

EMPOWERING THROUGH EDUCATION

Imagine a future where every person is celebrated and valued for their unique qualities. That is the vision of our Trust: building a world where **everyone is seen as special.**



Welcome to our Autumn Term Newsletter! For the past 18 weeks, the Trust has been a vibrant hub of inspiration and activity.

Since the start of July, Denewood Academy has embarked on an inspiring journey to enrich their learning environment for their growing community. The Academy has increased their pupil capacity by 40%, creating two new classrooms, several intervention rooms, and a beautifully refurbished art room.



With a transformative investment of £250,000 over the Autumn Term, the Trust also unveiled three new vital spaces: a vibrant dining room, an innovative Food Technology classroom, and a state-of-the-art catering kitchen.



Woodlands Academy proudly welcomed Ofsted visitors at the beginning of December. The inspectors observed the school's daily achievements and were impressed by the respect and politeness of our pupils. They commended our leadership team for exemplifying high professional standards, acknowledged the staff for their unwavering support of pupils, and recognised the remarkable effort invested in developing a new curriculum. The Local Governing Body was also celebrated as a vital asset to their school.

Though we cannot disclose the outcome at this moment, the Trust is encouraged that Ofsted recognises the exceptional strengths we see daily. We look forward to sharing the Ofsted report during the spring term.



Raleigh
EDUCATION TRUST

At our other academies, we have observed the positive impact of the new curriculum introduced at Westbury Academy. The pupils have explored global festivals like Diwali and Dia de los Muertos in Mexico.



Additionally, they have visited various locations, including local parks, the RAF Museum, and Stonebridge City Park.

Ambleside Academy has taken inspiration from Westbury by introducing the Dolphin Pod children to geography through the "7 Continents" song. In Year 2, pupils embraced the opportunity to explore history through an engaging workshop on the Great Fire of London.



Classes 1, 2, and 3 joyfully embraced their local environment, using their fingers to paint vibrant leaves and bring imaginative leaf monsters to life! Year 5 dives into the vital skills needed to save lives, while Year 6 explores the foundations of healthy relationships.

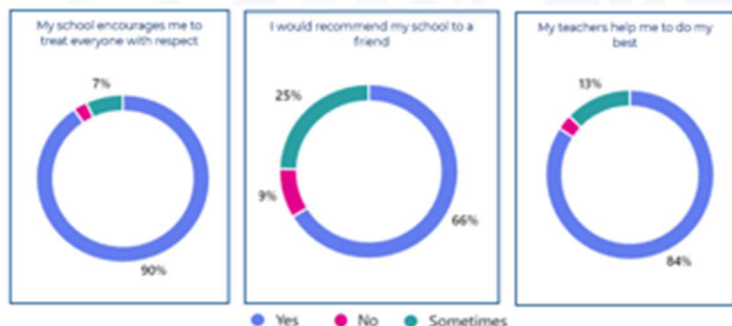
Unity Academy flourishes by uniting our 29 alternative provision providers across Nottingham City. Our pupils have significantly enhanced their STEM knowledge. Pupils at Nottingham Education recently explored the Robotics Department at Nottingham Trent University, while those at Crisp Vocational had an inspiring visit to Rolls Royce in Derby.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported our pupils throughout the Trust, making this autumn exceptional. The dedication, hard work, and support of our parents, carers, partners, and colleagues empower our pupils to engage with a rich and purposeful curriculum. Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Engagement survey 2024

During the Autumn Term, we asked all our stakeholders to 'Raise Your Voice.' Thanks to your incredible participation, we achieved our highest survey response rates. Understanding the perspectives of our pupils, staff, and parents/carers is essential for the Trust and our schools as we evolve. This article offers a snapshot of the results across the Trust, while each Headteacher will provide a more detailed report for their school in the spring term.

Our pupil survey showed that:



When asked about their favourite aspects of school, pupils expressed enthusiasm for various elements, including learning, school trips, playtime, friendships, teachers, gardening, math, art, and science, among others. Additionally, they shared some suggestions for improvement, stating they would like better school lunches, more art and drama lessons, a wider variety of clubs, and less homework.

Our employee engagement survey revealed that 75% of respondents reported spending less than 2 hours per week marking pupils' work. Additionally, 61% of respondents indicated that they do not experience burnout, and 72% either strongly agree or agree that school leaders are committed to reducing workload.



Staff members suggested that school leaders prioritise flexible working arrangements, enhance IT systems and equipment, and promote a healthy work-life balance.

Our parent survey reflects a strong sense of satisfaction, with 78% of parents believing their child has a very good or good experience at school and 89% expressing that their child is happy. An impressive 88% feel that pupils are well-behaved, that schools set high expectations, and that they would recommend their school to others. A remarkable 84% of parents affirm that their child feels safe at school, surpassing the averages of similar Trusts.

Parents enthusiastically commend our schools for genuinely caring about each child's well-being, understanding their unique needs, and demonstrating outstanding communication. Yet, they see even more potential for higher engagement if we can enhance after-school clubs, expand educational visits, and elevate the quality of lunchtime food. Together, we can continue to inspire our children and create an even brighter future!



Woodland Art Gallery

Pupils from Beech have been working with talented Nottingham Contemporary Gallery artists on an inspiring project centred around community and perception. During the summer term, they delved into exhibitions at Nottingham Contemporary and participated in a vibrant colour and dance workshop. This initiative has empowered pupils to express themselves through creative activities, including playing instruments and singing. The project will carry on into this academic year, culminating in an inspiring transformation of Woodlands into an art gallery, showcasing the remarkable work of our children



Ofsted Confirms Our Strengths!

On December 2nd, we were notified of a two-day Ofsted inspection. Although this presented challenges, our preparation shone through. The inspectors praised our pupils' behaviour as a remarkable reflection of our school community. The report is now in its final stages, and we eagerly await sharing the complete outcome in the new year. We have unwavering confidence in our school's excellence, and the positive feedback from the inspectors truly uplifts us.



Woodlands as a Host

Woodlands Academy proudly hosted the inaugural face-to-face SEND Careers Leader and Enterprise Adviser Network event in partnership with EMCCA. The day sparked dynamic discussions on fostering meaningful employer relationships and creating empowering opportunities for SEND pupils, featuring inspiring insights from GXO and other employability experts. This event marked a significant milestone in crafting sustainable career pathways for pupils with additional needs across the East Midlands.

Family Craft Activities

On December 5th, we hosted a delightful Christmas craft session for parents and their children. The event was well attended and filled with joy as parents and caregivers embraced their creativity alongside their little ones. We are excited to create more inspiring events like this in the future.



Creating lifelong experiences





Reception Pupils have been Shopping!

Classes 1, 2 & 3 practised their road safety and best behaviour on the walk to our local Asda. The children used shopping lists with four items to buy. They walked sensibly around the shop, looking after each other, and thinking about the world around them. Finally, the children took turns to put items through the scanner and to pay with coins. It was a great experience for us all - made possible by the children's excellent conduct; the Asda staff who were so accommodating; and the parent helpers who took time out of their own schedule to help.

Caves and Galleries

Our Year 3 pupils expanded their science knowledge with an off-site educational visit to the 'Galleries of Justice Museum.' The children worked scientifically in a range of workshops. They sorted rocks into different types and looked at how sediment can be separated with water. They explored the Nottingham Caves, where they had an amazing time looking at the sandstone structures and learning about the history of the caves.



Supporting Children's Learning

Parents and carers have attended Science, Writing and Maths workshops to find out about how these core subjects are taught at Ambleside Academy, and how best to help their child(ren) at home. We are always happy to welcome parents into school and have also been glad to welcome them to weekly 'open doors' Phonics Stay and Learn, Times Table Bingo, and Crafty Christmas Fun. One feedback comment from our recent parent survey stated: "They always have something happening to keep the children interested in learning and going to school. Many schools in the area don't do half of what our school does, and I think it's amazing!" Another response to 'One thing the school does really well is:' was "They're doing different workshops for parents to help the kids' achievements."



Giving and Sharing

Ambleside Academy ran a 'reverse advent' activity to help support the local community. As a school, we feel it is important to support our local families at this time of year. Each day, the children brought in an item listed as the day's donation. Each donation was rewarded with a raffle ticket, and there were 34 lucky winners of selection boxes. All food donations will go to Hope Food Bank and will be available to anyone locally who is in need.

Keeping Safe

Our Year 5 pupils have participated in a First Aid course. Red Cross staff came into school during Road Safety week. The children learnt how to respond calmly in an emergency, and used Resusci-Annie to practise resuscitation skills. The children showed great knowledge and really got stuck in with the practical activity.



Ambleside
ACADEMY

Achieving together





Future Chef Competition

We are thrilled to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our Year 9 pupils in the Future Chef 2024 school heats, organised by Springboard. In our newly equipped Food Technology area, our young chefs displayed their exceptional skills and creativity by crafting a dish for pupils and staff judging panels.



Congratulations to Jack Watson and Tommy-Lee Finch for reaching the Nottingham local final! Tommy emerged as the winner, while Jack finished a close second. Both pupils have been offered mentoring opportunities and potential future apprenticeships. Tommy will advance to the regional final, where he has the exciting chance to compete in the national finals held in London.

Congratulations to them and the dedicated staff who guided them on this inspiring journey!

Building a brighter future

Our pupils recently had an incredible opportunity to attend a "Have a Go" session in bricklaying. The experience was a tremendous success, igniting excitement and inspiration in pupils and staff as they embraced new skills. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Graham Construction and Nottingham Skills Academy for hosting this exceptional session. The pupils gained invaluable insights from this hands-on experience. We eagerly anticipate returning in the summer term, where plastering and joinery could be the next empowering skills to explore. This journey of discovery is a powerful way to inspire our learners and guide them toward their future career paths.



Wembley

On Thursday, December 10th, pupils embarked on a thrilling 125-mile journey to Wembley Stadium to support "The 3 Lions" as they took on Greece in the UEFA Nations League. Though the team faced a setback with a 2-1 defeat, the experience was unforgettable. Ethan, visiting London for the first time, was in awe of the stadium's colossal size, exclaiming, "It's massive! All the people look like ants." Adam maintained a hopeful outlook, saying, "I think we can play better, but we should still beat Finland on Sunday. I really enjoyed it, though."



Brighter futures



Freedom Foundation

The Freedom Foundation returns to inspire pupils in years 5 to 8 through the transformative power of music and dance. This time, they were joined by Notts TV, bringing even more excitement to the experience. If you missed it on TV, you can catch the inspiring moments on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOIDHgbaWbl>



Children in Need

Pupils from Years Three and Four brought joy and warmth to residents at Seagrave Court Elderly Living Home with a day of fun and friendship. The children played puzzle games, completed jigsaw puzzles, shared their stories, and savoured cakes with the residents. One resident beautifully said, "It was wonderful seeing the children and hearing their laughter."

School Council Announcement

We are excited to announce the launch of our new School Council! This initiative originated during our PSHE lessons, where pupils learned about the significance of having a school council and its role in empowering pupils to express their opinions. One of our initial tasks was to design a School Council badge, which will help everyone quickly identify our council members and feel comfortable approaching them with ideas and suggestions.



Year 8 and 9 Challenge Curriculum

Year 8 pupils had an exciting Autumn term! They explored historic warplanes at the RAF Museum Cosford. As part of the Challenge Curriculum, they participated in team-building trips to local parks, including Bramcote, Wollaton, and Holme Pierrepont. They also gained essential First Aid skills, such as CPR, using a defibrillator, and the recovery position.

Weekend Volunteers

Pupil in Years 9, 10, and 11 continued their work experience at Stonebridge City Farm, either working on the farm or in the farm shop. This opportunity inspired some pupils to volunteer on weekends, allowing them to support their local communities.



Supporting the local community



Future Chef Competition

On December 16th, we proudly hosted the inaugural Future Chef regional final for talented pupils in alternative education. Sixteen aspiring chefs showcased their creativity and skill in the new Food Technology classroom at Denewood Academy. The students' remarkable dishes inspired our esteemed hospitality centre judges. Two exceptional winners emerged, ready to represent alternative education at the prestigious grand final in the New Year.



STEM Activities Across the Network

Pupils from various providers have embarked on exciting, immersive experiences in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) this term. TBAC pupils explored the innovative environment of Bio City, while Nottingham Education delved into the fascinating world of robotics at Nottingham Trent University. Crisp Vocational pupils were inspired by their visit to Rolls Royce in Derby. The Academy is eager to continue this momentum, planning visits to EON's Blackburn Meadows Power Plant next term, igniting curiosity and passion for STEM.



Highlights Across the Network

Pupils at Crisp Education embarked on an inspiring annual outward bound residential, embracing adventure and growth.



Pupils at Stone Soup Academy visited to the new Police Headquarters in Nottingham.

We are keen to showcase Harley's incredible artwork at Venture, celebrating the greatness of Kobe Bryant.



Alternative Provision Partnership





Alternative Provision

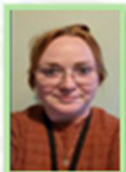
SPECIALIST TASKFORCE

Anti-knife Crime Initiative

This term, our AP Taskforce has collaborated with over 50 pupils. We also showed our support at an Anti-Knife Crime event held at Nottingham College. Our team continues to support pupils who may be at risk of becoming involved in knife crime.



Daniella Walsh Counsellor



Hannah Fox Counsellor

AP Taskforce Continues to Thrive

Since the last academic year, we have welcomed two new counsellors and a restorative practitioner to our team. Our counsellors are dedicated to uplifting pupils' emotional well-being, while our restorative practitioner empowers those at risk of exploitation. Together, we are fostering a safe and supportive environment for all.

Attendance Matters

Pupils with 90% or above attendance this year at Unity Academy are:

Nathan, Goncalo, Kuba, Aniyah, Callum, Riley, Remai, Lucy, Antwon, Rihanna, Deniro, Danielle, Jackson, Keiron, Theo, Callum, Martin, Taylor B, Byron, Harrison P, Kaylum, Isobella, Carey, Casey, Cole, Harrison H, Dawson & Farhan

Denewood Academy celebrates the importance of attendance.

Every day in school is a valuable opportunity for growth. Each week, we honour pupils who achieve 100% attendance and acknowledge those who make remarkable strides in improving their attendance. Inspired by our pupils' feedback, we proudly introduced a new reward: our Friday "Extra Special Breakfast."

