

Trust Newsletter

Term 2 | 2024/25



**Remembering
the fallen.**

PLUS | Celebrating 10 years of THAT • Green Careers • And More

Working together to build a community of successful learners

Inclusivity • Dignity • Respect • Ambition

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A Message from our Chief Executive

THE HOWARD
Academy Trust

10th
Anniversary

Dear Parents, Carers, and Colleagues,

Hello and a warm welcome to the latest edition of the THAT Newsletter, where we celebrate the many achievements of our second term this academic year.

It has been an incredibly productive term for The Howard Academy Trust, with fantastic progress across all our schools. From our outstanding educational updates to our continued focus on safeguarding and community engagement, it has been a term of growth and collaboration.

A highlight for us was our Annual Governance Conference, where we welcomed our Directors, Local Academy Board Members, Governors, and Principals to the Historic Dockyard in Chatham. The conference provided a valuable platform for discussion on important topics such as Ofsted and the future direction of our Trust. One of our Local Academy Board Members captured the spirit of the day perfectly, saying, *“It feels like the Trust is going from strength to strength and provides excellent support to its schools.”*

Another significant milestone we are thrilled to mark is the 10th Anniversary of The Howard Academy Trust. Looking back over the past decade, we are immensely proud of our growth and the collective effort that has gone into building a Trust that nurtures young people into confident, capable individuals. This journey wouldn't have been possible without our dedicated staff, passionate leaders, and, of course, our wonderful students.

This term has also seen our schools continuing to enrich learning with exciting local visits, supporting charities, and memorable performances, especially over the Christmas period. These experiences are a key part of what makes our Trust so special, bringing learning to life and helping our pupils thrive both academically and personally.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our staff for their tireless commitment and hard work. We are incredibly proud of what has been achieved this term, and I look forward to sharing even more exciting updates with you in the months ahead.

I very much hope that you and your loved ones enjoyed a very merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Best wishes,

O McColgan

Owen McColgan
Chief Executive



Central Team News

Spreading Christmas Cheer Across the Trust!

The THAT central office has been busy channelling their inner Santa! During December, we lovingly labelled and prepared over 700 chocolate gift boxes to deliver a sweet surprise to our amazing staff across the Trust during the run-up to Christmas. It was our way of saying thank you for the incredible dedication and hard work you put in every single day.

In addition to the chocolates, our Executive Team signed a special set of THAT Christmas Cards, designed by one of our very talented pupils, Nubet from Temple Mill Primary School. Her artwork truly captures the festive spirit, and we couldn't be prouder to showcase it as part of our holiday celebrations.

It was a huge task, but one that was so rewarding. Seeing how our Trust has grown, especially with Hurstmere School joining us in 2024, made the festive season even more special.

We're delighted to have such a vibrant and expanding community of staff who are all committed to delivering exceptional education to our children and young people.

The sleigh (also known as our delivery van!) was packed, and all the boxes and cards were delivered to your schools during December. We hope you received your festive delivery and that it brought a little extra joy to your holiday season.

A huge thank you once again to every single member of the THAT family. Your tireless efforts make a real difference, and we are so proud to work alongside you to ensure the best education for our students.

We hope you had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Vacancies Spotlight

Trust Network Manager

If you're an IT professional with a keen eye for security and a drive to support schools with their digital needs, we want to hear from you!

What We're Looking For:

- A proactive, solutions-focused IT Manager
- Someone who can manage and protect our digital infrastructure
- A passion for education and helping our schools thrive

Why Join Us?

- Be part of a dynamic, growing Trust
- Competitive salary and benefits
- A supportive team environment

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



Teacher of Computing

This is a fantastic opportunity for an experienced teacher or an Early Career Teacher eager to grow their career in a supportive and dynamic environment.

What We're Looking For:

- Committed to delivering excellence in teaching
- Enthusiastic about contributing to the ongoing development of our Computing curriculum
- Drive continuous improvement and inspire students

Why Join Us?

- Be part of small and personable school with big ideas
- Competitive salary and benefits inc £3K Golden Hello
- Be a part of a strong and supportive team

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

Engineering Teacher

Waterfront UTC is seeking a dynamic and passionate Head of Engineering to lead our thriving Engineering Department. This is a unique opportunity to shape the future of our specialist subject and make an impact to student development.

What We're Looking For:

- Enthusiastic about engineering and it's future developments
- Committed to excellence in teaching and learning
- Ready to inspire students and staff through effective leadership

Why Join Us?

- Competitive salary and benefits inc £5,000 Golden Hello
- Be part of a small and personable school with big ideas
- Exciting career development opportunities

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



Central Team News

Join Us in Supporting 'Run for Your Life' A Fundraiser to Promote Health & Wellbeing

Dear staff, students, parents, and families of THAT,

We have a powerful opportunity to come together this January in support of a meaningful cause that hits close to home for many of us.

Jon Cooper, Head of PE at The Howard School, is leading a very personal and inspiring fundraising effort to raise awareness about heart health, fitness, and the importance of looking after ourselves – both physically and mentally.

In January, Jon will be running and walking 43 miles in one day – the same age his brother tragically passed away from a heart attack. This challenge is not only a tribute to his brother, but a reminder of how essential it is to prioritize our health in the face of busy, stressful lives.

Here's where YOU can get involved!

Jon's idea is simple: **he's asking for you to complete 43 miles in January – any way you like.**

Whether it's running, walking, swimming, or even rowing, the goal is to make time for exercise and raise awareness about the importance of looking after our health.

You can spread your miles out however works best for you – 1.38 miles a day or more. Whether you walk to work, take a brisk walk after dinner, or challenge yourself to a daily run, it all counts!

How to Get Involved:

- **Commit to 43 miles in January (however you like – run, walk, swim, or row!)**
- **Donate £1 for every mile you complete (a little goes a long way)**
- **Share the challenge with others – encourage friends, family, and colleagues to take part!**

Why Participate?

This is not just about physical fitness – it's also about the mental and social benefits of moving more. By joining, you'll be part of a community focused on better health and wellbeing, and all donations will go towards a cause that's personal to Jon and so many others – the British Heart Foundation.

Let's show our support for Jon, and a step toward a healthier, happier life.

Please spread the word, get moving, and don't forget to donate your £1 per mile. Together we can make a difference.

Thank you for your support!

**Best,
The THAT Team**

CLICK HERE TO DONATE :

Run for Your Life – JustGiving Page

Central Team News

THAT Annual Governance Conference

On Friday 22 November, we welcomed our Directors, Local Academy Board Members, Governors, and Principals to the Historic Dockyard in Chatham for our Annual Governance Conference.

Led by our Trust Chief Executive, Owen McColgan, the event covered a wide range of vital topics, from Education Updates and Ofsted to Safeguarding and Community Engagement.

Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with one local Academy Board Member sharing, *“It feels like the Trust is going from strength to strength and provides*

excellent support to its schools.”

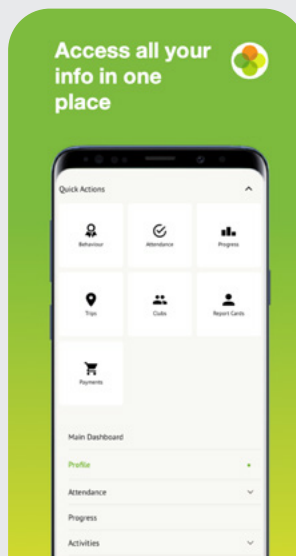
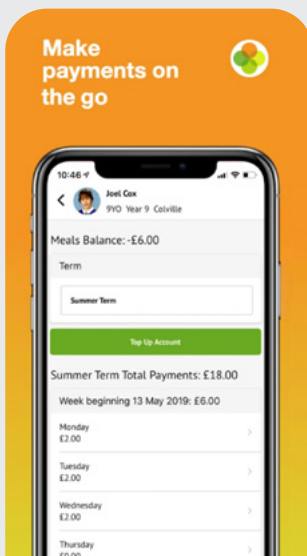
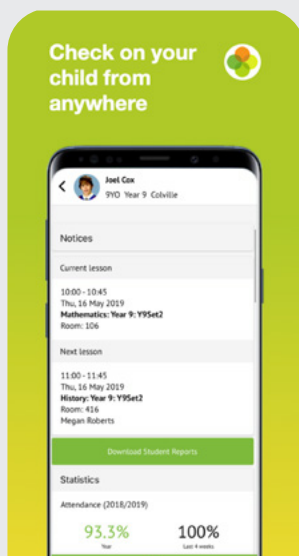
Dr Rowland Speller, Principal of The Abbey School, said, *“The day was well thought through and even more purposeful than last year.”*

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended and contributed. Your insights are invaluable in helping us foster a culture of dignity, inclusivity, respect, and ambition, ensuring that we stay aligned with our strategic goals.

Together, we’re empowering both pupils and staff to thrive and reach their full potential.



Have you downloaded the Arbor app yet?



Central Team News

Celebrating 10 years of THAT



This year marks a decade of incredible achievements at The Howard Academy Trust! Over the past 10 years we have seen:

- **Pupil Success:** Our pupils have grown into confident, curious, and resilient individuals, excelling academically and personally year after year.
- **Outstanding Staff:** Our passionate and dedicated staff have created an environment where both pupils and educators thrive.
- **Academic Excellence:** Consistently outperforming national averages, our academies are setting pupils up for bright futures.
- **Ofsted Success:** Every Ofsted-rated academy in the Trust has achieved or maintained a “Good” rating, reflecting our commitment to high-quality education.

Here’s to 10 incredible years—and many more to come! Together, we’re building a legacy of excellence for future generations.

Transforming Miers Court Primary: A Big Thank You to Our Facilities Team!

We’re thrilled to share some exciting updates from Miers Court Primary School, all thanks to the incredible efforts of our facilities team!

They’ve been working tirelessly to transform key areas of the school, creating better spaces for both students and staff. A huge thank you to everyone involved in making these improvements happen.

Here’s a snapshot of the fantastic improvements:

- **KS2 Toilets:** We’ve invested £26k to replace the toilets in Key Stage 2, providing a more comfortable and modern space for our students.
- **Roof Replacement:** A major £150k roof replacement project is underway. This upgrade will prevent leaks and significantly improve energy efficiency across the school.





What a Wonderful Term in Nursery!

This term has been filled with fun and festive cheer! The children embraced the Christmas spirit, decorating our Nursery tree all by themselves—what a fantastic job they did! We've also loved exploring the outdoors, noticing the changes in weather and feeling the crisp winter air.

Here's to more exciting adventures next term!



Hawthorn Class has been on a historical journey

They continued their historical journey into the Islamic Civilisation of Baghdad, diving into our class text, *The Golden Horseman of Baghdad*, and learning about the incredible House of Wisdom. The children explored Arabic symbols, practiced calligraphy to create bookmarks, experimented with tessellation patterns, and even tried their hand at soap carving!

Thank You for Supporting Our Christmas Fayre!

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who joined us and supported the school Christmas Fayre! We hope you had a wonderful afternoon filled with festive fun—playing games, winning prizes, and soaking up the holiday spirit.

Thanks to your incredible generosity and enthusiasm, we raised **an amazing £967.90** to contribute to our fundraising efforts. This will make a big difference to our school community, and we couldn't have done it without you.



Festive Fun at Christmas Lunch!

The children had a fantastic time at our Christmas lunch! They loved tucking into their delicious roast dinners in the festively decorated main hall. With crackers to pull, jokes to share, and Christmas music playing in the background, the atmosphere was filled with joy and laughter!



Matilda!

Our talented students have been working tirelessly, pouring their hearts and souls into rehearsals for Matilda. Their dedication and enthusiasm have truly paid off, as they recently performed four incredible shows that left the audience in awe. Over 60 of our children performed at the Glassbox Theatre in December. We could not be more proud of our students for their hard work and commitment, both in rehearsals and during the shows. Your passion and determination embody the spirit of Thames View, and you are truly shining stars.



Eco Awards

Miss Bradshaw and some of our dedicated ECO Ambassadors attended the Ashford International Hotel, to proudly collect our Green School Award! This recognition celebrates the environmental initiatives we've implemented at Thames View. A huge congratulations to Miss Bradshaw for her tireless work in coordinating the ECO Squad and driving these important projects forward. We are incredibly proud of our students and staff for their commitment to sustainability and for making a positive impact on our school and the planet!

Cut Above The Rest!

We were incredibly proud of Darcy, a Year 3 pupil, who made a big difference by donating 30cm of her hair to The Little Princess Trust on Saturday, 30th November. This amazing act of kindness helped the charity provide wigs for children and young people who had lost their hair due to illness. Darcy's selfless gesture was a wonderful example of compassion, and we were inspired by her generosity. Well done, Darcy—your kindness made a lasting impact!



Silver At The Medway Sports Awards

A huge congratulations to everyone at Thames View! Mrs. Rogers represented our school at the Medway Sports Awards, where we were honored as **Silver Winners of Primary School of the Year!** This award is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and team spirit of all our children and staff. You've all played a part in achieving this incredible recognition—something to be truly proud of. Well done, Thames View!



Medway Music Association Carol Festival

Our KS2 choir had the wonderful opportunity to perform at the Medway Music Association Carol Festival at Rochester Cathedral. It was an incredible day—our children sang with enthusiasm, displayed outstanding behaviour, and showcased some truly talented solo performances. Two of our students also delivered their readings brilliantly. One of the organisers even praised the choir, saying they were a credit to our school. Well done, choir—your hard work and dedication shone through!



Choosing Respect and Odd Socks

As part of Friendship Week, the children celebrated their uniqueness by wearing odd socks to school, embracing the message that it's great to be ourselves! This year's theme, "Choose Respect," aligns perfectly with our new school promise. During their singing assemblies, the children have been learning the "Odd Sock Song." If you'd like to join in the fun at home, you can listen to the song here: [Odd Socks Day Song](#). Let's continue to celebrate respect and individuality.

Pulling Out All The Stops!

Our Year 6 team were so impressed with one pupil's dedication to his half-term homework! As part of their Victorian topic, he worked with his grandad to create a wooden toy train, just like those Victorian boys would have played with. Using scrap wood, tools like a saw, drill, and ruler, they carefully crafted the train, adding wheels and a string for pulling. The result? A fully functional, moving wooden train! We're all amazed by his effort and creativity—well done!



Displaying All The Colours For Children In Need

The Miers Court community once again showed their incredible support for Children in Need, embracing this year's theme of wearing as many colours as possible. The school looked vibrant and full of energy, with everyone joining in the fun! Stay tuned for the next edition of MCM to find out how much we raised for this important charity. Well done, everyone!



Lighting Up Minds

Reception had a fantastic time celebrating Diwali! The children enjoyed listening to the story of Rama and Sita, dressing up in festive clothes, and dancing to traditional music. They also got creative, making their own sparkling diya lamps, and had the chance to try a variety of traditional Diwali foods. It was a joyful day full of storytelling, crafts, and delicious treats!



Discovering Christmas

This December, Year R has been fully immersed in the Christmas Nativity story. The children have been busy learning songs for their Christmas production, crafting their own Nativity scenes, and exploring maps to locate Bethlehem. It's been a festive and educational journey, filled with creativity and festive cheer!

Christmas Arrives at Temple Mill Primary School

Mrs. Claus arrived in style with her amazing festive bus, ready to whisk our children away on a magical journey to the panto!

The festive cheer was contagious, and the kids couldn't wait to join in the fun. What a wonderful way to get into the holiday spirit!





Furthering Student's Education and Social Impact

Movember Assembly

Mr. Monksfield delivered a powerful assembly to Year 7 and 8 on Movember, highlighting the importance of men's health this month. The goal was to encourage students to start talking about their physical and mental well-being, as too many men suffer in silence. To further support the campaign, several staff members are growing moustaches—so be sure to look out for them and start a conversation! Let's work together to break the stigma and make men's health a priority.



Visit To CGI Sustainability Careers Expo

Hurstmere pupils had the exciting opportunity to visit the CGI Sustainability Careers Expo at the iconic London Stadium. The event offered a chance for students to explore the latest innovations in sustainability and learn about green career paths in this rapidly growing field. It was an inspiring experience, giving our pupils valuable insights into how technology and sustainable practices are shaping the future. A fantastic day that sparked curiosity and opened doors to future possibilities!

Tub 2 Pub Is Back For 2025!

We are excited to continue supporting the Tub2Pub charity appeal this year! From January 6th-31st, 2025, please bring your clean, empty plastic confectionery and cracker tubs to Hurstmere School. All proceeds from the recycled tubs will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Support. Over the past two years, Tub2Pub collected over 5,000kg (50,000 tubs) of plastic, raising an incredible £11,308 for Greene King's charity partner. Your contribution can help make a real difference—thank you for your support!



end2end's Heritage Project

Hurstmere pupils are thrilled to share their collaboration with End2End TV on an incredible project celebrating the rich history of our local schools! Over 600 young people from across the borough came together to uncover stories through archival footage, alumni interviews, and the creation of original music and documentaries. You can find the fantastic films that our pupils produced about Hurstmere School [here](#).

Furthering Student's Education and Careers

Waterfront UTC Attended Their First Kin-Ball Festival

Kin-Ball has become our most popular club, and our pupils showed just how much they've learned, competing fiercely against other schools at the Kin-Ball Festival at Maidstone Leisure Centre. A special shout-out to team captains Lucy and Jennifer for their leadership throughout the tournament. We won ALL 16 games—an incredible achievement! Two Kin-Ball UK coaches praised our team for their skill and strong tactics, which is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of our players.



Year 9s Start Discovery Project at Fort Amherst!

This term, our Year 9 students kicked off their Discovery Project, Command of the Heights, with a hands-on trip to Fort Amherst to learn about the historic Barrier Bridge.

Students were tasked with measuring the old drawbridge, including the drop to the ditch, using a range of tools – from tape measures and range poles to industry-standard lasers. Working in teams, they carefully gathered data and created scaled drawings to ensure their measurements were spot on.

Local MP Visits Career Fair

We were delighted to welcome Lauren Edwards, MP for Strood and Rochester, to our Careers Fair! It was an excellent opportunity for Lauren to meet with our students and the incredible employers who support them.

This year's fair featured over 45 employers, higher education institutions, further education providers, and training organisations, all coming together to help our students explore the next steps in their career journeys. The event highlighted the vital role of UTCs in transforming young people's futures, supporting their transition from education to employment. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this fantastic event.

We're excited to keep growing and look forward to our next Careers Fair – we hope it's even bigger and better!



Furthering Student's Social Impact and Development

11/11/2024 Remembrance Parade

The Abbey School held its annual Remembrance Day Parade to pay tribute to those who have given their lives in conflict. The ceremony included a poignant two-minute silence, with Layton M performing The Last Post, adding a moving touch to the occasion. It was a deeply meaningful event, and the school was incredibly proud of the students who participated in the parade. Their respect and solemnity were a testament to the importance of remembering and honouring those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.



Our First Winter Concert

Year 7 students had a fantastic day learning about midwinter traditions and reflecting on the meaning of the holiday season. They showed incredible courage, performing alongside the school choir and reading specially written pieces. It was heartwarming to see parents and carers joining in the singing and generously donating to kickstart our fundraising for the Teenage Cancer Trust and Young Lives vs Cancer. A huge thank you to Mrs. Le-Brunn Healey for organising the event!

KYCC Elections

On Friday, 15th November, students took part in the Kent Youth County Council (KYCC) elections and House Council meetings.

In the KYCC elections, Abbey's Antani S. was one of nine candidates running to represent young people in Kent, with priorities including promoting inclusion, improving accessibility, and enhancing school access. We wish him the best of luck, alongside Year 12's Oliver, who currently holds a KYCC seat.



House Council

The students discussed charity fundraising ideas, ways to make the house system more competitive, and improvements for The Abbey, such as a girls' football team and non-uniform rewards. They also collaborated with VIBE on policies for Faversham Council, including a cafe/clothing swap, safer crossings, and a potential arcade and bowling alley. Thank you to all who contributed!



Celebrating Student Success and Social Impact

A Huge Congratulations To AW For An Outstanding Year In K1 Kickboxing!

AW began the year with a gold medal at the WKO Metrodome in Barnsley, followed by a silver medal at the European Championships. The pinnacle came with a World Championship title at the ISKA World Championships, securing gold in their age and weight class. To top it off, AW was crowned Grand Champion for WKO in their category. Your hard work, dedication, and talent are truly inspiring—well done, AW!



A huge congratulations to Harry, Owen and Nathan, the winners of the Kent Kindness Champion award at the Kent Mental Wellbeing Awards 2024!

The trio demonstrated incredible kindness when they helped an elderly man who had stumbled while walking. They quickly assisted him, ensured he was safe and hydrated, and helped him get home. Their quick thinking and compassion likely helped save a life. The award was presented by Sara Moreland (Medway Council), Hari Budha Magar, and Lady Colgrain.

£750.00 Raised For Pancreatic Cancer Uk - Movember

This November, a group of staff members—Mr Webb, Mr Murphy, Mr Cooper, Mr Julian, Mr Halsey, Mr Bond, Mr Edwards, Mr Manny, Mr Knights, Mr Hillier, Mr Doe, Mr Flack, Mr Woolmer, and Mr Loftus—took part in Movember to raise funds and awareness for Pancreatic Cancer UK, as well as to promote open conversations about mental health and well-being. This cause is especially personal, as they are honoring the memory of their colleague, Mr Mark Humphrys, who tragically passed away from pancreatic cancer.



Update: Green School Award 2024 Ceremony!

What an exciting moment for The Howard School Eco Ambassadors as they were celebrated at the Ashford International Hotel. These students have worked tirelessly to make a real impact on our environment, leading the way in sustainability and inspiring others to take action. Their dedication has earned them this well-deserved recognition, and today we celebrate their incredible achievement!

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 seven 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: <https://www.thatrust.org.uk/learntoteach>



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.

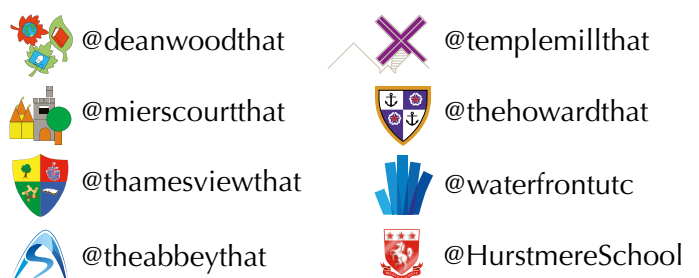
You can also find THAT on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/thatrustkent



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/>



*Working together to build a
community of successful learners*



Our Academies

