

Trust Newsletter

Term 4 | 2024/25



**Opening of
Mr Slack's
Reading Pavilion**

PLUS | World Book Day • Science Week • School Trips • And More!

Working together to build a community of successful learners

Inclusivity • Dignity • Respect • Ambition

In This Issue

A Message from the Chief Executive	03
Vacancies Spotlight	05
THAT News	06
Deanwood Primary School	07
<i>Opening of Mr Slack's Reading Pavilion, Child Centered Policing Team and Multi-Skills Event</i>	
Thames View Primary School.....	08
<i>Spring Watch, Dancing with Don Rae, STEM day at The Royal Engineers Museum and World Book Day</i>	
Miers Court Primary School	09
<i>Mad for Science, A Wonderful Book Week and A Magical Evening at the Medway Music Festival</i>	
Temple Mill Primary School.....	10
<i>Outdoor Adventures, Glowing Up Our Gardens and World Book Day Fun</i>	
The Rowans AP Academy	11
<i>Red Nose Day Fun, Preparing for a Bountiful Spring and Happy World Book Day</i>	
Hurstmere School.....	12
<i>A Fun-Filled Bingo Night, Supporting the TUB2PUB Appeal and Promoting Safety and Positive Choices</i>	
Waterfront UTC	13
<i>Strood Rotary Tournament 2025, Industry Masterclass, ICE CityZen Project and TDI Challenge 2025</i>	
The Abbey School.....	14
<i>Poetry Live in London, STEM Club, French Trip to Boulogne and British Science Week</i>	
The Howard School	15
<i>Students Become Published Writers, Wonderful Water Competition and World Book Day</i>	

A Message from our Chief Executive

Dear Parents, Carers, and Colleagues,

This term has been incredibly productive for all of our schools and the Central Team.

I have particularly enjoyed witnessing the wonderful celebrations surrounding World Book Day, with so many students and staff coming together to share the joy of reading.

A key highlight this term was the official opening of Mr. Slack's Reading Garden at Deanwood Primary School. It felt only right to unveil this beautiful new space on World Book Day, a day that Mr. Slack loved celebrating with the school. Surrounded by children and staff dressed as their favourite book characters, we came together to honour his memory in a way that truly captured his spirit. A huge thank you to everyone who helped bring this vision to life, and we look forward to watching it become a cherished part of the school.

I was delighted to host an informal chat to discuss Ofsted framework changes and DFE accountability amongst other South-East MAT CEOs in March. It was a productive session with insightful ideas and feedback.

Our schools continue to offer exciting experiences, with guest visitors, alongside school trips home and abroad, cultural visits, and learning experiences that broaden and enhance the education we provide.

These experiences are at the heart of what makes our Trust so special: creating opportunities for students to thrive academically, socially, and personally.

As we return from the Easter break, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to all our staff for their unwavering commitment and hard work. I hope you all enjoyed a well-deserved, relaxing break.

Best Wishes,


O McColgan

Owen McColgan
Chief Executive

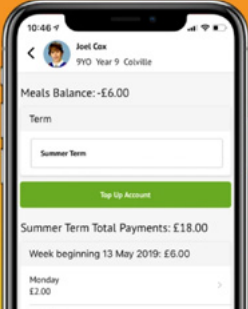


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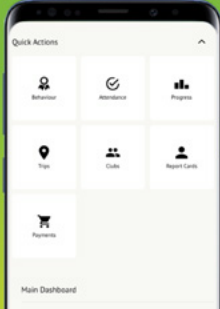
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Staff Awards 2025

Nominations open: 22nd April 2025

It is nearly time to celebrate the outstanding dedication and achievements of our incredible staff across our nine academies.

The Staff Awards are your chance to shine a spotlight on those across THAT who go the extra mile to make a lasting impact on students and the school community.

Watch this space to learn how to vote and help us honour those who inspire, lead, and make a real difference to pupils, staff and their communities every day.



Vacancies Spotlight

Curriculum Leader of Music

Hurstmere School is seeking a passionate and talented Music Curriculum Leader to join their Music Department, in a Curriculum Leader of Music role.

What We're Looking For:

- Someone who lives and breathes music and curriculum
- Committed to excellence in teaching and learning
- Have an unwavering commitment towards our pupils and staff

Why Join Us?

- Competitive salary and benefits inc £5,000 Golden Hello
- Well-being and Lifestyle support and perks
- Exciting career development opportunities

[More details](#) | [Apply here](#)



Hurstmere School

Curriculum Leader of Music

Close date: 29th April 2025

Salary: Full Time £36,143.00 - £53,994.00

Plus £5k Golden Hello!

THE HOWARD Academy Trust



Waterfront UTC

Teacher of Computing

Close date: 25th Apr 2025

Salary: Part-Time £21,731.00 - £49,084.00

Plus £3k Golden Hello!

THE HOWARD Academy Trust

Teacher of Computing (Part-Time)

Waterfront UTC is seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and dynamic Teacher of Computing to join their team with immediate effect. Ideal for Early Career Teachers with good prospects for career development.

What We're Looking For:

- Dedicated to delivering excellence and driving student success
- Forward-thinking and focused teaching for every student
- Have an ambitious vision for our school pupils and staff

Why Join Us?

- Competitive salary and benefits inc £3,000 Golden Hello
- Be part of a small and personable school with big ideas
- Exciting career development opportunities

[More details](#) | [Apply here](#)

SEN Learning & Behaviour Support Assistant

The Rowans AP is seeking a candidate who will be passionate about their tailored curriculum and holistic family support that helps pupils build confidence, achieve success, and prepare for their next steps.


What We're Looking For:

- Someone with a strong commitment to safeguarding
- Ensure a safe and nurturing space where every young person can grow academically and socially

Why Join Us?

- Competitive salary & benefits
- A supportive environment for career growth and staff well-being

[More details](#) | [Apply here](#)



The Rowans AP Academy

SEN Learning & Behaviour Support Assistant

Close date: 22nd April 2025

Salary: Part-Time £25,183.00 - £31,067.00

THE HOWARD Academy Trust

The Howard Academy Trust Students set to perform at the inaugural Rainham Piano Festival with internationally acclaimed Dominic Ferris.

We are thrilled to announce that selected pupils from **Deanwood, Miers Court, and Temple Mill Primary Schools** will be coming together as one incredible choir to perform alongside the internationally acclaimed pianist and Steinway Artist Dominic Ferris at the inaugural Rainham Piano Festival!

Date: Friday, 2nd May 2025

Time: 8:00 PM

Venue: St Margaret's Church, Rainham

This is a fantastic celebration of our primary school community, giving our young singers the chance to perform beloved classics in a special Sherman Brothers medley, including songs from Mary Poppins, The Jungle Book, and some well-known Rodgers & Hammerstein.

Don't miss this unforgettable evening of music and let's support our young stars as they celebrate the power of music together.



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The Opening of Mr Slack's Reading Pavilion

On Thursday 6th March, as the sun shone down on us, we proudly opened Mr Slack's Reading Pavilion and Garden at Deanwood Primary School.

This special space is dedicated to Ollie Slack, who, as well as being Assistant Head, was also the English Lead at Deanwood and whose passion for reading and storytelling touched so many lives.

It felt only right to open this wonderful new area on World Book Day, a day Mr Slack loved celebrating with the school. Surrounded by children and staff dressed as their favourite book characters, we came together to honour his memory in a way that truly reflected his spirit.

A particularly touching moment was when Mr Slack's daughter, Willow, cut the ribbon, marking the beginning of a new chapter where stories will continue to be shared and cherished. We hope everyone will enjoy this beautiful space, just as Mr Slack would have wanted.



A Special Visit from the Child-Centred Policing Team

The KS1 and EYFS classroom was filled with excitement as we welcomed the Child-Centred Policing Team for a special visit. The children, and even Miss Hand, had great fun trying on different police hats, sparking plenty of curiosity and conversation. It was a fantastic opportunity for our young learners to engage with local officers, ask questions, and gain a little insight into the important work they do in our community. A big thank you to the team for their time and enthusiasm!

Multi-Skill event with The Howard School

Miss Manewell and Mrs Player took some Year 3 and 4 children to The Howard School to take part in the Multi-Skill event. This event was organised by The Howard School Sport Partnership and focused on providing opportunities for the children to take part in activities which develop co-ordination, balance, agility and fundamental movement skills. The children had a fantastic time and worked incredibly hard. It was amazing to see their resilience and determination when approaching each task.



The Howard School
Sport Partnership



Year 2's Spring Watch Adventure

Year 2 had a fantastic time exploring Bloors Lane Woods as part of their Spring Watch lessons. They spotted signs of the changing season, listened to birdsong, and took in the fresh spring air.

What was the highlight of the walk? Discovering the Bog Baby hidden among the trees! This magical moment brought their learning to life and sparked plenty of excitement.

It was a wonderful way to connect with nature and see spring in action. Well done, Year 2!



A Star Guest for Dance Workshops!

Today, our Nursery, Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 classes were treated to exciting dance workshops led by Don Rae, who you might recognise from McDonald's or Xbox adverts!

With energy and enthusiasm, Don got everyone moving, making it a fantastic experience for our young dancers. A huge thank you for inspiring our children and bringing so much fun to the day!

Celebrating World Book Day!

We enjoyed a fantastic World Book Day assembly, celebrating our love of reading! We recognised our Battle of the Book champions, top readers, winning classes, and our extreme reading competition stars.

Well done to everyone who took part, including the fantastic costumes. What a wonderful way to celebrate books at Thames View!



Year 5's STEM Adventure at The Royal Engineers Museum

Our Year 5s had an exciting day at The Royal Engineers Museum, exploring careers in the forces and meeting serving members. They're also putting their engineering skills to the test in the Medway Bridge Building Competition. They had a great adventure!



Year 4's Mad About Science Day!

Year 4 had a fantastic day celebrating their love for science with six exciting experiments linked to their States of Matter topic.

From exploring non-Newtonian fluids and chromatography to creating elephant's toothpaste and lava lamps, curiosity was in full flow!

For each experiment, the children made predictions, observed results, and shared their findings, all while showing our STARS values. What an amazing way to kick off Term 4 and ignite a passion for science!



A Magical Evening at the Medway Music Festival

On Tuesday, our choir took to the stage at the Central Theatre in Chatham for the KS2 Medway Music Festival, joining other school choirs for a fantastic celebration of music.

After an afternoon of rehearsals, the children delivered a beautiful evening performance, singing with energy, enthusiasm, and perfect attention to the conductor. They were an absolute credit to the school, and we couldn't be prouder!

A huge thank you to MMA for organising the event, to the staff and helpers on the day, and to everyone who came along to support our young singers. It was a truly special night.

A Wonderful Book Day/Week!

We had a fantastic time celebrating Book Day/Week with a range of exciting activities. From book-themed dance workshops to a magical visit from author Gianna Pollero on World Book Day, the children were truly immersed in the joy of reading. The book swap encouraged children to share stories with one another, while the Extreme Reading and Potato Reading Buddies competitions brought out some wonderfully creative ideas!

We were also delighted to welcome parents and carers to our story time sessions and gallery visits to share in the celebrations. A huge thank you to everyone who took part.





Outdoor Learning

This week in EYFS, the children took full advantage of the warm weather by setting up dens, a gardening area, and a fun camping site!

Using their imagination and teamwork, they built a pretend campfire where they “cooked” marshmallows, grilled sausages, and made delicious hot chocolate.

It was a wonderful learning experience, all while enjoying the great outdoors.



Garden Glow Up

Mr. Patey and his team have been hard at work, clearing leaves, creating garden beds, and painting sheds to give our front garden a fresh new look. Sunflowers have been planted, and even a bench has had a makeover, now proudly painted purple!

To keep the garden blooming, donations of plants, seeds, or pots would be greatly appreciated. If you have any to spare, please send them in. Our young gardeners would love your support.

World Book Day Fun!

World Book Day was a fantastic success, filled with exciting activities for everyone! The children and staff arrived in their cosies, each carrying their favourite books to share.

Our whole school book was *Flooded* by Mariajo Ilustrajo, and each class explored the story through various activities. Some classes focused on drama or art, while others created their own versions of the story or wrote newspaper reports. Year 5 even crafted amazing woven art to represent the rising waters. After lunch, the adults headed out onto the playground with books, and the children had the chance to choose an adult to enjoy a story with.

This mix of children and adults from different classes was such a hit that we’ve decided to make it a termly event!





Red Nose Day Fun at The Rowans!

On Friday, The Rowans celebrated Red Nose Day with a fantastic cake sale and own clothes day, raising both funds and spirits for a great cause. The children and staff had a wonderful time, with the school filled with creativity and lots of smiles.

A huge thank you to all our families for their generous support, whether it was baking delicious treats, donating, or joining in the fun by wearing their own clothes. Your contributions will make a big difference to the lives of those in need, and we're proud to have come together as a school community to support such a worthy cause.



Happy World Book Day from The Rowans AP!

The Rowans AP celebrated World Book Day with lots of creativity, as our classroom doors were transformed to represent different books, characters, and stories, creating a vibrant and imaginative atmosphere throughout the school.

The students and staff had a wonderful time admiring the artwork, discussing their favourite books, and sharing their love of reading.



Preparing for a Bountiful Spring at The Rowans

Pupils at The Rowans have been busy getting the poly-tunnel ready for planting delicious fruit and vegetables this spring.

It's wonderful to see the students taking such pride in their work, and we can't wait to watch the plants grow and flourish. This hands-on activity is not only a fun learning opportunity, but also a great way to connect with nature and understand where our food comes from.



Furthering Student's Education and Social Impact

Eyes Down for Bingo

On Friday 14th March, our 'Friends of Hurstmere' hosted a fantastic Bingo Night. The evening was filled with excitement and laughter as families and staff came together to enjoy the friendly competition. With great prizes up for grabs and plenty of fun to be had, it was a memorable night for all involved. We're delighted to share that, thanks to everyone's generosity and participation, the event raised over £700. These funds will go a long way in supporting our school and enriching the experiences we offer our students. Thank you.



Supporting the TUB2PUB Appeal

This is the second year we've supported the TUB2PUB Appeal, encouraging our teachers and students to bring in their clean, empty confectionery tubs. Once collected, we drop them off at our local Greene King Pub.

Over the past five years, the TUB2PUB initiative has collected an impressive 26,253kg of plastic (around 230,000 tubs) raising £23,908 for Macmillan Cancer Support, Greene King's charity partner. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Knife Arch Initiative with the Metropolitan Police

Today, in partnership with the Metropolitan Police, we held a knife arch initiative for Years 9 and 10 to educate students about the dangers of knife crime. Students walked through a metal detector and had their bags searched as part of this proactive safety measure.

Mr. Lever addressed the students beforehand, emphasizing personal safety and making positive choices. We're proud of how respectfully students engaged with staff and officers.

This also served as a reminder of our school policies on fizzy drinks, sports drinks, gum, and aerosols. We plan to continue such initiatives to ensure Hurstmere remains a safe environment for all.



Furthering Student's Education and Careers

Waterfront UTC Hosts MTA Session on TDI Challenge 2025

Waterfront UTC welcomed Sami Ortiz from the Manufacturing Technologies Association (MTA) to discuss the 2025 Technology Design and Innovation (TDI) Challenge. The challenge allows students to showcase their D&T and Engineering work to an industry focused on innovation. Students actively engaged, asking questions and learning about the challenge's requirements. A big thank you to Sami for her support and we look forward to entering this year!

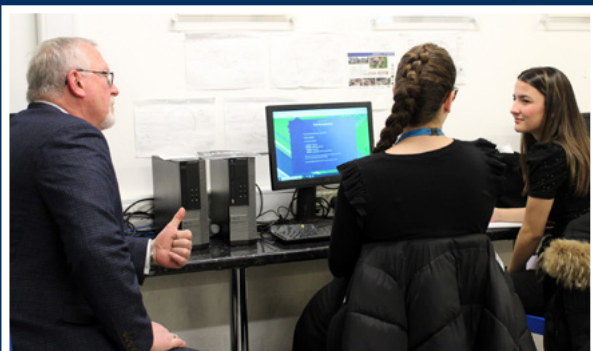


Strood Rotary Tournament 2025

Our students competed in the 2025 Strood Rotary Tournament at The Royal Engineers Museum, marking our third year in this exciting event. This year's challenge was to design and build a launcher to fire a space capsule, represented by a golf air ball, through a hoop and onto a colour ring system. Advanced teams had to add extra features like separating the capsule and guiding it back with a parachute. We're proud to share that our advanced team took FIRST PLACE, winning a cash prize and a site visit to BAE Systems in Rochester! It was a fantastic day filled with creativity, teamwork, and fun.

Industry Masterclass

This week, Year 12 Engineering students participated in the 'Industry Masterclass' Grid For Good programme, with volunteers from National Grid offering valuable insights into the industry. A highlight was hearing from Reece White, a former student, who shared his journey from Waterfront UTC to his role at National Grid, offering advice on apprenticeships and applications. The session focused on interview skills, including the 'STAR' method, and students engaged enthusiastically, asking questions and making connections for future opportunities.



Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), CityZen project

Year 12 students participated in the ICE CityZen project, designing a virtual city and tackling engineering challenges. They explored how civil engineering can benefit communities while developing key skills in teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. Students were ranked on their decisions and created presentations suggesting improvements for their local area. A big thank you to Mark Holland from FM Conway Ltd for mentoring and supporting the students.

Furthering Student's Social Impact and Development

Year 10-12 Students Attend Poetry Live in London

A group of Year 10, 11, and 12 students recently visited London for Poetry Live, and the trip was a great success. The students were fully engaged during the poetry readings, with a highlight being when John Agard took the stage to read and discuss his work. It was heartwarming to see the students' excitement and joy as they interacted with Agard. We are incredibly proud of how well our students behaved throughout the day. They were exceptional ambassadors for our school, showing great engagement, politeness, and respect. We hope the experience will help support their GCSE Literature exams.

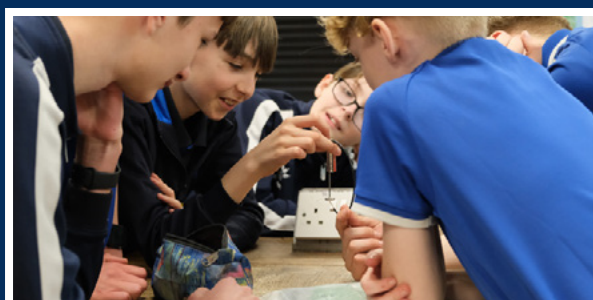


STEM Club Term 4: Desert Island Challenges!

This term, STEM Club faced exciting new challenges, testing their survival skills on a desert island. Each week, students completed a different task to see if they can survive using available resources. They started by making ropes out of plastic bags, which are often found washed up on beaches. The students then used newton meters to test the strength of their makeshift ropes. They also had the chance to dissect fish as part of their survival task, learning about the biology of male and female fish while exploring how the organs could be used for food.

French Trip To Boulogne

On 28th February, 45 students enjoyed a trip to Boulogne. They visited a local bakery, learning to make baguettes in French and impressing the baker with their language skills. The afternoon was spent at Nausicaá Aquarium, where students explored marine life and conservation, with highlights including a Sea Lion show. Year 11's Tyler R captured some fantastic photos from the trip. Thank you to Mrs. Rule for organizing the trip, and to the staff for their support.



KS3 Students Innovate During British Science Week

During British Science Week, KS3 students explored how science can help clean the air in indoor spaces. They shared experiences of how COVID affected their visits to public places like cinemas, swimming pools, and libraries.

It was an inspiring week of creativity and scientific enquiry!

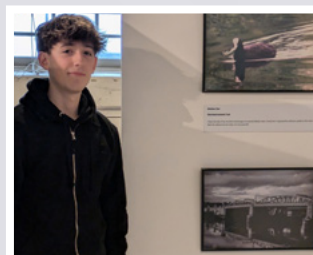


Celebrating Student Success and Social Impact

'Wonderful Water' Competition

We're so proud of our Photography students from The Howard School, who showcased their talent in the 'Wonderful Water' competition, organized by the Medway Sunlight Rotary Club.

At a special event at The Historic Dockyard Chatham, they received certificates for their incredible entries and had the chance to meet the Mayor and professional photographers. Their work is now on display at The Chatham Dockyard, following an exhibition at Rochester Cathedral! A fantastic achievement and an exciting start to their photography journey! Go check out their work and support our rising artists!



Another Milestone for The Howard School!

The Howard School is the 3rd highest for progress among non-selective boys' schools in Kent & Medway, and now officially in the Top 20 for attainment across all schools in the region!

This incredible achievement is thanks to our hardworking students, dedicated staff, and supportive parents. With first-choice applications for Year 7 up 47% since 2021 and our Sixth Form more oversubscribed than ever, the future at The Howard School has never been brighter. We can't wait to welcome our new Year 7 and Year 12 students this September!

Year 7 & 8 Students Become Published Writers

A huge congratulations to 50 of our Year 7 and 8 students who are now officially published writers! Their brilliant poems have been selected for a special Poetry Anthology, and we couldn't be prouder. These talented young writers showcased their creativity and passion during our KS3 Poetry Competition, and now their words will be shared with readers everywhere. An incredible achievement. Well done!



World Book Day 2025

What an incredible day celebrating the magic of books! A huge shoutout to everyone who got involved, from the creatively decorated doors to the exciting staff character hunt, and of course, the fantastic costumes!

Join Our Team

The Howard Academy Trust's aim and vision is for our member schools to work together to build a community of successful learners, and to deliver an outstanding education for children and young people.

To ensure that we can provide this, we pride ourselves in our ability to deliver the support that you need to progress in your career in a way that best suits you.

We welcome new staff and ECTs into our 9 academies in all subjects and key stages, and provide a community which allows for collaboration and the building of a strong and supportive teaching network.

The Howard Academy Trust values employees who

work for our organisation and can offer a variety of support, as well as opportunities to progress in your career with access to Middle and Senior Leadership Courses, role specific training courses for associate staff, and career stage CPD.

We also recognise that your life extends past the workplace and offer an Employee Assistance Programme, flu jabs and health checks at the workplace, subsidised gym membership and regular Mental Health and Wellbeing afternoons.

If you would like to get in touch, to discuss working with us, or how we can support your entry into teaching, you can click the link below. For more information about our ECT offer, visit: mynewterm.com/trust/The-Howard-Academy-Trust



Hire Our Facilities

Did you know that many of our facilities are available to hire outside of school hours? We have a variety of classrooms, school halls, sports hall & gym facilities, dance studios, drama studios, conference rooms and football pitches available, and accept bookings on weekday evenings and weekends!

To see a full list of the facilities available, to check availability and book a location, visit: <https://thatrust.schoolhire.co.uk/>

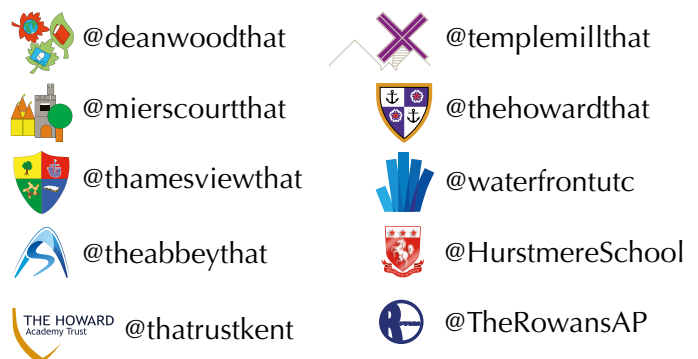


Find Us Online

To keep up to date with everything that takes place within our academies, you can follow us online on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Use the handles to the right when searching for our individual school socials.

You can also find THAT on LinkedIn at: www.linkedin.com/company/howardacademytrust





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community of successful learners*

Our Academies

