



The STAR
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



We provide the best possible education in a fun and enjoyable learning environment.

THE NEWS LETTER



Message from the CEO



This year has been another filled with emotion. Of course it has been no easy task to stay positively focused, but as a Trust and at every single school, our mantra 'STRONGER TOGETHER'

has shone and we are so proud of the achievements of our young people, our staff and our school communities.

Thank you to everyone for your support and commitment and above all, that mutual understanding that what we have all faced has been so significant.

There are so many positives to celebrate in this wonderful end of year newsletter and from there, why not take a tour of our schools virtually via their websites or follow those with Twitter and social media accounts. Every article here shines with positivity, hope, motivation and demonstrates how our schools, our Trust has had wellbeing for all at its heart during this most challenging of years.

As we approach end of year transitions they may look a little different this year, but the

sentiments are just as heartfelt. For those awaiting grades over the summer - the very best to every one of you, you all deserve to shine. For those moving on from STAR, as so many have said before to you, we hope we have built those foundations both academically but also in character and moral and civic duty which will see you flourish in life.

Have a lovely summer when it comes.

Ian Yapp, CEO

From the Chair of the Trust...



As we approach the end of another Covid filled year, I have been reflecting on what a tough job our schools have had in dealing with the continual changes we have all had to face during this period.

I cannot thank the staff of our schools enough for their perseverance and resilience and their continued focus on the well being of the young people they serve.

Our children and young people have been so affected by this extended period of lockdown in their short lives, but with lots of love and support from their parents and the support of the fabulous staff in the schools I am really looking forward to watching them bounce back,

as I know they will, once the restrictions are lifted.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to all our school governors and my fellow Trustees who have continued to support our schools and Headteachers, despite the restrictions preventing them being in school. Like so many people, they have had to get to grips with online meetings rather than face to face and as a team of volunteers, have embraced the technology admirably.

Finally, I would like to thank Ian and the team at Trust Central. I know that they have provided invaluable support and leadership to our schools through this year and have demonstrated the real benefits of being in a Multi Academy Trust. As for 2021 I really hope we are back to "normal" service and can progress so many of the plans that have been "on hold" during this year. Our IT strategy is developing at a pace as is our people strategy and these will help to support our schools in getting the best outcomes for our young people.

I wish you all a safe, happy and chilled summer.

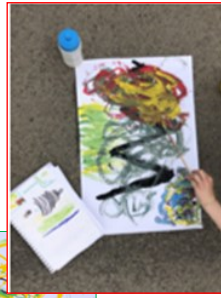
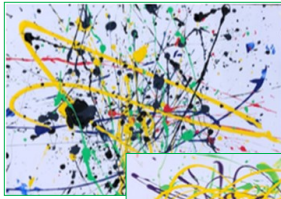
Clare Thornton-Eckford
Chair of the Trust Board

Appleton Roebuck Primary School ~ [Visit us here](#)

The last eighteen months has been a time of challenge for all, and particularly our children and young people. As a school, we at Appleton Roebuck have prioritised the well-being of our children and have been congratulated for the positive, respectful and nurturing relationships that are a strong foundation in our smaller-than-average primary school.

One exciting relationship that has developed over the course of this academic year has been that between our pupils and the subject of Art. Specialist Artist and teacher, Sue Wallace, joined us in September 2020, bringing with her a real sense of energy and passion. Through her excellent teaching and investment in each individual, we have seen the subject burst into life and delivery of our carefully designed curriculum has really inspired our children through Sue's knowledge, skills and nurture. We have seen our children navigate their way through uncertainty, full opening, bubble closures, lockdown, fear, loneliness and confusion, but through Art, they have found a way to use self-expression and creativity; building confidence

as well as a sense of individual identity. I include just a few examples below of some of the excellent work that the children have done. We look forward to a time when we can welcome our families and community to a Gallery!



Red Kites have been learning about the Abstract Expressionist art movement. Their Jackson Pollock paintings were inspired by sensory observations, for instance, for hearing they closed their eyes and listened to the sound of the leaves being blown by the gentle breeze and the sharp, repeated call of birds in the trees and then found ways of recording those sounds visually. After their paintings had dried, they were keen to share

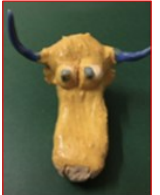
their work with each other and explain which marks had developed from which sensory experience.

The Foxes looked at primitive carvings and thought about why they were made. They learned that underneath all of the reasons such as honouring gods, fertility or empowering chiefs, the underlying theme of safety was strong.

They then designed and created a small clay object that gave them a sense of safety. They showed a great ability to think independently and all the objects



were unique and personal. The topic was a fantastic way of discussing the impact of Covid and the children's feelings about what they and their families had gone through.



Brayton CE Primary School ~ [Visit us here](#)

At Brayton we have had fun in our bubbles, learning outside as much as possible. The children in EYFS have really enjoyed raising chicks from eggs and learning all about them. The teachers enjoyed the peace and quiet in the classrooms as the children tiptoed and whispered for fear of frightening the chicks.



Now the teachers have requested chicks every year.....

We all recently joined in with the Young Voices Biggest Sing and thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the big event and learning to use sign language to sing with hundreds of other children via video link. This week we have our whole school music afternoon when we are all going to be studying Haydn's Surprise Symphony. Next week there will be a whole school Art afternoon and we will be studying the work of Paul Klee.

We are loving our year group topic work this term. We have Year 2 pretending to be pirates, Year 3 making poo (sorry to be vulgar) and Year 4 causing Earthquakes. Years 5 and 6 have enjoyed going stateside and digging plenty of 'Holes' through studying their class novel.

Our school mascot is Brayton Bee and he awards Hive points to the children when they deserve a pat on the back – which is very frequently. At the moment the Yellow Hive has the most points, but the Green Hive is working industriously just like Brayton Bee himself, trying to get the better of the other Hives by the end of the year.

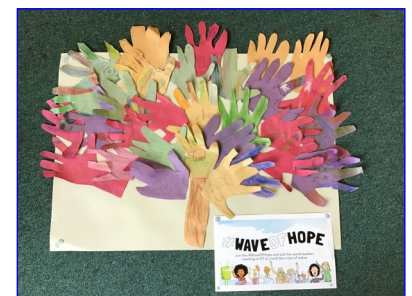
The teachers are planning some local area picnics with ice pops for all the children and we are working on a Covid secure Sports Day in July.



There won't be any spectators but the children will cheer each other on – at Brayton we like to support each other as well as compete with each other.



We've had visits from local churches, Sam's Safaris, Ofsted inspectors and teachers wanting to join our school family. We've had socially distanced fire drills, tuck shops and lots of new children. We've joined the Selby 'ReWorked' recycling scheme and had lots of improvement work done on roofs and windows. We've joined in with the National 'Wave of Hope' and have acquired some pet Stick Insects.



All in all it has been a busy few weeks and we are looking forward to some rest and relaxation at the end of the term. As always, the amazing children have helped the adults in school to have a really lovely term. We are so glad that 'together we shine as one.'

Kellington Primary School ~ [Visit us here](#)

Since the last newsletter we have created many exciting experiences for the children at Kellington Primary School. We did not let lockdown spoil our fun on World Book Day 2021. The children enjoyed our 'Masked Reader competition' and our Governors shared their favourite book all via Google Classroom.

March was a busy month, as we had the installation of our running track. All classes have made excellent use of this, running the Golden Kilometer (5 laps) at least three times a week, including our nursery children. During the week commencing 28th June, all children competed in the Cancer Research charity's 'Race For Life' event, which was an excellent way to truly launch our running track whilst also raising funds for this worthwhile cause.



In April we were delighted to unexpectedly receive ten Chromebooks with internet access from Drax to support remote learning and lessons in school. They have already been put to good use to enhance the quality of provision we can provide for the children. We have been delighted to extend and enhance our nursery's outdoor learning provision this term. Our Sunflower's teaching team are working hard to

develop the area which, whilst still a work in progress, is already benefiting the children's learning with the improved provision. It has provided a great area for the children to explore their topic 'How Things Grow'.



In May we had a week of daily activity with Mr Motivator (a little bit of a blast from the past). The children loved him and it contributed to the focus we have

maintained in relation to the children's wellbeing. On our first day back after lockdown each class completed a piece of collaborative art to give the children time to interact with their peers.

We are delighted to be training two more Thrive Practitioners (Miss Rowley and Mrs Cannon) to provide support and intervention for the children's social and emotional development. Within our busy and fun curriculum there has been a history focus this term. Lilies have been

exploring the Maya culture, Tulips the Egyptians and Roses and Daffodils the Kings and Queens of England. Children have enjoyed a plethora of hands-on activities to bring the topics to life.

Following our great phonics success earlier in the year, Mrs Beadnell- Bevan has been asked to support other schools with her expertise.



As we come to the end of yet another very different school year, we look back with pride in all that the children and our school community have achieved. Whilst the path has definitely had a few unexpected twists and turns, we have definitely had success and we look excitedly ahead to the new school year.

Kirk Fenton CE Primary School ~ [Visit us here](#)

It was fantastic to have our Kirk Fenton school community back together in March and we have had a very busy time since then, full of lots of great teamwork, buckets of perseverance and so much exciting learning. The first week back was 'British



Science Week' so the school was full of an abundance of scientific investigations and experiments. From designing

strong bridges to investigating the forces on kites, and lots of other things in between, we found out so much about the world around us. We also found out how many future innovators we have!

In the last couple of months, we have also been thinking about how we can help ourselves to have healthy bodies and minds. This has involved us raising money for one of our focus charities, 'Mentally Healthy Schools' and understanding how music and keeping active can help us look after our mental health. Some classes took part in the 'England does the Daily Mile' day at the end of April,



the world. It has been particularly lovely to be able to enjoy music again together. Our online worships have featured lots

of signing to our favourite songs and we have also enjoyed doing some very active body percussion. Outside, we have relished singing loudly and proudly in our bubbles, as we discovered new composers and songs.

There have been lots of proud sporting moments in the last few weeks. Jupiter spent a great afternoon practising their archery skills, whilst Uranus and Neptune classes showed a great 'can-do' attitude when they ran 1000m during a cross country challenge. Children kept going when it was tricky, cheering their classmates on when the going got tough!



As well as all of this, there has been lots of other exciting learning going on in classes. In Reception (Mercury) they have been reading The Very Hungry Caterpillar and have been looking at some real baby caterpillars!



Jupiter class have been finding out about the artist, David Hockney. After exploring some of his wonderful work, they used vibrant colours to bring their own version of the Yorkshire landscape to life.



In Mars, they have had some lovely sessions building a love of reading with some book picnics. What a great start to our summer term we have had!

Monk Fryston and Saxton Federation of CE Primary ~ Visit Monk Fryston here ~ Visit Saxton here

A great deal of the work we have done this term has an environmental theme. This is important to us, and our children show great interest in improving the world that they see around them. Eco Warrior teams have been really busy in both schools, working towards the Eco-Schools Green Flag award. We are delighted to have attained the Bronze award at Saxton, and the Silver award at Monk Fryston. This is only the start of our journey, though, and we hope to achieve the Green Flag at both schools before 2022.

Our outside areas are really improving. We have a beautiful woodland trail through the wildlife area at Saxton that children have used extensively to study habitats. They have also done a willow weaving workshop and made crosses that are hung from the trees to create a reflection corridor.

Children at Monk Fryston requested a pond so that they can study different habitats, and this has now been dug and a new wildlife area created. They have also planted wild flower seeds to create insect-friendly areas in the grounds.



Saxton's woodland reflection corridor



Monk Fryston Eco Warriors with their Silver award

Each Eco Warrior team is undertaking different projects. Those at Monk Fryston have worked hard to reduce waste by increasing composting opportunities in school, and they have collected old blankets which have been recycled as dog bedding by the Dog's Trust. Saxton pupils ran a campaign to reduce litter around school and their community, and produced fabulous posters that are on display to remind everyone of their responsibilities.



Monk Fryston Eco Warriors with their collection of blankets for the Dog's Trust

The environmental work we have undertaken was entered in the national Better Energy School Awards, and we were delighted to receive a Highly Commended award from the judges in the "Totally Clued Up" category. This meant that we were given £100 for our school.



Saxton Eco Warriors with their litter posters

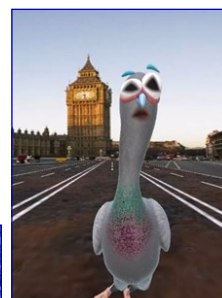
Riverside Primary ~ Visit us here

We have been so proud of our children throughout this year – and our staff and community have worked together so well to support each other through the challenging times as well as joining together to celebrate our achievements and special times together.

We held our well-being week exploring how to 'relax and keep calm' as well as how to deal with those big feelings- and the birds moved into year 4's bird box! World Book day was fun with our staff masked mystery readers! We all made paper hearts in lockdown to share our care for each other.



"Growing together"- every child in school has had the opportunity to grow cress and sunflowers this year !



World Book day fun!



The birds have now moved into Year 4's bird box.



Sharing our care for each other with Paper Hearts

We sent our good wishes to Mr Yapp as he departed from Riverside to take up his role as Chief Education Officer and we wish Mrs Crossley, Miss Cade and Mrs Wright well with their maternity leaves as we look forward to September with our new classes, our new starters and some new faces in our staff teams.



As the blossom trees bloomed at Sherburn High, we continued to be in awe of the resilience shown by all members of

Team Sherburn this year, but particularly our students and their families. In what has been a challenging year for us all, there has been no doubt that the Team Sherburn spirit has shone through stronger and brighter than ever.

We've celebrated the success of two phenomenal year groups in our Year 13 and Year 11 students. As our Year 13 leave for pastures new and the next stage of the journey, they make way for the majority of our Year 11 joining our Sixth Form collaborative with Tadcaster Grammar School. Many of those Year 11 students were the proud winners of the much coveted 'Sherbie Awards'. It was lovely to see the praise from Brotherton and Byram CP Academy on our Twitter feed as we shared their success and such an important reminder of how we share and impact on their journeys together.



Sherbie Awards

Year 7 come to the end of their first year with us and our primary partners will be pleased to hear they have made a cracking start to life at Sherburn High! In Year 8 and Year 9 we have seen such maturity, initiative and charitable spirit from our students including Lauren and Freya U with their ReadForGood creative writing fundraiser and Gabe and Will's run for the British Red Cross Asia Covid Fund at Monk Fryston United U13



Gabe and Will

ground. Our Year 10 and Year 12 students have made an exceptional start to their PPE exams with outstanding focus and determination.

Amongst our sporting achievements, South Milford Primary will recognise Year 9 student Joe T who represented Yorkshire U15 in a cricket match against Northumbria as wicket keeper, a year above his age group! and ex-student Jason Qareqare scored an unbelievable try for Castleford Tigers with his first touch against Hull FC. Check out the @sherburnhigh Twitter feed for the most amazing thing you will witness in just 45 seconds!



Year 9 Joe T

Our long-awaited new gym and changing rooms are nearly ready. We look forward to welcoming students and the community to these facilities and, of course, sharing the grand opening with you in the new academic year.

We are excited for the arrival of a record-breaking number of new Year 7 students and can't wait to meet them properly during Summer School in August. In the meantime, from all of us at Team Sherburn, we wish you a healthy, happy and restful summer.

For a full round up of school news and events, please visit www.sherburnhigh.co.uk or find us on Twitter [@sherburnhigh](https://twitter.com/sherburnhigh)

Sherburn Hungate Primary School ~ Visit us here

We've arrived at the end of another hugely successful (if not challenging) year at Sherburn Hungate. Since returning from the March lockdown, it's been all hands on deck to bring about some form of normality for our children; and I must say, they've thrived. Academic progress has been sensational (e.g. pupils in KS2 making on average 8 months reading progress in only 3 months) and attendance very high. It's clear our children love being at school.

The building works are now complete and we are really looking forward to moving into the new classrooms for September. It really does feel like a modern new School, complete with updated furnishing and the latest technology throughout.

We welcome two new teachers (Mrs Wood - Year 5 and Miss Bridger - Year 4) who join our expanding team for September. Later in the term, our children will meet their new classes for transition activities, and as our COVID bubbles expand, more and more children will be mixing and forming new friendships.



We also say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 children, who



move on to High school with our very best wishes for the future. They are an incredibly resilient group of individuals who I know will go on to do wonderful things.

Have a lovely summer everyone.

Early Years Outdoor Provision -We have been lucky enough to have had artificial grass fitted in our outdoor area. The children absolutely love it and it has given them the opportunity to learn outdoors, whatever the weather! Our outdoor learning environment now offers more physical learning space, giving the children the ability to work on their gross motor skills with a variety of physical activities. The developments in our outdoor area have allowed us to cater to all of the areas of learning and have increased the children's engagement with outdoor learning, keeping them excited and motivated.



Storytime in Year One - This summer, Year One is exploring the wonderful world of traditional stories and fairy tales. To inspire the children, we have transformed our book area into a forest full of characters complete with the giant's legs as he falls out of the beanstalk! To hook the children in, we had a porridge tasting to help us describe the different textures and flavours. There were mixed reviews with some children wanting seconds! From this, they read Goldilocks and the Three Bears as

part of our Talk for Writing unit. Together, we have created a story map to then innovate in preparation for writing our own traditional tales. To link in English with the geography work, the class looked at aerial photographs of different settings, one of these being in Africa. They also read The Ghanian Goldilocks to provide us with a contrasting setting to a familiar tale.

Year 2 Pizza Making -Year 2 have been exploring, designing and creating healthy pizzas over the past few weeks. They started with a taste test – trying a selection of breads and toppings. Whilst doing this, they identified which food groups they belonged to on the balanced food plate. Next, the children designed a pizza which was healthy, balanced and included a range of colourful toppings. In the final week of this topic, they had the chance to make their fantastic creations.



Ledston Estate - Year 3 and Year 5 children enjoyed their school trips to the Ledston Estate. The wonderful team at Ledston ran a day of outdoor learning which consisted of woodland plant and animal identification, exploring food webs, applying maths to calculate the age of a living tree and scavenger hunts, finding lots of different items

that were soft, round, hard and different colours as we were walking through the woods. The children relished being immersed in nature and not only topped up their understanding of the world, but grew closer together as class units.

Murton Park - Year 6 children were incredibly lucky to spend a day at



Murton Park Museum of Farming. From the moment they arrived, they were immersed into life as it would have been for a World War Two evacuee. Activities throughout the day included: packing a suitcase for an unknown length of stay, in an unknown location, with an unknown family; creating rag rugs as a team; washing clothes using a dolly, tub, washboard and mangle; learning about life as an ARP warden and putting out fires! When the air raid siren sounded, the children had to hurry for shelter and were shocked by the standards of the accommodation they found! Everybody had an amazing day.

Tadcaster Grammar School ~ Visit us here

Tadcaster Grammar School is once again proud of the effort staff and students have demonstrated through these very challenging times. Here is just a snapshot of what has been happening over the last few months.

Head Students 2021-22

Molly Richardson and Claudia Dodd



A huge congratulations to Year 12 students Claudia and Molly who both successfully applied and interviewed for the position of Head Student. The girls will take up their position for one year during which they will be the lead ambassadors for the school.

Recognition

Seven Students have received over 300 house points and gained all four lapel badges for our core values: Ambition, Resilience, Responsibility & Respect.

An outstanding achievement.



Year 7 Team compete in the National Reading Champions quiz

The Reading Quiz, organised by the National Literacy Trust and sponsored by the ALCS (Author's Licensing and Collecting Society) took place live online for the first time. Thirty-one schools took part in the Yorkshire heat of the competition. We managed a superb sixth place.



Extra-Curricular Activities Return

Fantastic to see the return of after school activities.



Farewell to Year 11 and Year 13 students.

At the end of May we said fond farewells to our fantastic Year 11 and Year 13 students; what a year they have had. See you all on results days, and we look forward to welcoming Year 11 back into our superb Sixth Form in September 2021.

Transition

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students in September. To support their transition we will be running a summer school in August.



Capital Works Update

Schools Capital Allowance funding is a vital source of funding for Schools and Trusts. It is allocated by central Government in order to help MATs with more than 5 Academies/Schools and 3000 students, maintain their buildings. These funds are allocated to the Trust to improve the condition, compliance and environment of all our schools. The STAR Multi Academy Trust received £1.7million in 2020/2021.

This year a detailed condition based capital plan of over £3million was approved by the Trust Board. This year's works include multiple projects across all our schools:

Re-roofing

Replacement windows & doors

New compliant fire alarm systems

New security & safeguarding systems

Boiler works

Re-surfacing works

Drainage improvements

Disabled access

Replacement floor coverings

Legionella risk improvements

Student toilet refurbishments



NEW BOILER

These works ensure that buildings are weather tight, safe and secure for all students and staff.

Sherburn Hungate Primary School has undergone a £2.5 million refurbishment and extension to almost double capacity and meet growing population demands. The project, which began last July, has already seen classrooms refurbished and an additional classroom created, as well as a corridor built to link to the new extension. The school's admin office has also been extended alongside refurbishment of a corridor and the front of

the school, and the hall has been refurbished to create a more flexible space which can be partitioned.

The main extension has also now been completed. The new build section includes 5 additional classrooms, new staffroom, cloakrooms and accessible toilets. Outside areas, car parking and soft landscaping has also been included in the scheme.



NEW ROOF

Transition for students and staff into the new areas will begin next week with grand opening and occupancy in September.

The Trust has also been successful in securing £200,000 in additional Government funding (Salix) to improve the lighting across our sites. This scheme has replaced older light fittings for LED fittings across 2 school sites.



NEW LIGHTING



Be a STAR Governor

Our vision is to create outstanding education within our schools to enable every young person to realise their full potential.

The STAR Multi-Academy Trust is looking for motivated individuals to join the Local Governing Bodies of our high performing schools.

Being a governor is a substantial but rewarding role, one that will allow you to develop new skills and networks, as well as use your existing skills and experience to deliver improved outcomes for children and young people.

Support and training for this role will be provided.
Please visit the STAR MAT website for an application form

<https://web.starmat.uk/governance/governor-information/>