

6th April 2022

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to you as we approach the Easter holidays and, as I reflect, I realise that the overriding thought is that this term has finally felt a little more normal. There is no doubt that, 2 years on, the challenges of COVID 19 are still apparent and we continue to suffer from high levels of absence in both students and staff who are testing positive and isolating. However, as I consider all that we have achieved as a family of schools this term, it does feel as if there is light at the end of the tunnel. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the events that our students have been involved in across all of our schools. Just reading it reminds me of how busy we have been and I am immensely proud and grateful to all of our staff who are so dedicated to ensuring that our pupils enjoy the very best opportunities.



We were very proud, on March 14th, to welcome HRH Duke of Kent to Trinity Academy for our official opening ceremony. He met with students and staff and enjoyed some brilliant musical performances before presenting our official plaque and planting a tree in the grounds. The journey to open this fantastic school has been long, beginning in 2016 and it was wonderful to be able to mark the opening in this way.





There have been lots of collaborative events this term. BCCS performed brilliantly with Churchill Academy in the stunning St George's concert hall for the young artist showcase event and CPS were proud to be involved in musical performances at the raising the flag on Commonwealth Day.



HPPS consolidated their grip on sporting achievements across the city this month with another win becoming Bristol Year 5 Hockey Champions as well as winning bronze medals for Y5/6 Boys' Football, Y5/6 Girls' Football and Y4 Football Teams. Huge congratulations to all involved.



Last week Trinity Academy also hosted all of the Year 2 children on a music experience day with Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and BCCS Big Band. As ever, it was incredible to see children from all of our primary schools singing and performing together. The Trust full music concert takes place in Bristol Cathedral on the 25th May where all of our schools will perform together for the first time in nearly three years!

At St Katherine's, following their successful OFSTED inspection before Christmas which resulted in a well-deserved (strong) 'Good' rating ([click here for the report](#)) there has been further success in a range of different areas including finalists in the National Finals of the Young Writer competition; local winners of an art mural design competition and a Girls' Avon Schools cross country competition. Amazing achievements and well done to everyone involved.



At Victoria Park, children in Year 4 proudly took part in February's Bedminster Lantern Parade. Their giant birthday cake - celebrating the 75th anniversary of Bristol's link with Bordeaux in France - bobbed along North Street in time with the Bristol Samba Band, flanked by a willing team of pupils, parent volunteers and staff. Since I last wrote to you the school was visited by Ofsted and received a very [positive report](#). Well done to the team at VPPS.



Our pupils at Hotwells Primary school have had a very busy term with a huge range of exciting activities exploring creativity, citizenship and enjoying forest school. They also held a fantastic science week with visiting speakers, workshops and lots of fun inspiring many budding scientists and engineers. Watch this space for the future!

All of our year three children competed in the dodgeball competition at Trinity Academy and are, I am sure, looking forward to their CST Primary Sports Day held, as usual, at Headley Park Primary School in the summer.



Stoke Park Primary School have also had another busy term with music and sport all going from strength to strength. World Book Day was a highlight again this year and the pupils particularly loved coming back to school for 'Book at Bedtime' during the evening

St Werburgh's Year 5 pupils were extremely proud to be asked to represent St Werburgh's Primary School at a fundraising event for St Pauls Carnival held at Bristol Old Vic on Tuesday 29th March. They played brilliantly, with the support of Alphonse from Bristol Beacon, and were excited to have the opportunity to meet Levi Roots and play in such a beautiful venue.



As you can see it has been a very busy term indeed. None of this could happen without an extremely dedicated, talented team of staff, enthusiastic and inspiring children and supportive and generous families so thank you to all of you who have contributed to our family of schools this term.

Thank you also for your support in our efforts to raise funds for Ukraine - we have now raised over £14,000 and donations are still coming in. We are aware that some of our Trust families have volunteered to host Ukrainian refugee families. If you know of any children who need a place in a school, we will do our best to help where we can. We currently have a little more space in our

primary schools than in our secondary schools but please do get in touch on admissions@cathedralschoolstrust.org.

Last month the government released their plans for education in both a white paper and SEND green paper. [Opportunities for all White Paper](#). There is much for us to consider but it is clear that the government continues to be supportive of the multi school system.

This month also sees the beginning of Ramadan and we will once again be hosting our Community Iftars for both our primary and secondary students on 28th April. Children in our primary schools have been invited to an event in school to learn about Ramadan and Iftar with external guests and try some traditional food used to break the fast during Ramadan. Our students and their families in our secondary schools will be invited to our 6th community IFTAR either virtually or in person for an evening of information sharing, discussion and celebration. We very much hope that many of you can join us for this event and further information has been shared through your individual schools.

There is clearly a lot to look forward to next term including our first Trust concert since 2019, sports days, careers fairs and dance festivals as well as, of course, our first set of public examinations since 2019! I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break and I look forward to seeing many of you in our schools next term.

Best wishes



Neil Blundell