



THE
VIEW
FROM
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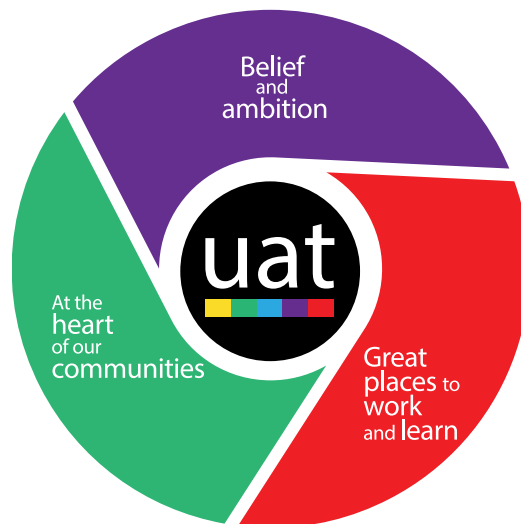


It probably feels a bit late to be saying “welcome back” to everyone after the summer break, so apologies for it being well into the school term before I have had the opportunity to do this in writing. I hope that everyone was able to have a break in the summer and recharge ready for the new year. It was great to see everyone when I visited your schools in the first few weeks and I hope that the start of term has gone well.

Welcome also to all of the new colleagues who have joined us since September. I am particularly delighted that we have so many ECTs working in our schools. Thank you for choosing a UAT school to start your teaching career; I promise that we will do everything we can to ensure that it is the best start possible and that you have all the support that you need.

When I visited schools as part of your inset at the start of term, I was able to share the vision for our schools and the guiding principles that underpin our ambitions for our children and for our staff.

We want our schools to be the best possible environments for our children and young people to develop their talents, build their confidence and self-esteem; and achieve the qualifications that are going to open the doors to their futures. We will all be working hard together over the course of this academic year to create the climate, develop the plans and implement the strategies to achieve these goals.



THE VIEW FROM HERE

It is, however, unfortunately unlikely that we will enjoy a disruption free year as Covid is already rearing its head and I am aware of some significant outbreaks in schools in the area, so please continue to be vigilant around testing and safety measures.

There are so many lovely things we want to achieve this year and it is heartbreaking to have to cancel or postpone the trips, visits, shows and other opportunities that everyone looks forward to so much and which bring the heart and soul into our schools. I know that many of you have already started your clubs, planned trips, coached teams, run fixtures, chosen and auditioned for the school show, got stuck into prep for DofE and Ten Tors; and we have even had our first residential with more planned.

Thank you to everyone who goes the extra mile by organising or helping with the fun.

Let's hope it can continue!

Lorraine Heath
Chief Executive Officer, Uffculme Academy Trust



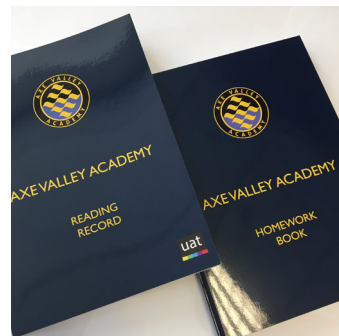
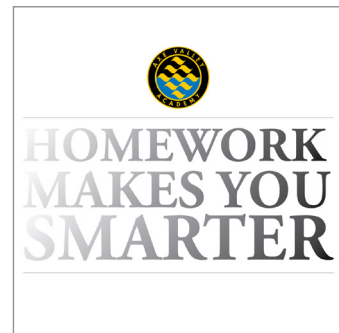
LORRAINE HEATH





We have had a fantastic start to term at Axe Valley and I'd firstly like to thank all of the hardworking staff who have helped us to have such a smooth start to the new term despite constant change. We have really decided to do everything at once and I cannot thank staff enough for how supportive and tolerant they have been. Kevin Cumming and Jean Parker have worked tirelessly with Matt Pearce, Trust IT Manager, to make sure we have a new network and we can see that when any completely understandable teething issues are ironed out this is going to really help us in our next stages of improvement. I'd also like to extend thanks to Kevin for his oversight of the launch of Bromcom, replacing SIMS, to staff, parents and students. We can't underestimate the work that has gone in to set this up and make the transfer across as painless as it could be. Already we can see how the MIS is going to be so student and parent friendly, as well as incredibly functional for staff. We look forwards to exploring more of its modules and functions across the next few weeks.

September has been fast paced at AVA! We have now got the new House System, Chudleigh, Coram and Anning, in place with our new House ties and house captains. We have launched our new reading records, homework books and knowledge organisers. Already we can see the daily reading and knowledge based homework becoming a successful routine which we will go all out on embedding. We have also got new reading anthologies across all years, a vibrant and diverse reading canon across all year groups and a responsive PSHE/RSE approach to all year but particularly the pilot in KS4. KS3 have all been out on their year group bonding trips across this week too.



THE VIEW FROM HERE

Notably we had the most incredible open evening where we were overwhelmed with numbers. It felt like a really lovely evening celebrating our community, which has received so much positive feedback from parents. We had to run 3 sets of talks and tours and staff were absolutely run off their feet all the way through the evening. We hope this will translate into growth in numbers for our lovely school. If you haven't already, please do follow the AVA social media accounts and give us some traction. These are now being run by Anita Heale, Trust Marketing, PR and Communications Officer, in her new role and they are spectacular. **Facebook: @AxeAcademy | Twitter: @AxeAcademy | Instagram: study@axevalleyacademy**

Laura Jenkins, Headteacher



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All that we ask of you is that you try and make the most of all the opportunities that are put your way. Set your hopes and dreams high and together we will achieve great things.



LAURA JENKINS



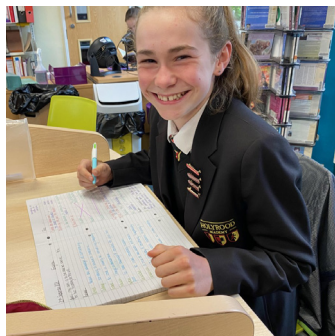
This is something of a bumper entry from Holyrood as there is so much to be proud of at the beginning of this academic year. Our focus upon improving teaching across our school is really starting to bear fruit and so I wanted to start by giving a huge shout out to all of the teachers at Holyrood who have been implementing our 'Holyrood Consistencies' in their lessons. The consistent approaches (such as silent starters, no hands up questioning and a shared call for silence in 3, 2, 1) we all take together have really raised the bar in terms of quality of teaching and student behaviour at Holyrood, which has been so great to see!

It has been brilliant to see our students working so hard in their lessons and also on their homework. The pictures of lovely students in years 7 and 8 included here were taken during a lunch time this week, while the students pictured were busy completing their homework so they could attend rehearsals and sports clubs after school.

Grease! rehearsals at Holyrood are in full flow. Just under 100 young people from years 7-13 are involved in what is sure to be a fantastic performance. The cast and staff visited Bristol Hippodrome to see a professional performance of this classic and I think it's fair to say that the staff were more impressed by Peter Andre's appearance than the students were... enough said.

The long-awaited start of Year 7 Choir has been wonderful! Seeing and hearing 253 year 7 students singing their hearts out and enjoying time together as one team really lifts the spirits on a Friday and certainly sends students and staff into the weekend on a high note (in more ways than one!).

The opening of our new Sixth Form art studio was another early highlight of this year - well done to the Art team who have provided a brilliant space for our oldest Artists to express themselves as part of their A-Level studies.



THE VIEW FROM HERE



On the sports field, the competitive seasons have started well with record turn-outs for training sessions and matchday squads. It is clear that our students have a real appetite for joining in following the disruption of the past two years. Here's hoping for some competitive boys rugby games between Holyrood and Uffculme School, this week.

We also learned that Oli Klimpke, a Holyrood alumnus currently studying at Cardiff Met University, has been selected to represent Germany U20s at Rugby. Huge congratulations to a hardworking and humble young man who is a great role model to our students. Individual sporting successes continue for Oli Collins who excels in Bowls and Hannah Wells who continues to achieve national success in Archery and is on the development pathway towards the next Olympic Games.

The start of this year has also seen lots of community events and contributions to our local town, by our school and its students. Circus events at Holyrood, Somerset Arts Week exhibitions in the town and a 100th Birthday celebration for Peter Moore (an ex-teacher) have been shining examples of this school's central role in its community. To top that all off, three of our Year 11 students selflessly supported an elderly neighbour on their way home. A lady had fallen over in her back garden and hit her head when our students spotted the problem, jumped over the garden fence, called an ambulance and waited with the lady until she was safe in their care. We are so proud of Phoebe Lomas, Ella Bool and Leola Roberts for their swift and decisive actions to care for someone who needed it.

Dave MacCormick, Headteacher



DAVE MACCORMICK





We have had a wonderful start to the new academic year. The children have returned to school with confidence and enthusiasm and some amazing learning has been taking place all throughout the school. Our new Reception intake have settled brilliantly and are adjusting well to their new full time school routines. It has also been lovely to welcome some new families across the school. Individual school visits are under way and we have welcomed a number of prospective families who are already thinking about Reception school applications for September 2022.

We have welcomed a new team of House Captains and Sports Captains in Year 6 and have held our class School Council votes. We have also been successful in applying to The Diana Anti-Bullying initiative and will be selecting Anti-Bullying Ambassadors from Years 4 and 5 in October. Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors will undergo special training for their role from the charity and we are excited to be successful in our application to this.

It has been great to widen our extra curricula offer and enrichment opportunities since we returned in September. The return of inter school sporting opportunities for the children has been a big talking point among our sport enthusiasts and our U11 football team represented the school brilliantly last week. The winners trophy is proudly on display and it has been a super motivator to get others involved in the next sporting opportunities. Year 6 have been enjoying their weekly swimming sessions and their water confidence is improving week on week. Lunchtime sport opportunities are well attended and we are maximising the use of our Forest School provision throughout the week. Year 4 are enjoying their whole class flute lessons and we have an increase in numbers of children engaging with peripatetic music lessons on offer at Neroche. Year 5 are excited to be visiting Holyrood to take part in a Gamelan orchestra workshop developing their awareness of this unique Indonesian music.



THE VIEW FROM HERE



We have been able to reinstate our whole school assembly program and have introduced a new initiative to promote British Values and help to prepare the children for life in modern day Britain. Uffculme Primary introduced us to the No Outsiders program, promoting the message that there are no outsiders and that everyone is welcome. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the program so far and the debate opportunities it has provided at a whole school level.

We hosted Holyrood staff and prefects for a Year 7 Roadshow even which was well attended. Parents and children from our Year 6 class came to find out all about Holyrood Academy from Mr MacCormick and Mrs Davison and it was lovely to chat to some of the Year 11 prefects who used to attend Neroche themselves. Our Year 6 children are excited to attend the Holyrood open events to find out even more and are already looking forward to the next phase in their educational journey.

A great start to the new academic year.

Ali Collins, Headteacher



ALI COLLINS





At the start of term we welcomed a full intake of 216 new Year 7 students who are settling in well and getting to know each other better through team building afternoons. We were also delighted to welcome some new members of the teaching staff: Mrs Jo Hill is our new Assistant Headteacher, with responsibility for Inclusion and SEND and Miss Meg Crowson who is joining the PE department. We also welcomed back Mrs McGuigan and Mrs Statton to the History and DT teams after their respective maternity leaves.

Our new team of senior student councillors have been elected (see photo), and are led by Freya Gray and Joe McQueenie, our Head Students, and their deputies Eve Jacob and Makan Coulibaly.

All students have now started their PD curriculum on Tuesday lesson 5. Letters have been sent home with all the details of the curriculum in each of the year groups. As part of this curriculum, on Tuesday 28th September, Year 10 and 11 students had the option of attending a session with external speakers on revision techniques with MADE (Exams Made Easy). It was very well supported with many parents and students attending after school. All resources from these sessions will be cascaded through school to support students with their exams and assessments going forward. More information will be available on our website in the coming weeks.

We have also hit the ground running with our extra-curricular and outdoor activities and have a full programme of clubs running at lunch times and after school, from sign language to origami, a whole variety of sports, music and drama. DofE training has started with the first bronze training walk and camp completed and after school planning sessions underway. 43 Year 9 students completed the first leg of our Moorland Walking 'Three Moors Challenge' last weekend, and a group of older students, who are training for Ten Tors, will take part in the Abbot's Way walk this Sunday (leaving school at 4.45am!). Last Friday over 400 Year 8 and 9 students completed the Uffculme Challenge, a 12-mile walk over varied terrain, including open moorland, from Hemyock back to school. This is an integral part of the Uffculme Achiever Award, our main method of recognising students' achievements in Years 8 and 9. All students were rewarded with a well-earned badge and a hot pasty on their return to school. Special thanks go to Chris Lepper for finding time to plan and organise this huge event. Laurence Eve, our Outdoor Education Coordinator, has a schedule of exciting activities organised for students this term, starting this week with kayaking at Haven Banks in Exeter, golf at Tiverton driving range, mountain biking in Haldon Forest and canoeing on the canal and river in Exeter.

On Friday 17th September, the school underwent a full review of all its safeguarding culture and systems. The review was led by members of the Dartmoor MAT with extensive HMI and OfSTED experience. During the day they reviewed all areas of the school, met with staff at all levels of the organisation, and pupils drawn from all years and teaching groups, as well as having numerous informal conversations with people on the day. The report that has come back was extremely positive about the school and highlighted how, "there is a culture of high



THE VIEW FROM HERE



vigilance across the entire school, and it is clearly understood that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility," and how "students communicate unwavering respect and trust for the school and their teachers. They talk with glowing pride about all staff being approachable, supportive, responsive, and proactive." As with all of these things there are areas that can be developed and members of the Safeguarding Team are addressing these to ensure that the school is doing all it can for its students.

Staff are busy preparing for our Open Evening on 7 October and we are looking forward to being able to again welcome students and their families to the school in person this year.

As part of the EDIT (Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Tolerance) initiative we've launched a new hashtag... #acceptandrespect! Ideas were generated by and voted for by students. It helps to share our school ethos of respect, courtesy, and tolerance.

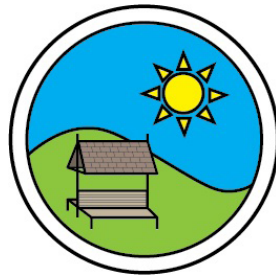
Finally, congratulations to Cadie Yardley in Year 10 whose stunning sketch was selected as a finalist in Explorers Against Extinction's Sketch for Survival competition, a global art initiative in aid of conservation.

Alan Blackburn, Headteacher



ALAN BLACKBURN





UFFCULME PRIMARY SCHOOL

It has been such a lovely first few weeks back at Uffculme Primary School and with all the learning, sport and fun, the Summer holidays seem like a distant memory. We have all been mightily impressed with how the children have returned to school and they have shown great focus, respect and kindness.

We have welcomed our wonderful new Reception children into school for the first time and the children have blown us away with how grown-up and settled they have been. We feel privileged that they have joined us on their educational journey, and we will do everything we can to nurture them, giving the children a high-quality, all-through experience from age 4 to 16 years – this really is one of the benefits of being part of the Trust.

We have also welcomed some new staff members this year: Miss Sarah McCann (Year 6 teacher and Assistant Headteacher), Mrs Annie Elkington (SENDCo) and Mrs Annabel Kumeta (Year 3 teacher). All three new members of staff have made a huge impact already, and the school will really benefit from their knowledge and expertise. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new Primary Advisor, Rachel Higginson, who will be working across the Uffculme Academy Trust. I have very much enjoyed working alongside Rachel and we have laid the foundations for a successful partnership.

Our Year 6 class had an extremely busy start to the year, spending their first week at Grenville House on their residential trip. The children had such an amazing time and were able to participate in a range of activities, including caving, coasteering, abseiling, canoeing, paddle boarding and more. This trip will live long in their memories and we hope they will cherish these experiences forever. We are all incredibly proud of our Year 6 children who conducted themselves brilliantly while they were away. They were polite, well-behaved and a real credit to the school.



THE VIEW FROM HERE



This trip would not have been possible if it were not for the staff members accompanying and leading the children throughout the residential. The staff were on call 24 hours a day and took part in most of the activities too. So, on behalf of the school, a huge thank you to Sarah McCann, Zoe Zugden, Lauren Saunders, Amanda Weldon and Kath Maguire.

The whole-school calendar is full of exciting events and all of us at the Primary School are looking forward to the year ahead with great anticipation.

Fraser Wallace, Headteacher



FRASER WALLACE





September is always the busiest month for the Training School, and this September has proved more so than ever. On September 2nd, we welcomed our new cohort of School Direct trainees to Uffculme School to commence their school-based training. It has been a jam-packed three weeks of training, lesson observation and familiarisation with the tools that they will use on a day-to-day basis during their PGCE. The majority of the trainees have now left for a 10-week block of input at Exeter University. They will be re-joining us in schools across the trust and wider alliance in mid-November.

SWIFT Appropriate Body (AB) Service

The new SWIFT AB service for which West Country are a strategic lead has inducted over 300 early career teachers (ECTs) this academic year from across the region. All new induction tutors had their training last night and it is the turn of the ECTs next week. We have also spent a lot of time getting to grips with the new Early Career Framework - a two-year fully funded training programme and support entitlement for all ECTs. I am delighted to be working with ECTs (and their mentors) from all of our Trust secondary schools as their Development Lead. Thank you to everyone for making such a positive start to the course during your induction days, and I look forward to working with you all this year.

Some important upcoming dates for the diary for ECTs and Mentors:

NEXT ECT SEMINARS:

Thursday 14th October 4 – 5.20pm

Wednesday 3rd November 4 – 5.20pm

Next Mentor seminar:

Thursday 11th November 4 – 5pm

Get into teaching school experience days:

We have been able to open up our 'Get into Teaching' experience days again this year and our first event is already full. If you or someone that you know are thinking about training to teach and would like to get some classroom experience and talk to us about what we offer through our School Direct course, we have just released a second date (Monday 8th November). We are also busy planning for our upcoming SWIFT ITT open evening.

RQT Course:

The SWIFT Recently Qualified Teacher (RQT) course kicks off today and the team will be delivering to a cohort of over 150 teachers from across the area. This year's programme has been planned specifically to ensure that sessions help to support teachers who have experienced disruption to their first year due to the COVID-19 situation. It is organised in core themes and led by experienced facilitators from across the region in groups according to the RQTs phase/specialism. It's great to see many of our RQTs on the list. If you finished your NQT year last academic year and are not yet registered, please do get in touch.



THE VIEW FROM HERE

Professional communities

West Country has taken the taken on the management of ten of the SWIFT secondary learning communities this year - subject/phase/leadership networks across the area. Each 'community' holds a termly meeting led by experts from across the SWIFT partnership. We are delighted that Kaleigh Stone was recently successful in her application to co-lead the MFL community. From these communities, you can expect updates on national and regional excellence, shared examples of effective practice, expert and practitioner inputs and sharing of resources. As SWIFT members, these communities are FREE to all UAT schools. The teams are currently writing the agendas for their first events and I look forward to being able to share these with you.

To find out more about the secondary professional learning communities, please see:
www.sw-ift.org.uk/programmes/communities-formerly-networks

SWIFT Update

We are delighted to have signed up all UAT schools to SWIFT membership this academic year. To date, 223 schools have joined as members which equates to over 95,000 pupils in the region. I wanted to very quickly update you on the main benefits that we receive as SWIFT members.

The draft 2021-2022 CPD course booklet can be found below and we have over 100 courses available, covering a wide range of topics. Members benefit from substantially discounted prices on all events, and some of the events e.g. primary subject briefings are held at no charge to members. Please do check out this exciting CPD package.

<https://designrr.page/?id=108716&token=1256465136&type=FP&h=6552>

SWIFT members can also access over 20 professional communities at no charge (see above), and will have access to the SWIFT summer leadership conference completely free of charge.

As ever, if you want to find out more about the work that we do or have any questions, please do get in touch.



JEN KNOWLES



THE VIEW FROM HERE

Action for Happiness presents:

HOW TO LIVE BETTER with Julie Lythcott-Haims

Wednesday 6th October 2021 | 19:00

Tickets available from:

www.eventbrite.co.uk

Amanda Woodward, Director of Wellbeing



AMANDA WOODWARD



