

THE
VIEW
FROM
HERE



THE VIEW FROM HERE

I would like to start with a huge congratulations and thank you to the staff, governors and students who took part in The Long Ride Home to raise money for the Bristol Suicide Prevention project. It was a monumental achievement and one which is going to raise a significant amount of money by the time all the various fund raising efforts across all schools are totted up. Particular thanks to Dave MacCormick at Holyrood for organising it and to everyone who has participated or donated in one way or another.

As we approach what looks like another very challenging Christmas, I also want to thank each and every one of you for the extraordinary work you have done since September to try and keep schools as normal as possible. With every media pronouncement that we must keep schools open at all costs, comes a great deal of effort and personal sacrifice from school staff. You are definitely unsung heroes in the wider public awareness; but I also know how much our parents value everything that you have done. Thank you for putting our children and young people first; for giving them a fantastic deal in spite of everything; and for always going above and beyond. I recently did some work with middle leaders and spent some time reflecting on how culture is created when values align with behaviour. This may not be as evident from other sectors of society, but it definitely characterises our schools.

I would therefore like to wish you all a very happy but above all restful Christmas. I hope you get to spend the time with your family and friends that we were deprived of last year and I hope that in doing so you are nurtured and restored over the festive break.

Merry Christmas everyone.

Lorraine Heath
Chief Executive Officer, Uffculme Academy Trust



LORRAINE HEATH



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As yet another very challenging year comes to a close, I would like to thank each and every member of teaching and support staff for the extraordinary way in which you have worked so hard this year to deliver a great education to our students.

I would also like to pay tribute to my fellow Directors and Governors. The work that you do for this Trust, giving your time freely, goes largely unrecognised but is of vital importance in setting the direction of the Trust and supporting and challenging our Heads and our schools, ensuring that each of our young people achieve highly irrespective of their starting point.

It's time to say goodbye to several very long-standing Governors who leave the Trust at the end of the year: Jonathan Farey (Holyrood Academy), Linda Vijeh (Neroche Primary School), and Jill Larcombe (Uffculme School). Thanks to all of you for the very many years you have contributed so strongly to the success of our schools. We also say thank you and goodbye to Andy Cattermole who is a Governor at Uffculme Primary School.

It is also with great sadness that we have learned of the death of the Chair of Holyrood LGC, David Pugh. David passed away this week after a short illness, with his family by his side. David has done a fantastic job at Holyrood and previously as Chair at Neroche. We will miss his wisdom and experience greatly.

Finally, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and hope that for everyone, 2022 is happy, healthy, successful, and fun.

Max Graesser
Chair of Governors, Uffculme Academy Trust



MAX GRAESSER





Axe Valley has had another incredibly busy term and I am so grateful to all staff who have worked tirelessly to make sure we can continue with our improvement journey. We have, as a community, tackled this term head on.

We have been lucky enough to have several external visitors to the school, including Barbara in her new Safeguarding Lead role, and it has been my pleasure to show off our school. Lessons have continued to be calm, purposeful and focused. Staff and student relationships have been strong and all of our visitors have commented on what a safe and kind community we have at AVA. Year 11 have done their first full set of invigilated mocks and have definitely risen to the challenge. We continue to focus on deep learning and a relational approach across every classroom and of course continue to embed reading everywhere we possibly can.

House competitions have been underway and last week we saw dodgeball fever take over the school. This week there are staff vs students sports competitions hotting up too. We have our virtual celebration assemblies this week and I can confirm that the current house leaders are Coram! Everything is still to fight for across next year as it is very, very close.

We hosted our first Christmas in the Quad event. We were so delighted to be able to open our doors and hold a lovely festive event. Our Quad was set up to entertain guests from our locality and tempt them with seasonal snacks and hot drinks. Students sold beautiful cards and craft gifts, whilst we were all entertained by our fabulous choir and music department. A tree was decorated by visiting children with crafted decorations. It now sits proudly in the Minster as part of Treefest 21. A visit from our very own Santa made the event special for our younger visitors. This is now set to become a regular community event.



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As we move toward the end of our final week we continue with all of our fantastic festivities. At the time of writing, three of our year groups have taken their turn travelling to the Minster to watch the Christmas Concert. Scores of staff and students have been involved in putting together this festive extravaganza and this culminated in a community performance. It is always very special and again this year I feel privileged to be able to watch such hard work come to fruition. We look forward to launching into the new term and focusing on our options process and KS3 assessment.

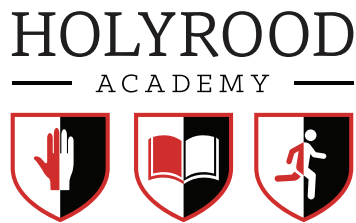
I wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and to thank the amazing staff at AVA for their support and dedication.

Laura Jenkins, Headteacher



LAURA JENKINS





I can honestly say that this has been one of the busiest but most enjoyable terms I have enjoyed so far! The staff and students at Holyrood have worked together to make real progress through our anti-bullying and anti-discrimination strategy, which has led to a real positive shift in our students' confidence in how we tackle these important issues. This, and other excellent safeguarding developments at Holyrood were recognised by Barbara Manning when she visited us in the last week of the term. It was great to meet Barbara, work with her and learn from her.

The children at Holyrood have been working hard together with their staff to raise money for Suicide Prevention Bristol, in memory of our former student Callum Quartley. They have baked, played, made, walked, run and otherwise fundraised their way to a stunning total of £7000 - this is before the other money raised by our friends across the Trust is added.



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Thank you so much to all friends and colleagues in other schools who have supported us to bring important awareness to our students and support the Quartley family, alongside the Holyrood community. We have really appreciated you all being beside us on this. The Long Ride Home from Chelsea to Chard was a real adventure! I would like to thank all of my fellow cyclists for their commitment and determination to ride for a cause so close to our hearts and for putting up with my wrong directions and numerous punctures! I must say a special 'well done' and 'thank you' to Orlando Migliari, 11 (son of Justin Migliari, MFL Teacher at Holyrood) and Megan Vaughan 13, (Year 9 student at Holyrood) for their amazing efforts across such a long ride. Tackling such a long distance at such a young age is an incredible feat and those two young people are a real credit to their families!

Unfortunately, however, I also have to end this piece with some very sad news that a valued member of our school community, David Pugh passed away yesterday morning, after a battle with cancer. As our Chair of Governors, David was a tremendous support to us all throughout what had been a challenging period for the school. His strength, knowledge, experience, 'can do' attitude and good humour inspired our Governing Committee to be better and to work more effectively together for the betterment of our school. We will always be grateful for David's guidance and for the lessons he taught us. We have the utmost respect for him and hold him in the highest regard. We will remember David when the time is right and for now, our thoughts are with his family.

Merry Christmas, everyone, and I look forward to working with you all in the New Year.

Dave MacCormick, Headteacher



DAVE MACCORMICK





We have had a great term at Neroche and have been pleased to be able to continue with our planned Christmas calendar of events. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their hard work this term in ever changing circumstances with limited staff. The children have still enjoyed a festive experience at the school and it is due to the hard work and care of the dedicated staff team we have.

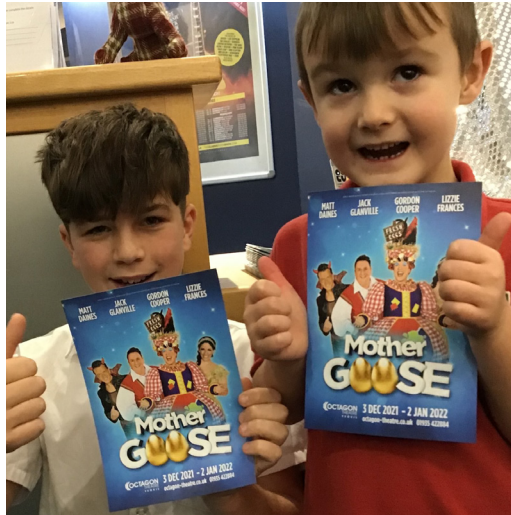
We went as a whole school to watch Mother Goose the pantomime at the Octagon theatre in Yeovil. The children absolutely loved it and had requested a repeat visit next year before we had even left the theatre to go back to school. For some children it was their first pantomime experience and one they will never forget. We are hoping this will start a tradition at Neroche for years to come.

Children enjoyed their annual Christmas lunch last week. Aspens did a great job and the children enjoyed eating their specially prepared Christmas feast with their classes. Due to class bubbles, we were not able to join as a whole school to enjoy our lunch this year but it didn't stop the lunchtime Christmas spirit.

We have been lucky to be included in the Minster Church Christmas Tree Festival for the last number of years. Each year we display two trees on behalf of Neroche. One for the Pre School and one for the whole school. Many of our Neroche families have been to visit and enjoy the wonderful atmosphere in the church to see all the trees on display. Our chosen charity for the Neroche Christmas trees this year was the Ilminster Flood Victims, due to families in our school community being badly effected by the recent flooding in the town. Our fundraising for this cause was added to by our own Winter themed mufti day to ensure children of all faiths could participate, reinforcing our No Outsiders message.



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We were determined to give the EYFS and KS1 children the opportunity to perform their Christmas Nativity plays to live audiences and a quick reshuffle of parts ensured we were able to put on the nativities as individual classes. It was lovely to see parents and Grandparents in the hall watching their family members in what are always remembered fondly as treasured memories for years to come. Our KS2 children are performing as part of a Christmas Musical Extravaganza at the Octagon Theatre on Friday

Next term brings with it a new year and an amended staff team. We welcome back Mrs Oliver after her MAT leave and wish Miss Thorne all the best as she starts hers. Thanks to Mrs Coleridge for covering in Poplar class. Welcome to Mr Cornish as our Pre School teacher and to Mrs Warwick who will be our interim SENCO while Mrs Bowditch takes up the post on her return.

All that remains is to wish everyone across the Trust a very Happy Christmas and a happy and healthy start to 2022 from myself and all the staff at Neroche.

Ali Collins, Headteacher



ALI COLLINS





As we come to the end of the year both staff and students have been reflecting on another turbulent term which started off with all the hope that came from the ending of 'bubbles', easing of the restrictions on activities and events; and a real sense that the worst was behind us. Unfortunately this hasn't proved to be the case and sadly the past few weeks have seen us having to cancel or postpone many activities that are part of the fabric of the school. And yet, despite these setbacks, the school community has remained defiantly positive with many parents taking the time to email in and thank staff for trying to make things happen for their children, even if at the last minute they couldn't happen as planned. And whilst we have had to cancel some events there has been so much that has been able to take place over the past few months, and here are just a few more from the past 2-3 weeks.

The annual History Castle competition has seen phenomenal entries this year showing what an industrious and imaginative group of year 7s we have. A special mention goes to 7Mitir who won the best tutor group, with every member of the class designing and building a castle!

Our students have been showing their usual compassion for those in need or those who are suffering by supported a number of charities and campaigns in recent weeks.

There was "Odd Socks Day" in November, when staff and students were encouraged to wear bright, loud, odd socks alongside normal school wear to highlight the start of Anti-bullying week. Throughout the week students engaged in thought-provoking activities around this year's theme of 'One Kind Word'. #acceptandrespect #AntiBullyingWeek

Then there was Children in Need in which every year group playing a part, including a Year 11 House Tug of War Competition and Year 10 Basketball competition. There were also Live Lounge performances organised by the Music department and watched by an appreciative crowd of Year 7 students. Together these activities raised an amazing £1325.25!

Recently staff and students have been affected by the plight of families from Afghanistan and other refugees looking for safety. This has led the school to register as a collection centre for the charity Care4Calais, which collects clothing for refugees in the UK and abroad. #Coats4Calais Staff and students have created a special Uffculme School Christmas message to launch the campaign which can be seen at:

<https://uffculmeschool-my.sharepoint.com/.../EXL6JMiQcsVO...>

In a different vein, our sports teams have had some fantastic successes this term. At the East Devon vs Exeter Cross Country event there was an excellent effort from all our runners



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on a wet and hilly route and all those below came in the top 32 runners in their age group.

In rugby, our U14's rugby team beat Queen Elizabeth's to make it to the final of the East Devon and Exeter Schools Cup. Everyone played really well throughout, despite the tough conditions, but unfortunately lost to Exeter School.

The U16's rugby team have also had an excellent season and are unbeaten. They are now looking forward to Rosslyn Park after Christmas.

The U13's football team have had a strong season and made it through to the 3rd round of the National Cup with some close encounters along the way. We expect them to do well in the East Devon and County Cup in the new year.

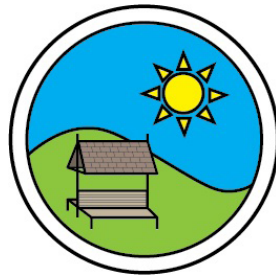
We are now looking forward to the final Christmas events that we have planned including Christmas lunch for all year groups, with Christmas Jumper as part of our fund raising towards the Trust's Charity focus on mental health and suicide prevention. And then on the last day of term a series of Christmas Assemblies looking back at 2021, and ahead to 2022.

Happy Christmas and best wishes to everyone, from all of us at Uffculme School.



ALAN BLACKBURN





UFFCULME PRIMARY SCHOOL

I would like to begin by saying a huge thank you to the incredible staff at Uffculme Primary School for all their hard work and dedication this year. 2021 has been a tough year for everyone but I still cannot believe how much we have achieved in this time and I am excited for what 2022 will hold for us.

As you can imagine, the last few weeks have been exceptionally busy with a wide variety of activities and Christmas occasions. Starting with the community-based events, the children all designed and created their own lanterns ready for the Christmas lantern parade and Christmas lights switch-on, in the centre of the village. This was well-attended by the local community and the evening was full of festive cheer! Some of our children attended the Christingle weekend at St Mary's Church on the weekend of the 4th and 5th of December and had the opportunity to follow the village angel trail.

Last week saw both the Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas performances. The children were outstanding: they all sang beautifully, spoke with loud voices, and acted with great confidence. The children are such a credit to the school and seeing all their smiles and waves to their parents in the audience made all the hard work worthwhile. A special thank you to the staff within those year groups who worked tirelessly to arrange the productions. The children also took part in the Christmas Carol workshop day, which involved drama-based activities related to the famous Dickens novel. Our Christmas lunch, and a whole-school Christmas Jumper Day were held to raise money for the Trust-wide fundraising efforts for Bristol Suicide Prevention.



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The events do not stop there, we still have a Key Stage 2 Christmas Fair, a choir visit to Trafalgar Court (a local nursing home) and our Christmas Carol Service via Teams.

Everyone at Uffculme Primary School would like to wish all our friends and colleagues across the Trust a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Fraser Wallace, Headteacher



FRASER WALLACE



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In the New Year we launch 4 new 'clinics';
Menopause Clinic
Sleep Clinic
Fitness Clinic
Injury/Pain Clinic

All accessible through set referral using
the booking link:

[https://outlook.office365.com/owa/
calendar/UATWellbeingService@
uffculmeschool.onmicrosoft.com/
bookings/](https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/UATWellbeingService@uffculmeschool.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/)

Amanda Woodward, Director of Wellbeing



AMANDA WOODWARD



