

THE
VIEW
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HERE



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Whilst there are still some weeks, until the end of term, this will be the final UAT newsletter of the year. Consequently we can't, in this edition, properly capture all the many wonderful opportunities and activities that characterise the end of a school year: sports days, presentations, celebrations – and of course the leavers parties and proms. However I am very clear how much work goes into these events and also how much they are valued by students and their families so would like to thank in advance everyone who is organising or helping out with end of year celebrations, trips, visits and competitions.

I would also like to thank Anita, our designer and marketing officer for all the hard work she has put in this year to creating coherent and attractive branding that puts children at the centre of all of our communications. Anita is based at Axe Valley but has achieved an enormous amount across all the schools in ensuring that our values and ethos is reflected in everything that we put out internally and externally. We are shortly to be publishing our first Annual Report into which a great deal of work has gone. I hope, through it, you will all see how much has been achieved, individually by each of you, and collectively by our teams and I hope, therefore it reinforces a sense of pride in working for Uffculme Academy Trust and everything that we stand for.

Finally, I want to look forward to our first ever Trust Conference on July 1st. The programme is just being finalised and will be with you shortly. Our theme is "We Make the Difference" and the focus will be how we impact positively on disadvantaged children and young people. I can't wait to bring everyone together at last.

Lorraine Heath
Chief Executive Officer, Uffculme Academy Trust



LORRAINE HEATH





As we begin our final term of the year, I cannot help but reflect on what a massive journey we have been on this year. At this point last year we were just launching our new House system with our newly appointed House Captains. They are now taking exams in their gorgeous coloured leavers hoodies and we are preparing to say goodbye to them. In true Axe Valley form, though, they have offered to return and help us with Open Evening tours! That is true a measure of how we feel about each other here. We will clap them out of their final assembly, but they know they are always welcome here.

We were delighted to celebrate the achievements of our students throughout the school on a beautifully sunny last day before finishing for half term. To read the Year Leader and Headteacher citations to our proud winners was really lovely and perhaps the start of another special tradition. One Year 7 who missed his presentation was waiting for me in reception on the first day back to receive his badge. What a positive start to our first morning back!

This week we are looking forward to seeing the entries to our Book Canon competition. The students have been asked to write a book review or design a cover for one of the books they have read this year from the Canon. These pieces will then form the displays that we will have running around our school in the year ahead.

As reading is such a key part of our daily life here, we have invited our 'Heads Together' from our feeder primary schools 'Read a book together'. This connection is absolutely invaluable to us as a school. Our reaching out to our feeder schools in many creative, community-minded ways is such

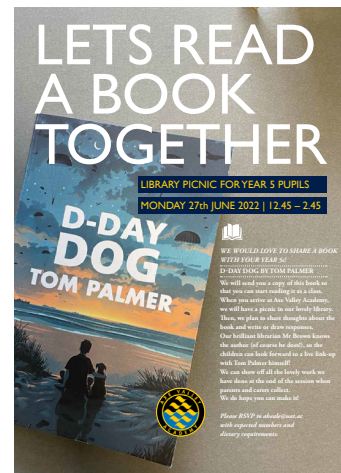


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a positive and mutually beneficial connection. We can't wait to welcome Year 5s to enjoy STEM days and Creative Arts events in the coming weeks.

All of the work that goes in to these links, will we hope, continue to build on our success in promoting Axe Valley Academy as 'THE' place to be in our area. We will continue with our #smallbutmighty hashtag, combined with a new call to action to #lookatusnow! We are already getting tour bookings!

We wish our Trust colleagues a wonderful Summer Term.



OPEN DAY/EVENING

22.09.22 | DAY: 9.30 & 11.30AM | EVENING: 6-8PM



#LOOK AT US NOW!

Facebook & Twitter: @AxeAcademy | Instagram: studyataxevalleyacademy

www.axevalley.devon.sch.uk | 01297 32146



LAURA JENKINS





As we look forward to some of the most exciting and highly anticipated events of the academic year: occasions such as Celebration Day, Prom, Year 13 Leavers' Lunch, Activities Week and Sports Day to name but a few; it has been amazing to see such an array of opportunities for students and adults to enjoy Holyrood over the past half term.

There has been so much sporting success here, most recently with our U13s and U15s Girls Cricket Teams being crowned County Champions. At least we had some success on the cricket pitch...as the staff cricket team played their first fixture together but lost by the small matter of some 40 (ish) runs. I think it's fair to say that cricket was the real winner! If colleagues in other schools would like a friendly game with us, please do get in touch. I am very grateful to the PE Team here for offering our students (and staff) so many chances to be successful and enjoy being active.

Speaking of being active, Our DofE students were also delighted to be invited by the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset to join her on her 'Jubilee Jaunt', through which she travelled 70 miles with young people who are involved in the award at various levels. It was quite a sight to see all 240 of our DofE participants all in the Hall to listen to her words of advice and to wave her off.

It was also brilliant to see Year 8 undertaking their expedition walk back from Ilminster to school, a distance of 7 miles. You may be aware that this is something that we do at the end of Year 7's first term at Holyrood. However, with COVID restrictions in place this was not possible last year, but we made up for it this year and the students loved it. It was fantastic to receive glowing praise from the public about how our students represented us that day, too.

Construction work continues at some pace to bring our new building to life. I couldn't quite believe my eyes when on Monday morning, there were some foundations and nothing protruding above fence level and by Thursday evening, the entire steel frame of the building was up and free standing! The students were commenting with great excitement as they travelled from lesson-to-lesson:



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'where did THAT come from?' and 'that wasn't even there at the start of period 2!' We cannot wait to move in to that amazing new space. It can't come soon enough as we are delighted to welcome 260 new Year 7s into our school in September, which is Holyrood's biggest ever year group. We are proud to be full and oversubscribed because we have come a long way in building the community's confidence in our provision. Thank you to all colleagues within the central team and beyond who have helped us to achieve this.

The school improvement journey continues at Holyrood and I was very pleased with some feedback from our latest Governors' Visit, this week. They noticed the significant improvements in behaviour and engagement within lessons, improved quality and consistency of teaching across the school and most pleasingly, a consistently high standard of work in books. During their book review, they were unable to notice differences between the quality of work of PP students, non-PP students, SEND students and non-SEND students – this has been a huge area of focus for us this year and I was pleased and proud to show the impact of that work. Finally, we have now 78 prefects in year 10 going into year 11, which is a fantastic number for us - more than double last year's cohort. This is a real cultural shift at our school and we can't wait to work with those student leaders to bring about more school improvement next year.

Wishing colleagues across the Trust the very best last half term and a successful end to the exam series. See you on the Trust Day!

Dave MacCormick, Headteacher



DAVE MACCORMICK





We had an amazing whole school circus experience on Friday. The striped blue and yellow circus tent arrived early on site at 6.30am ready for the day. The whole school enjoyed an amazing performance including some impressive courage from staff members who joined in. The performance was followed by a series of age appropriate workshops throughout the day with children learning new skills and developing their resilience and determination. The day ended back in the big top tent to celebrate and share new skills. Children proudly performed to the whole school and were eager and confident to demonstrate what they had learnt. The sun shone and the day was a fantastic opportunity to come together as a whole school and focus on developing skills such as confidence, determination and resilience that underpin all learning.

Our Year 1 and 2 children enjoyed a school enrichment visit to Lyme Regis earlier in the week to reinforce their knowledge of seaside towns. Members of the public approached our staff to share how impressed they were with the children's behaviour. This kind of feedback when the children are representing the school is so lovely to hear and we are very proud of the Year 1 and 2 children for being wonderful ambassadors for the school. Our Year 5 children enjoyed an enrichment experience to Magdalene Farm to develop their understanding of rivers. Again, receiving praise for their behaviour and positive attitudes.

All children at Neroche, in Years Reception to Year 6, have now received a special Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee celebration book from the Government. These books are a really wonderful celebration of the Queen's reign and have a wealth of information in them about the commonwealth, Governments and historical facts. The children loved receiving them and spotting key people in history that they have learnt about.



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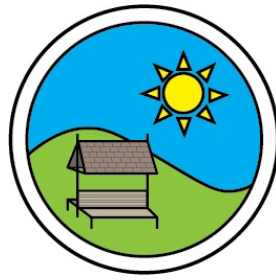
We have been busy with recruitment in preparation for the new academic year and plans are being developed for our new Reception intake in September 2022. Miss Millard, the Deputy at Neroche, finished for her Maternity Leave on Friday and we were able to say goodbye to her in the Big Top Circus Tent as an extra special send off before her baby arrives. Elm Class are waiting in anticipation to hear if Miss Millard chooses one of their suggested names, their top choice being Sugar! Miss Millard, although on Maternity Leave, is keen to maintain close links with Neroche while she is off and will be a frequent visitor we are sure. All the staff and children send her and her partner many congratulations as they start this new, exciting chapter.

Ali Collins, Headteacher



ALI COLLINS





UFFCULME PRIMARY SCHOOL

I cannot believe we have nearly reached the end of the year – it has flown by!

It has been a very busy Summer Term at Uffculme Primary so far, with statutory tests, Bikeability, a Jubilee Tea Party, a Year 3 Indian Workshop, and various sporting events. We also have a very busy end to the year planned, with various transition events, a Year 3 & 5 residential to Kilve Court, Sports Day, Leavers' Service and a Year 6 production. Despite all these exciting events, the children have continued to throw themselves into their learning and have continued to make us all incredibly proud.

This week, we welcomed our new Reception parents to school for an information morning. As well as providing parents with detailed information as to what to expect when their child starts school in September, it also provided an opportunity for parents to meet each other and various members of the school informally with coffee and cake, kindly provided by the PTFA and Uffculme School. This event was well attended, and every single parent commented on how grateful they were for this opportunity. A special thank you to Becki Sharpe for all her hard work in organising this event.

We have now completed all the statutory assessments, including phonics screening assessments for children in Years 1 & 2, Key Stage SATs for children in Years 2 & 6, and the Multiplication Tables Check for children in Year 4. We have been blown away by the incredible attitude and resilience of every single child who took part in these assessments. These tests act as a culmination of the children's hard work over the past few years, and all the children approached the tests with maturity and did not put too much pressure on themselves, something we all feel very proud of. I would also like to say a huge thank you to all the adults that have helped with the facilitation of the tests. As with most national assessments, they are not without their pressures, but the Uffculme Primary team delivered them in a positive manner, resulting in children feeling calm and reassured.

On Thursday 26th May, everyone at the primary school thoroughly enjoyed celebrating Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The children spent the morning taking part in various activities related to the Queen and her inspirational reign. Some of the Art created was displayed in the windows, along the road, so local residents could see them over the bank holiday weekend. In the afternoon, the whole school came together for a Jubilee Tea Party, where plenty of cake was served and enjoyed by the school community. I would like to say a very special thank you to Asda for donating several cakes for the event – the children certainly got to have their cake and eat it! After eating, Key Stage 1 children sang Here's to the Queen, and Key Stage 2 children sang The Long Walk. We ended our tea party with a rousing rendition of The National Anthem, which really was the icing on the cake!

The very next day, on Friday 27th May, our Year 3 children hosted a hands-on and creative Hinduism workshop. Over the last couple of years, we have been unable to invite visitors into the school but this



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was an exciting opportunity to welcome an expert guest to help us to delve deeper into Hinduism and India studies. In the morning, children were introduced to the concept of Bhrahman (God) & Athman (Soul) within Hindu Philosophy. The afternoon consisted of introducing the children to the concept of Dharma (action) and Karma (reaction). This was taught through dressing up and acting out the story of Rama and Sita (Ramayana). The day culminated with a traditional Diwali dance, in which parents were invited to join their children. It was also lovely to see school staff joining in with the dancing.

Before half term, some of our Year 5 and 6 children represented the school at the Uffculme Dance Show. Their performances were exceptional. They showcased their beautiful choreography with great timing and fluidity. They all enjoyed performing to a sell-out crowd and many of the children said they didn't even feel nervous! The children also took part in the finale dance which certainly was a showstopper! It was lovely to hear how well the children behaved and how much of a credit they are to our school.

I would like to thank all our staff for their unbelievable efforts this year. Another year of uncertainty and change. We have had staff absences, class bubbles, online meetings and assemblies, new variants, endless changes in guidance and children who are scared and unsettled. But our staff have had to come to work every day and put aside their own worries and anxieties for themselves and their loved ones. We now find ourselves in a different place where children are catching up, feeling safe and enjoying their learning again. Day-to-day school life now feels a little more normal. However, this doesn't just happen naturally – it is a result of all our staff's kindness, compassion, and love for the children they work with. It can be so hard when all it seems like we are doing is 'fire-fighting' every day, especially when the job is so demanding and tiring. However, when we look back at the past few years, the staff can all be proud of what they have achieved and the difference they have made to the school and wider community. I couldn't feel prouder to lead such a dynamic and amazing team.

Finally, everyone at Uffculme Primary School would like to wish all our friends and colleagues across the Trust a happy end to the Summer Term and a lovely, well-deserved Summer break when it arrives.

Fraser Wallace, Headteacher



FRASER WALLACE





At Uffculme School we place a high emphasis upon not only supporting all students to read accurately and fluently but also to fall in love with literature. As part of this we run a series of Reading Challenges that each year see large numbers of students trying new genres and texts outside of their normal range of reading.

For Year 7 and 8 students, reading challenges are run through the library. The Reading Challenge for Year 7 is '8B48' and the students have been challenged to read and review at least eight books throughout the year. So far, we have seven students who have read received their Bronze badge for completing eight books, two Silver badge recipients who have read and reviewed 12 books and one who has received a Gold badge for reading and reviewing 16 books.

Year 8s undertake a range of tasks for their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards creating a Journal to document their reading journey, which takes approximately 6 months to complete. As well as writing book reviews and recommendations, students learn to recite a poem by heart, compare books with their film versions and read their parents' favourite childhood book to see how it stands the test of time. They also delve into a selection of classic and contemporary fiction to encourage reading outside of their usual genres. The standard is always remarkable with students putting a huge amount of work into their journals. This year's winner, Ruby Bingham, is pictured with runners up Robyn Langford and Peter Joiner, and Jesse Aldridge and Marnie Johnson whose entries were highly commended. All received Amazon vouchers or books in recognition of the quality of their writing and presentations and all who took part have been awarded House points for every stage completed. Pictured below are Jesse, Peter, Marnie, Robyn and Ruby with their Reading Journals.

Each year we also run an annual Readathon event for students from KS3. This year 85 students signed up to take part in the day including having the opportunity to hear from the author Matt Dickinson who came to the Library to tell us about his Everest adventures. He also held an impromptu writer's workshop for our budding authors. To date, we have raised over £850 to provide books for children undergoing long term hospital treatment.

Over the course of the year there have also been a series of House Quizzes run by the library throughout the year covering diverse subjects from Black History Month to the COP 26 Climate Change Conference. All tutor groups have enthusiastically engaged with these opportunities which have also given them the chance to win points for their House.



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To round off the reading year, we have been fortunate to be able to take part in a number of live stream events from the Hay Literature Festival. Almost 100 KS3 students enjoyed talks from authors including Alex Wheatle, Femi Fadugba and Sophie McKenzie, and were able to experience a little of the atmosphere of one of the most famous international literature events.

On a different note to our focus on reading, a number of our budding Year 9 scientists recently took part in the school's very first biology field trip which was an absolutely fantastic experience for all. Based on Dartmoor, the students took part in activities including examining and recording the wildlife within the ecosystems in a nearby stream and pond, a night-time walk up Hay Tor to admire the clear night sky, visiting Dartmoor zoo to have an educational talk on Evolution and Darwin as well as exploring the zoo, rock pooling and another walk up Hay Tor in the daylight to look at the rock formation. Finally, a huge congratulations to all our students who successfully completed the Ten Tors walks – the culmination of an arduous training programme. All 6 teams successfully completed this tough challenge. Congratulations and thanks also to the staff and parents who give so much of their time to enable our students to have such an exceptional experience.

Alan Blackburn, Headteacher



ALAN BLACKBURN





Initial Teacher Training:

The end of the School Direct Initial Teacher Training course is in sight and we are delighted that all of our trainees are on track to gain Qualified Teacher Status and they have also all secured employment for September 2022. We will miss seeing their faces in school when they leave us at the end of the month. Thank you for all of the contributions that you have made to our school communities and we look forward to a proper farewell on the 28th.

Upcoming courses/CPD opportunities

NPQs:

We currently have 13 members of staff across the trust engaged in the new reformed NPQs with Leading Schools South West. All programme members will imminently take part in their first face-face conference and if you haven't already, you will receive a communication in the forthcoming weeks containing the presentation resources which will be utilised in each session during the conference. Seminar 4 will be delivered as part of the day so please make sure that you are up to date with the relevant teach First Brightspace module in preparation for this.

The next round of NPQ applications has just opened for a September start and fully funded scholarships are available for interested teachers and leaders. All NPQs are taught through a blended balance of online individual learning, online seminars and face-to-face conferences.

Four Specialist NPQs, 12-month Programmes:

- NPQLL: Leading Literacy (New)
- NPQLBC: Leading Behaviour and Culture
- NPQLT: Leading Teaching
- NPQLTD: Leading Teacher Development

Four Leadership NPQs, 18-month Programmes:

- NPQEYL: Early Years Leadership (New)
- NPQSL: Senior Leaders
- NPQH: Headship (including a new programme of support, the Early Headship Coaching Offer, for Headteachers who are within their first five years of headship)
- NPQEL: Executive Leadership

Please discuss with your teaching and learning lead/Headteacher if you are interested and get in touch if you have any questions about the content or delivery

There is an NPQ information webinar on 15th June from 3.45-4.15pm. Please fill in the form here if you are interested in registering for this webinar:

Further information can be found on the Leading Schools South West website <https://www.leadingschoolssouthwest.org.uk/>

NPQ Facilitators Applications:

LSSW are recruiting for new Facilitators to lead the next cohort of NPQs and if you meet the Teach First criteria and would like to apply for this exciting and worthwhile role, please email admin@leading-schools-southwest.org.uk and request a Facilitator Application and Information pack.



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Other CPD

Primary:

Geography & History Network Meeting | Thursday 16 June 2022 | 15:45-17:00 | Online | [FREE BOOK HERE](#)

Secondary:

SWIFT Secondary Maths Professional Community – Focus on Ofsted Deep dives | Thursday 23 June 2022 | 15:30-17:00 | Online | [FREE BOOK HERE](#)

SWIFT SEND Professional Community | Tuesday 28 June 2022 | 14:00-15:30 | Online | [FREE BOOK HERE](#)

SWIFT Secondary Geography Professional Community | Tuesday 28th June 2022 | 14:00-15:30 | Online | [FREE BOOK HERE](#)

SWIFT Secondary Business Studies Professional Community | Tuesday 12 July 2022 | 13:30-15:30 | West Exe School, Exeter | [FREE BOOK HERE](#)

Cross-phase:

SWIFT RE Professional Community | Wednesday 15 June 2022 | 16:00-17:30 | Online | [FREE BOOK HERE](#)

The full SWIFT CPD offer is now available for 2022/23 [HERE](#)

Please do have a look at the huge range of CPD on offer including subject specific masterclasses from national facilitators, AQA GCSE Feedback sessions, primary subject leader briefings and much more.

SAVE THE DATE:

SWIFT Secondary MFL Professional Community | Friday 8 July | 14:00-16:30

SWIFT Secondary History Professional Community | Tuesday 5 July | 15:30-17:00

SWIFT Secondary Science Professional Community | Thursday 30 June | 15:30-17:00

SWIFT Secondary English Professional Community | Friday 15th July | Time TBC



JEN KNOWLES



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Dare we believe that Summer is on the way...

Longer days and better weather often prompt thoughts towards fitness and physical activity levels. How about booking an appointment to encourage these thoughts into reality.

I can help with exercise plans (home and gym based), eating/nutrition plans and ideas for increasing your fitness ready for the glorious summer that is no doubt ahead!

www.uffculmetrust.org/wellbeing



Amanda Woodward, Director of Wellbeing



AMANDA WOODWARD





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