



October 2024: Newsletter

Welcome to the first Oxlip Learning Partnership newsletter.

As you may be aware, following approval by the Department for Education, John Milton Academy Trust (JMAT) was legally transferred into Gippeswyk Community Educational Trust (GCET) on 1st September 2024, to become a single unified trust.

The new Trust will now be known as the Oxlip Learning Partnership – named after the county flower of Suffolk.



Bringing together the two trusts will allow us to explore increased avenues for funding and the opportunity to share ideas and best working practices, ensuring we provide the very best education for our pupils.

The two trusts had a lot in common, both being community-based with a high school and primary schools within the same catchment area.

The new combined trust will allow us to build on both trusts' individual successes while helping us to drive progress across our schools. Our family of schools now include: Copleston High School, Rose Hill Primary School and Britannia Primary School in Ipswich and Stowupland High School, Cedars Park Primary School, Mendlesham Primary School and Bacton Primary School in the Mid-Suffolk area.

Each school across the combined trust will retain its individual identity, reflecting the communities they serve.

This partnership will pave the way for progress at all the schools the unified trust now oversees. We are combining our shared vision and values with an

absolute focus on our children, young people and their families, with school improvement at the heart of all our work, driven by strong and supportive leaders across the partnership.

This is a very exciting time for the Trust and our schools and we are looking forward to launching a new website in due course.

News from our Schools:



Britannia Primary School Year 5s are excitedly preparing for what will be in many cases their

very first couple of nights staying away from their families as they count down the days until their two-night residential trip to Hilltop activity centre in Norfolk next month. The experience is aimed at boosting pupils' self-confidence and problem solving skills by working in an outdoor setting on a variety of different challenges.

Meanwhile our Reception pupils have had their first couple of weeks playing on our newly reopened gross motor skill play area involving running and climbing equipment which has allowed them to let off steam and challenge themselves to new feats of skill and bravery in the safety of our Early Years garden.



Cedars Park Primary School

Cedars Park Primary School are re-instating the raised beds on the school site to widen their curriculum offer to all pupils, and engage the children in the wonders of growing and observing a range of plants. Each year group will

be asked to take responsibility of specific garden areas across the academic year, with the aim of growing a variety of species that match their science curriculum. As well as pupils visiting these areas within lessons, the school also intends to run a gardening club through the spring and summer months, for those with a more avid interest.



Bacton Primary School

Bacton Primary School were pleased to welcome the Trust's Director for Primary Improvement recently. A learning walk took place in the afternoon and it was lovely to see children engaging in a range of wider curriculum learning. A particularly highlight was being told

by pupils about the artists being studied – Kingfisher Class eagerly spoke of Edgar Degas and impressed everyone with their sketching skills, whilst Owl Class showed off their knowledge of William Morris and templates for block printing.



Mendlesham
Primary School

Mendlesham Primary School Year 5 and 6 pupils have enjoyed *Bikeability* and it was lovely to hear feedback from leaders about children's enthusiasm and positive behaviour. Congratulations to all those that took part and passed their Level 1 and Level 2 proficiency tests.

Both **Bacton** and **Mendlesham** pupils returned from their recent trip to Thorpe Woodlands in high spirits and full of stories of caves and canoeing. The camp fire and marshmallows were a particular hit!

Rose Hill
Primary School



Rose Hill Primary School

This week at Rose Hill Primary we celebrated another fantastic 'Pupil of the Week' tea party with the Principal, recognising our pupils' achievements. Our weekly 'Reading Breakfast' with parents continues to inspire a love of reading across the school community. We are also excited to announce the success of our new English speaking lessons for parents led by our Multi-lingual Learners Lead, fostering community growth!

Copleston
High School



Copleston High School

Copleston High School has had an extremely busy and rewarding term so far. In

trips news we have seen students visit The Tate Modern to gain inspiration for their art projects, Drama students have been to see a thrilling production of the '39 Steps' in London, whilst Colchester Zoo provided first hand material for students' GCSE Graphic Design projects.

In sporting news, a huge number of fixtures have been played so far. In the schools' cross country held at the Royal Hospital School, we saw our highest number of top 50 runners who qualify for the next round. It certainly was a gruelling but rewarding event for all who took part. Furthermore, our elite Basketball Academy has started the season strongly and American scouts are already recruiting players for university scholarships.

Our Duke of Edinburgh goes from strength to strength, with our first cohort completing the Gold Award in September. The team completed the Yorkshire 3 Peaks as part of their expedition. We now have over a hundred students involved at bronze, silver and gold level.

Our open evenings for Sixth Form and the main school welcomed large numbers of perspective students and their families, and we were very proud of our student ambassadors who exemplified the values we promote.

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Our weekly 'Careers and Cake' talks have been very popular and well attended, helping to both inform and inspire students who are interested in careers in fields such as farming, law, the armed forces, to mention just a few. Alongside this, the Student Leaders have supported the Macmillan Coffee morning raising good funds for this worthwhile charity, whilst our Year 12 and 13 students have taken part in the first round of the UK Maths Challenge.

Finally, it has been great to see our new Year 7 students settle in so quickly and start to thrive in their lessons and in our Wednesday afternoon enrichment programme that offers a huge array of activities for them to participate in, such as trampolining, rock climbing, Lego and boardgames. This has provided a time to try something new or strengthen an existing skill- and certainly a chance to make new friends!



Stowupland
High School

Stowupland High School had a large number of families visit for their Year 6 Open Evening on 10th October. Students were superb ambassadors for the school, and spoke with real passion about the subjects, clubs and the improvements

they are seeing at the school.

Year 9, 10 and 11 students enjoyed a three-day visit to France earlier this term, sampling the delights of a snail farm, aquarium and delicatessen. They were able to practise their French throughout the trip and were highly appreciative of the opportunity.

Students have participated in a range of sports events - teams have been competing in netball, football and futsal. The Year 7 girls' football team hosted a home game against Thurston Community College, and dominated the game from start to finish with an 8-2 victory. The Year 9 girls' futsal team came second in their tournament. The U14 girls' football team defeated Thurston 4-1 to progress to the next round of their County Cup. Well done to all the teams who have played so well for our school.

Finally, it was terrific to see our students involved in the Traditional Music Day at the John Peel Centre on Saturday 21st September. They participated in traditional dance and music making, impressing audiences with their well-rehearsed routines.

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