



Dear parents and carers,

Since our last letter Ofsted have visited Stoke Park Primary School and we were delighted that the report was so positive about the achievements and progress that the school has made over the last two years. Please click [here](#) to see the report.

Our annual trust conference took place at the end of October and the theme was oracy. This is an important occasion for the family of schools as it gives us an opportunity to come together and collaborate in person. Over the last few years we have consistently referenced our values of 'Reflective, Collaborative, Creative' across our community. As we mature as an organisation we have taken the opportunity to revisit our mission statement and in my address I referenced this. Our mission is set out below:

**We are here to:**

**Break barriers, achieve excellence**

We are committed to working with all our children, recognising their unique values, nurturing and supporting their ambition, and placing creativity, inclusivity and excellence at the heart of all we do.

**Open minds, expand choices**

We are committed to learning within and beyond our classrooms, supporting curriculum breadth and depth with a sustained focus on music and the performing arts.

**Empower the next generation of changemakers**

We are committed to equipping our children and staff with the confidence and tools to effect positive change in their communities and the world.

It is an exciting time for us with future growth opportunities on the horizon. As we get on with that, it is important for us to reflect on who we are and why we exist.

Since our last newsletter a number of parents have contacted us raising concerns over the inconsistent way in which we have responded to world events. In the spirit of reflection (one of the values we hold dear) and in line with supporting our students to be "the next generation of changemakers", I met with a number of parents to listen to their views and consider how we might better move forward in support of our wider community. I agreed that our response to the Ukraine crisis and the Middle East conflict was inconsistent and, with the benefit of hindsight, we would have done things differently.

We discussed how we might better communicate with our community of parents, recognising that the written word is not always the best medium.

It is so important that our students have the opportunity to understand the world, in all its complexity. Difficult events give educationalists opportunities to raise awareness and where our community feels it is important to go beyond that, to coordinate our efforts to fundraise for recognised and reputable organisations in support of international aid.

With best wishes

Neil Blundell  
Chief Executive, Cathedral Schools Trust



## SEND FUNDING



Earlier this year, CST secured funding from Bristol City Council to enhance the quality of our first teaching for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Nurturing academic success for each student within our mainstream schools poses a considerable challenge for educators and teaching assistants alike. To address this challenge, we've collaborated with renowned SEND expert Gary Aubin to refine and elevate our teaching methodologies.

Our approach draws inspiration from the Education Endowment Foundation's (EEF) research-based 'Five-a-day' principle, emphasizing that high-quality teaching significantly benefits pupils with SEND. The Five-a-day components include Explicit Instruction, Cognitive and Metacognitive strategies, Scaffolding, Flexible grouping, and the integration of technology. More in-depth information on the Five-a-day approach is available [here](#). If you have a child with SEND, we recently invited you to participate in our survey and we would really appreciate your responses. Your insights are invaluable to our ongoing efforts to improve and tailor our support for every student's unique needs.

## Curriculum

One of our primary curriculum resources is called CUSP. This stands for Curriculum with Unity Schools Partnership. We follow this curriculum for the following subjects; reading, writing, history, geography, science, French and art & design. The curriculum meets many of our CST curriculum principles and is ambitious, inclusive, and sequenced.



CUSP reflects recent research. For example, the units are taught with a small gap between each lesson so that the pupils have a chance to retrieve the knowledge from their long term memory regularly and are able to build more meaningful learning experiences.

Explicit teaching of vocabulary is another feature; building pupil's word stores and knowledge gradually but consistently over time and giving them a chance to apply that in different contexts. There are also many opportunities to personalise the curriculum and take advantage of the rich learning opportunities that Bristol has to offer.

Finally, there are features of the curriculum that support all learners to access the content and learn together which are called Knowledge Notes and Organisers. These are reference strips for lessons and units which the children can refer to all the way through the lesson. The benefits are that they are able to focus on the learning rather than trying to recall the knowledge. The pupils have commented on how helpful they find them!

Our secondary schools also collaborate with each other across the curriculum. Over the last two years we have worked to align our GCSE syllabi and, as a result, this December all of our Year 11 students took that same mock examinations. In our training day at the beginning of January all of our secondary subject leaders met to compare the outcomes and to look at jointly developing lessons and materials to support all of our children in the vital coming months.





Making music happen



It was brilliant to visit school performances in the lead up to the Christmas break. There is such a wealth of talent within both staff and student communities. The new Bristol Beacon Hall opened in December giving the city a world class concert venue. On Tuesday March 26th we will be holding our trust wide music concert featuring all of our schools. It promises to be a fantastic event with musical collaboration across both primary and secondary phases. Your schools will be in touch with further information on how to get tickets closer to the event. In the meantime we are looking for local sponsors and if you know of any businesses that would like to get involved please [email us](#) or visit our [JustGiving page here](#).



Reflective

Collaborative

Creative



## CST Staff invited to prestigious event at Westminster Abbey

Anne Jelf, Emma Nattress and Flora Slater were lucky enough to be invited to the 'Together at Christmas' carol service hosted by the Princess of Wales at Westminster Abbey.

Flora (pictured right with Emma) said "When we started working with the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust, who have provided three mentoring programmes for St Katherine's students, we had no idea that we would be invited to meet the Princess of Wales in a community centre in Bath to mark Mental Health Awareness Week in May and the Together at Christmas carol service at Westminster Abbey in December. This event, supported by the Royal Foundation, was held to recognise and celebrate the individuals and organisations who support children and young people in their communities across the nation. We felt honoured to be part of this very special occasion and we are looking forward to continuing our partnership with the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust in the future."



Emma (pictured above) said "It was a truly beautiful event where the soul focus was on bringing light to the issues young people face. It was inspiring to meet and hear from others who work with young people and the setting itself was magical'.

Anne (pictured left) said: "It was a fantastic experience, a lovely service in such a magnificent building. We were sat with a great view of the Prince and Princess of Wales and their family. The highlight for me was being sat directly behind an inspirational 7 year old who during the last year has raised over £40k for a children's hospice, by climbing mountains the equivalent height to Everest."

## Staff Spotlight - Tanisha Hicks Beresford

Since 2018, I have had the privilege of being part of the vibrant community at BCCS, where my commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of those I encounter has been the driving force behind my work.

My background spans diverse educational settings, including early years, primary education, and alternative provisions. Throughout these experiences, my overarching philosophy has always been centered on the question, 'How can I make a positive difference?' This question guides my interactions with pupils, colleagues, parents/carers, and the wider community.

At the heart of my educational approach are the values of equity, justice, and belonging. Leading on Equalities involves accepting, celebrating, and promoting the rich tapestry of people's differences. This passion has opened up various opportunities for me, from delivering talks and workshops on equality across the nation, both within and outside the realm of education, to collaborating with universities in Bristol and contributing to a book on equity in education and its sustainability.

I am excited about the prospect of continuing this journey further as CST Equalities lead, fostering environments where every child feels valued, heard, and supported. My commitment to creating inclusive and equitable educational experiences remains steadfast, and I look forward to working collaboratively, building a community where everyone thrives.



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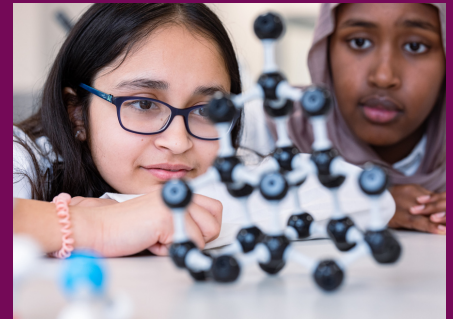
## Trinity Academy prepares for sixth form opening in September 2024

Trinity Academy is excited to be moving to the final stage of its development with the opening of its sixth form in September 2024. The lower school opened in 2019 and has been oversubscribed since opening.

Headteacher Eiron Bailey says, "We are confident that our mission at Trinity translates into a first class and unique 6th form provision where outstanding academic tuition is combined with high level, individual support and a broad co-curricular offer.

This vision appears to have been popular with prospective 6th formers as over 550 people attended two 6th open evenings. The school is now moving to recruit a Head of 6th Form and further A level teachers to join its staff body of outstanding teachers.

Applications for Trinity 6th form formally closed on 4th January 2024. However, due to the high level of applications and demand, the closing date has been extended until 31st January. Any candidates wishing to apply should visit <https://www.trinityacademybristol.org/sixth-form/> and click on the "apply here" button.



## Sixth form places at BCCS and St Katherine's School

From September 2024 we will have 3 excellent sixth forms within our family of schools. If you are interested in places at our existing sixth forms at BCCS and St Katherine's School then please do get in touch with the schools directly to find out how to make a late application.



## WORK WITH US!

There are a number of vacancies for teaching and support staff roles across our schools, if you know of anyone who might be interested then do pass on the details.

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## SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT - YOUNG CARERS

A Young Carer is a child or young adult who looks after someone in their family or a friend who is ill, disabled, or has a mental health problem or an addiction. A young carer may help their family member by doing a range of additional caring duties including: shopping; cooking; cleaning; managing medicines or money; providing personal care; helping get people out the house and providing emotional support.

Being a young carer can often have a significant impact on a young person's health and well-being as they may be investing a lot of time and energy into looking after a family member or friend and therefore not finding enough time for themselves. Young carers often say how stressed and tired they are, as they find it hard to juggle their home lives with school. They can often feel alone and isolated which can have a negative effect on their own mental health and well-being.

At Cathedral Schools Trust we are keen to identify children who might be Young Carers so that we can provide them with the support they need in school. There is more information and support available for families in Bristol and South Glos [here](#) or if you are living in North Somerset [here](#).

If you believe that your child might be a young carer, please speak to the Safeguarding or Pastoral team in your child's school and together we can help you and your child gain access to support both in and out of school.

## SUSTAINABILITY AT CST



We have recently developed a sustainability strategy and action plan and have appointed El Walker as CST Sustainability Lead. Key priorities for the remainder of this academic year include a focus on:

- Energy usage across our schools- monitoring and looking at ways to reduce consumption
- More energy efficient buildings and options for renewable energy on school sites
- Waste collection and recycling measures
- Curriculum development

Longer term we will be looking at biodiversity and improving school grounds, access to outdoor education and nature connection, water, transport and supporting young people to have a positive impact in their schools, communities and the wider world.

If you have any expertise in this field and are interested in supporting our work then do get in touch with El at [ewalker@cathedralschoolstrust.org](mailto:ewalker@cathedralschoolstrust.org)

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