



The STAR
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



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

THE NEWS LETTER



CEO UPDATE



July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers/Students and Staff,

As we approach the end of another academic year, this newsletter has some more wonderful Trust-wide news to share and even a couple of whole-Trust events with our Student Leadership Conference and our Great Science Share.

Common ground, shared interest, shared endeavour is exactly what STAR is about. **Being STRONGER TOGETHER.** It has been a wonderfully successful year for our schools and our Trust. Plenty more to do next year though and we look forward to working in partnership to achieve the very best possible for each and every young person.

Have a great summer. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September. For those of you leaving to pastures new – all the very best for your onward success; for our students moving on to higher education, apprenticeships and the world of work, please do stay in touch, it means the world to hear from you as you move forward.

Kind regards,

Ian Yapp
CEO



From the Chair of the Trust Board.



This is my final term as Chair of the Board of Trustees for the STAR MAT. I am remaining on the Board as a Trustee, but having been in the role of Chair for 5 years, I feel it is important for someone else to take over! Nick Sheppard, who has been the Vice Chair for the same amount of time, is becoming Chair and his new Vice Chair will be David Cockayne. I am really looking forward to continuing to work with the Board and the schools we serve.

We have enjoyed a term of normal busy school life during the summer months and it is great being able to focus on school improvement and our wellbeing strategy instead of Ofsted stresses and pandemics! As a Board, we are totally committed to driving forwards our priorities for continually improving standards across the Trust and continuing to work together with our fantastic professionals to offer as inspiring a curriculum as we can. Many thanks to Alison Smith who chairs our Curriculum and Standards Committee.

Finances remain tight in education and we are continually looking for ways to be efficient and maximise impact for our young people. My thanks go to Tom Fielden who chairs our Finance Committee.

On a personal note, with some of my fellow trustees, I recently attended the Science Trust event which took place at the wonderful Education Exchange facility in Knottingley. All of our primaries were represented there and it was brilliant hearing their pitches for “the best invention”. It is always great to see the impact directly on our children of the hard work and dedication our staff put into creating really wonderful ideas and energies. Well done to South Milford who emerged the winners with their convincing arguments that the rocket was the most important invention ever.

I would like to thank all members of the Trust Board who have made chairing the Board such a pleasure and look forward to continuing working with them all going forwards.



**Safeguarding, Inclusion,
Equalities & Diversity and
Wellbeing Lead
- Cayte Mulhern**

Our Inaugural Student Leadership Conference

Children and young people from each of our nine primary and two secondary schools gathered last Friday to take part in The STAR Multi Academy Trust's inaugural student leadership conference.

Taking place at Sherburn Old Girls' School Community Centre, the pupils were invited to participate in a series of discussions about their learning experiences and what they could learn from one another about what works well in each school. All of the children and young people who attended hold student leadership roles within their individual schools and all of them play an active role in putting forward the views and opinions of their fellow pupils.

As part of the event the Trust's CEO, Ian Yapp, delivered a vote of thanks to the attendees, while several secondary school alumni - including former students who helped to set up Tadcaster Grammar School's Equality and Diversity Group - also delivered inspirational workshops on the power of student leadership on their journey through and since leaving secondary education. This included a talk from a former student of Sherburn High School and Kirk Fenton Primary, who is pursuing a career as an Environmental Engineer, following six months playing semi-professional cricket in Australia.

The Trust's first Student Leadership Conference forms part of its ongoing commitment to create an inclusive environment where every young person has the opportunity to flourish and realise their full potential and follows a recent student survey which was rolled out across all eleven schools earlier this year. This included feedback from the children that they wanted to learn more about the wider STAR community of schools and look at ways in which they could be agents of change.

The pupils were also able to share best practice with their peers, and they will now take all of that positive learning back to their individual schools. We can't wait to see what changes that results in moving forward and we're already looking forward to hosting a second student leadership conference next school year, perhaps looking beyond our school communities and exploring wider local and global issues that concern our children and young people.



The Summer Term has been an incredibly successful one at Appleton Roebuck and there's a real sense of community around our school.

Pupil outcomes this year have been very strong. 95% of pupils met the standard for leaving EYFS (Good Level of Development), 90% met the phonics benchmark in KS1. 100% of pupils achieved more than 20 (out of 25) on the Multiplications Tables Check and at the time of writing this piece, we expect very good results from our Year 6 children in their SATs. Well done to everyone involved.

School has made rapid progress this year. The introduction of consistent approaches to all curriculum areas and the excellent behaviour around school means that everyone knows where they are and what pupils have to achieve.

Our pupils also took part in the STARMAT Great Science Share, which celebrated everyone's achievements in Science. We also welcomed our new Reception 2023 families for their induction events.

Finally, our Sports Day was a huge success, and that's down to the hard work of the teaching staff and the PTA. The children had a wonderful time and the weather didn't disappoint either.



Next year, we're looking forward to developing our Curriculum even further and we will update you more in the Autumn Term.

Have a lovely summer everyone.



One of our highlights of the year so far has to be the performance of Annie Jr by the drama club! It was amazing to watch the children shining in their role(s) and to be able to share this with family and friends in a hall that was packed full. We were so very proud of all the young performers who have worked so hard on their singing and learning their words over this school year, especially as the drama club only started this year.

Huge thanks of course to Mr Close for his producer/director skills and to Mr Warner for his singing skills, and all the other helpers who have supported the children and given up their time for this.

The forecast rain held off long enough for everyone to enjoy both the sports day sessions, with Wiggins team the winner of our newly-formed Key Stage 2 teams. Again, it was amazing to see the support the children and families had for each other during the day as everyone enjoyed the chance to see their children taking part (as well as the chance to get an ice cream from the ice cream van!

Huge well done to the children for their dedication and to the staff for their organisation, especially Mr Pooley and Mr Osborne for putting everything together.

Carrying on the sports theme, the children in Key Stage 2 enjoyed some sessions of cricket through the ECB 'Chance to Shine' programme. This gave a chance for the children to be challenged and work with experienced and highly skilled cricketers to develop their own play. We were joined by both male and female players who were fantastic role models and ambassadors for their clubs and the game overall.

This year, we decided to hand over the summer fair to our children. They thought of and resourced their own stalls based on what they would like to participate in. Year 2 gardening club had been prepping for this day and sold a variety of plants including tomatoes, French beans and peas. The event was a huge success and raised over £1000!



We have had an incredibly busy and successful year at Kellington. The staff and children have been working tirelessly to raise standards and improve our school. We have developed new school rules, enhanced our playtime approach with OPAL play and have spent time developing key aspects of our curriculum. Our student wellbeing survey indicated that Kellington has children who feel safe and happy coming to school and following our JLT gaining pupil voice, children highlighted that they wanted more enrichment opportunities to enhance the school's current offer. In response, the children have engaged with yoga, forest school days, an on-site farm visit and a poetry day with a local poet to name but a few.



This term, each of our classes has spent time in our glorious 'Discovery Zone', engaging with Forest School leader, Siobhan. The children have had an incredible time persevering to light fires, being patient when whittling and using teamwork to saw wood. The children built fairy houses,

made leaf art with fabric and built a fire which they cooked pizza and smores over. The children have spoken so highly of these days and it has been an incredible opportunity to see our grounds being used by the children in their fullness. We can't wait for this to continue to be part of our curriculum offer as we move into a new academic year.

This term has included yoga specialist Hannah Butterill, who has come in to lead a weekly wellbeing session for some of our children. The children have taken time to use stretching, breathing and meditation techniques throughout the sessions. They look forward to their weekly session as it is helping them to become more confident and develop strategies to keep them calm in other situations. We have been lucky enough to secure her to come back in the autumn term to work with more of our children and have an even wider impact.

Sports Day was an absolute success here at Kellington this year. Our structure to the event was jazzed up by Mr Owczarek who organised our usual track events

alongside a range of field events! The children were thrilled to be able to demonstrate a range of sporting skills from agility racing to throwing the javelin! We were very lucky to have such an amazing turn out from our parents and carers and support from the PTA. Our children had a wonderful time which of course, is the best news we could have.



At the start of this half term our children worked with a real-life poet, Ian Bland. They began the day being blown away in his assembly, where the laughter was simply infectious. The children all loved the sessions where they worked hard writing their own poetry. At the end of the school day, our poems were performed in a mini show. What a brilliant day - our children truly shone!



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

We cannot believe we are already so close to the end of the summer term, and what a great term it has been! The last few weeks of the school year are always very busy, and this year has been no exception, with lots of exciting school trips, various musical and theatrical performances to friends and families, and some great sporting events

One of the many highlights of the term for our key stage 2 children, has been the days they have all spent doing forest schools learning at the local woods. These days were filled with valuable team building experiences, as children worked together to build dens, make fires, and cook their own food. They showed great perseverance when making wooden tools, and used the



environment to create some thoughtful pieces of natural art.

As well as their visits to the woods, all of our children will have enjoyed a trip away from school this term. These have been to a wide variety of places, where children have investigated lots of

things, from how the Vikings lived to what life was like for children in Victorian times. The term ends with both year 4 camping and 5 enjoying a sleepover at school, where they will get to spend time doing lots of exciting activities in our lovely school grounds



We have had several national events to celebrate this term, including the King's Coronation, and our Kirk Fenton Pride Day. For the Coronation, we enjoyed finding out more about the history of our monarchy, and celebrated our new King together with a special Coronation afternoon tea. Our Pride day was a colourful celebration of the diversity you can find in our local and wider communities, where we remembered how fantastic it is to be part of a community where we are all respected and valued.



Another highlight of this term was a visit from the polar explorer Preet Chandi. One of our year three children had won a competition to design a badge for her sleigh, so Polar Preet came in to give her the prize and tell us all about her amazing expeditions. We also got the chance to have a go at part of her training regime which proved to be very tricky!



Our year will finish by saying goodbye to our lovely year 6 children. It is always sad to see them move on to their next adventure, but we know that they will continue to let their light shine. We are all looking forward to watching their leavers' production and being part of their other leavers' events, where we can celebrate their many achievements and talents. We would like to wish all of the STARMAT community and their families a safe and restful summer break.

As another year draws to a close, we are really proud of what we have been able to achieve at both schools. We have been re-accredited with the Eco Schools Green Flag status at both Monk Fryston and Saxton, this time with merit. The feedback received from the applications collated by our pupils was fantastic, including statements such as: "We thought your Eco-Code was brilliant! It was punchy and really creative, setting out tangible and accessible calls to action your whole school can get behind!"; "We have no doubt that the way your Eco-Schools work this has positively impacted local wildlife and its habitats must be an immense source of pride for you all at Saxton."; and "Your achievements this year have been fantastic, and your parent quote is testament to how your Eco-Schools work has given your young people the knowledge and confidence to carry the eco-message beyond the school gates into their homes." We are very proud of this achievement.

Pupils at Saxton have enjoyed working with an artist in residence to create some amazing ceramic artwork based on the creation story from the bible. They each looked at the story and then studied plants and animals which they painted onto tiles. Their work has formed a permanent installation in our wildlife area that future pupils can enjoy.



We are delighted to have been able to install a huge timeline on the Monk Fryston playground with funds that have been accumulated over recent months. This is bespoke to our school and helps to show to children the different time periods that they will study in history during their time in our school. We are very proud of it, and it is certainly a talking point!



We have enjoyed many excellent events this term, and the fine weather has certainly helped. We had picnics to celebrate the Coronation, really well attended Sports Days, charity events and productions. Our PTA and Friends Of Saxton School have organised fabulous events that have not only been really social, but have also raised significant additional funding for our schools. These all helped to enhance our children's broader school experience and brought our communities closer together. Thank you to everyone who supported us.



Riverside Primary ~ Visit us here

It has been another busy term here at Riverside. We tried a new format for our sports week, with each phase having an afternoon of races and athletic activities. Then on the Friday afternoon, we took the whole school out for an afternoon of team challenges. Children were in mixed age teams, right from



Reception to Year 6, and they worked their way round 15 different sporting challenges where they accrued as many points as possible for their house team. All the teams were cheered on by parents and family members and it was a great event. Unfortunately, Y5 & Y6 weren't able to hold their athletics events because of rain, so we have had to delay announcing the results of the week until their re-scheduled event on the 11th July.



We also took 50 of our Year 4 children to take on the Junior Warrior course. They absolutely loved it, even if some children lost both shoes and socks on the course! It was great to see the way in which the children supported and encouraged each other to take on some pretty scary looking obstacles!



As part of our commitment to developing children who are happy and healthy, we are proud to have achieved our Bronze Healthy Schools Award. A healthy school is one that promotes physical, social, emotional and mental health and equips pupils, staff and families with the skills

and attitudes to make informed decisions about their health. The implementation of our JIGSAW PSHE programme has enabled us to officially become a healthy school and this has filtered through to each year group driving us forward to achieve this award. Well done to everyone at Riverside for making this achievable.

We also celebrated our Purple Heart Day this term. This event was created in memory of Sarah Emmott, who was a part of our school community but sadly died in 2021. The day is held annually on her birthday and as part of the day, we held an assembly during which Sarah's family presented The Purple Heart Award to Danil, a member of our school who joined us from Ukraine and has shown resilience and bravery against the odds, just as Sarah did.



We are preparing to say good bye to our Year 6s, as well as some long-serving and well-loved members of staff, so it will be an emotional end to the year. Enjoy the summer holidays and have a well-earned rest!

As the academic year draws to a close, it is with pride that we look back on what an amazing year we have had. We've had an action-packed last term with trips, projects, Year 13 leavers barbeque and Year 11 prom, and our annual Sherbie awards. We have been extremely fortunate in securing community funding for a poetry project for Years 8 and 9 students. Chris Singleton, poet, actor and writer of the company Brave Words, delivered a series of workshops over several days which culminated in twenty students performing their poems and being filmed by local filmmaker Rebecca Simon. Students really engaged with the workshops to produce some outstanding poems and hopefully will take the skills they learnt forward to studying poetry at GCSE level.



In other news, our Year 13 students left us at the end of June and to celebrate, a barbeque party was organised by our wonderful Sixth Form Team. An Inflatable obstacle course, live music from our very own Mr Hall and a game of rounders was order of the day. We wish them the best of luck in their A Level results and sincerely hope that they go on to become successful in whatever they choose to do. We also said a fond goodbye to our Year 11 students at their prom at Hazelwood Castle, it is always a lovely evening, full of joy and laughter. It's also wonderful to witness the array of gowns and quirky modes of transport and this year was no exception with two students arriving in a kayak on wheels!



To round things up, we have had trips to Bushcraft at Castle Howard, Malham, the Thackray Medical Museum, Flamingoland, and at the end of term, the Ardeche in France where students are on an all-in outdoor adventure experience! A good rest is well deserved for all our hardworking staff and students and wish all our colleagues in the STAR MAT a very happy summer break.

Sherburn Hungate Primary School ~ Visit us here

As always, the Summer Term is the most exciting time of the year and this year, we have the added challenge of expanding to a full two-form entry primary school for September 2023. This means that we welcome several new teachers and support staff. Team SHP is definitely growing and it's an exciting place to be. Pupil outcomes this year have been strong, with all assessment points (Early Years, Phonics, Year 2 and Year 6) showing very strong progress in all areas. We were even selected for KS2 moderation and passed it with flying colours. This means we make accurate assessments of all children.



As you will probably read from other schools, our children also took part in the Great Science Share, celebrating their achievements with other STARMAT schools in Science. Year 4 completed their residential visit to Kingswood while our Year 5 children passed their



Bikeability class.

Finally, our school sports days were a huge success and very well-attended by our parents/carers. We like the competitive nature of sports and this is part of our school values. Next year, we're continuing our work on Curriculum Development and will be introducing 'Curriculum Stars' in all year groups. More to follow in our Autumn Term update.



Have a lovely summer everyone!



It has been a very busy but successful term at South Milford Primary School. The staff and children have been working incredibly hard and we are so proud of the progress that has been made this academic year.

June 15th saw South Milford sports stars competing enthusiastically in the sunshine! The children all took part in sprints, beanbag and egg and spoon races and the Year Six children completed the event by running a relay race at the end.



Parents joined in too, and the lolly at the end provided much welcomed relief!

Year 5 had an incredible day representing South Milford at the Great Science Share for Schools. Competing against nine other schools within our Trust, we were debating which invention was the greatest invention of all. Year 5 delivered an outstanding presentation as 'Team Rocket' and showed off their impressive knowledge and persuasion skills! Also, a special shout out to Ruby and Flynn, who acted as hosts for the event, keeping the audience engaged and entertained! And to top it all off, we won! 'Team Rocket' received the most votes from the other schools to be crowned the winners! The children were so enthusiastic throughout the day and made us so proud with how well they behaved. Well done Year 5 for shining so brightly! Go 'Team Rocket'!

For some of their maths lessons this half term, Year Six have been learning about careers, wages, business, profit and loss. To make this a little bit more real, they received an investment and from this created a business idea. On Friday 23rd June, they ran a sporting afternoon, charging children and parents to play their sports and selling drinks and ice lollies. Not only were they able to pay the investment back, but they also raised enough money to pay for a coach to take them to the seaside, as an end of primary school celebratory treat!



This year, we have had a pupil who has been receiving treatment for a brain tumour. She has been absolutely amazing, demonstrating such strength and resilience along the way. She has been in school every moment that she could and we are so pleased that she is feeling much better and is now able to be at school with us full time. With her help, we have been fundraising for 'Candlelighters', a charity that supports families affected by cancer, in Yorkshire. We planned a blue themed day, as it is her favourite colour and we raised ... for the charity. Lots of fun was had and all for a good cause.

We are so looking forward to our Summer Showcase in the last week of term. Each class is working hard to practise their class performance and the children have auditioned to perform a number of different talents on the day. It will be wonderful to celebrate the end of an amazing school year with the children, staff, families and our local community.

Tadcaster Grammar School ~ Visit us here

We recently said 'au revoir' to our year 11 and year 13 students as they started their study leave at the end of May. Both year groups had their final assembly in our main hall - full of emotion, humour and memories - with the celebrations moving onto the field



where students enjoyed food and a visit from an ice cream van. As the exams are all completed, students and staff have enjoyed the traditional Year Proms. Year 11 students looked fabulous as they arrived at

Hazlewood Castle in a variety of vehicles: a parade of 5 tractors was followed by a Fire Engine, lorry, not to mention the Bentley, Lotus, and a McLaren... the two classic mini's and an old MG looked particularly stylish too. Our Year 13 students chose Malmaison in York for their Prom Night and looked just as fabulous in their prom outfits. Both prom nights saw the students enjoying time with their friends and making memories as they look forward to the next chapter. A great big thank you to those staff who organised these super events for our students, and also all staff who joined the evenings - thank you too to both venues for hosting TGS.



In April, 46 Year 8 students and staff leave TGS early in the morning. They were excited to be heading to St George's Park for a pro-match football experience! They had a really fabulous couple of days and particularly enjoyed being able to play some football in the home of our England teams.

Two Year 12 students, Alex and Polly were selected to take part in a visit to Auschwitz with the Holocaust Educational Trust and, as part of the project, they are encouraged to share their experience, as well as the horrific history of Auschwitz and the Holocaust. Alex and Polly have created some very interesting presentations for our students (years 9 and above). (For more information on the Holocaust Education Trust: <https://www.het.org.uk/about/work>)

Following on from successful interviews, we are pleased to announce our Head Students for 2023/24 are current Yr 12 students, Emily and Emma. We would like to say thank you to our outgoing Head Students, Gabriel and Harriet, for all their hard work and dedication to the school over the last year, and wish them every success in the future.



Our year 13 outgoing Head Student, Gabriel, took part in The



National Theatre New Views programme workshops at the end of last year, and his play has been selected as one of 9 plays to be performed at the National Theatre this summer! This fabulous programme aims to give young playwrights the opportunity to tell stories that are important to them.

We are looking forward to welcoming our year 6 students to their transition day in July, and also prospective students in the year 5 school tours. Plans are in place to show the very best of TGS at these events, but also at our **Open Morning on Saturday 7th October** - we look forward to seeing you there!

The Great Science Share.....

On 13 June primary school pupils from across North Yorkshire took part in a live event, debating what they claimed to be the greatest invention of all time.

The debate formed part of the Great Science Share for Schools campaign, aiming to inspire and generally raise the profile of science and engineering in schools and local communities, by inviting 5-14 year-olds to share their own scientific questions and investigations through an inclusive and collaborative experience. Over 230 children from across North Yorkshire gathered at The Education Exchange in Knottingley, representing nine primary schools from the STAR MAT. The schools received funding support from the Primary Science Teaching Trust (PSTT) cluster programme, to spend a few months prior learning about their chosen invention through various activities, investigations, and experiences.

The children debated a variety of inventions from the wheel to the computer as the greatest invention of all time, but it was South Milford Primary Schools' case for the space rocket that won the audience's final votes.

As part of their presentation, the children of South Milford talked about the role that rockets play in placing satellites which are used for communication in space, and the importance of satellites in helping scientists to monitor wildfires and volcanoes, to predict the weather, and to track disease, famine and drought.

A great afternoon was had by all and a big well done to South Milford.



STAR EATS.....

At the start of the academic year, the STAR MAT was proud to launch STAR EATS: our brand new catering service across all our primary schools. As we close this academic year, it is a joy to reflect on the first year of STAR EATS.

Our meal numbers have continued to grow across the year and we have now served over 180,000 meals all whilst providing our children with tasty, nutritional meals every day of the school year.

When I think of STAR EATS over the last year, I am proud of how our school teams have pulled together to help with increasing demand and ensuring our service runs as smoothly as possible. It is a real strength that we are able to support our local communities through the use of local suppliers such as C&G Starkey butchers in Sherburn, Cockerills and Millers in York and Poskitts Carrots in Kellington. The improved quality of the product has been commented on by both children and adults.

We have introduced tasty new meals every term. Some of the favourites across our team are the roast chicken dinner, the vegan meatball pizza and of course fish Friday! The children have enjoyed the range of desserts and 'build your own wrap' has proved very popular. Our Executive Chef, Steve has enjoyed developing new meals for next September with BBQ chicken about to join the battle to become the top seller.

My wish for the next year is to continue to develop our menu, increase the use of fresh produce and to expand on our theme days – you can see a sneak peak of this opposite.

As always, we would love to hear if you have any suggestions and welcome any feedback; please contact us at stareats@starmat.uk

Finally if you are interested in joining our team please follow this link –

[Vacancies - THE SHERBURN, TADCASTER AND RURAL – MULTI ACADEMY TRUST - \(starmat.uk\)](https://www.starmat.uk/vacancies)

Rob Holah – Head of Facilities & Estates

STAR EATS Calendar 23-24

