "Our Trust is hard wired to celebrate success and that is what tonight it about – you will meet some simply amazing young people."

"Our values are about how we do things and they are equally important as what we do," he told the audience. "This evening is an amazing example of those values in action."

Each winner was presented with a certificate and a gift voucher to mark their success.







Congratulations to Natalie McKellar of South Walney Junior School who has achieved her National Professional Qualification in Headship. The Year 6 teacher secured her qualification through a combination of specialist sessions face-to-face and online over the past 18 months. She is pictured with her class.



PUPILS at Vickerstown Primary and Brambles Nursery School are taking their health into their own hands this year by completing a mile every school day. Each class from Brambles Nursery to Year 6 is participating in the 'Daily Mile' in the school grounds to boost their brain power, concentration and wellbeing. The run/walk is being organised by teaching assistant Stephanie Kaighan who said that 10 minutes of exercise a day can be very beneficial. "We want all children to have the chance to enjoy being physically active outside with their friends and the pupils have entered into the spirit of it. Fresh air and exercise is so beneficial for their wellbeing and thinking skills," said Stephanie. "They have all been very keen despite the cold weather." The initiative is part of a national scheme. Vickerstown Deputy Headteacher Mark Bland said staff, including Headteacher David Holmes, were enjoying taking part. "This is something that brings the whole school together, a shared event that creates a sense of achievement for everyone.

SOCCER STARS VISIT



Barrow AFC Striker Cole Stockton and midfielder Luca Stephenson visited Vickertown pupils this month.





ELE IS A FOUNTAIN OF KNOWLEDGE

Pupils from Chetwynde School were inspired by award-winning author Ele Fountain who visited to host a series of sessions. Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 enjoyed the visit from Ele, whose debut novel *Boy 87* is studied in school. The former publishing editor, who has launched the careers of many other writers, spoke about her experiences living in Addis Ababa which led her to write her *Boy 87*. Chetwynde School Assistant Headteacher Jill Robinson said all pupils study the book, which explores the themes of displacement and asylum. "Ele spoke about her inspiration and personal experiences that influenced her to write about refugees, the creative process behind putting pen to paper and the power of literature," she said. "It was a rare chance to meet the mind that has written a book that pupils have actually read, and they clearly enjoyed the opportunity asking some brilliant questions." Ele answered questions on the text with the older pupils before Year 7 enjoyed a creative writing workshop.



Year 1 at Newbarns Primary and Nursery School have been learning all about Chinese New Year. They cooked a delicious egg fried rice for Deputy Headteacher Victoria Fitzgibbons to sample and told her all about the recipe. Teaching Assistant Jin Caine showed the Year 1 pupils how to create the dish and explained why food is central to the celebrations. "Rice and noodles are symbols of longevity and we gather as a family at Chinese New Year and have a big banquet as it is all about being together. The children have also been learning the Chinese Zodiac and how we gift bright red envelopes to wish our loved ones luck in the year ahead." Mrs Fitzgibbons' verdict on the fried rice – which included peas, peppers and pineapple – was 'delicious'.



Cambridge School pupils sang their hearts out as part of the annual Young Voices event in Manchester. Schools across the Trust travelled to the event which brings children together to create the largest school choir in the world.

For the latest updates from around our schools, follow SCMAT on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn



ENTERPRISING STUDENTS TEAM UP

Young entrepreneurs from Chetwynde School turned a tenner into nearly £200 in their latest team challenge. The pupils, who are part of the school's Enterprise Group, were tasked to come up with a product or service that would make money. Their ideas ranged from raffles and sweet stalls in the school's atrium to selling crochet craft items including hair scrunchies and bookmarks. The winners presented the profits to the Friends of Chetwynde Group and were rewarded with a prize of pizza.



LIBRARY LESSONS



HOLD THE FRONT PAGE FOR PRESS GANG

Aspiring writers and designers from Vickerstown Primary School have put their creative talents to good use producing a school newspaper. The pupils – ranging from Year 3 to Year 6 – joined the 'Press Gang' project to produce a publication showcasing a full range of skills. Matthew, who edited the newspaper, said it had been a really interesting project to lead.

"We made a plan of what we wanted to include for our readers and then some of us wrote reports, others made wordsearches or drawings and we also included our favourite recipes," he said.

Cambridge School enjoyed a visit from Barrow Library as part of the BookStart programme

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SCMAT C/O CHETWYNDE SCHOOL

