

A year of success



THIS edition of TCAT Times really does sum up one of the things that makes The Challenge Academy Trust special.

For as much as we are celebrating the successes at our individual academies we also see what can be achieved when we join together as one.

This is no more evident than with TCAT Goes Live - a sellout performance at the Parr Hall where young people from across our academies entertained the audience with their musical talents.

It was a memorable moment for everyone involved, not least the children who took part, and really does show what can happen when we work together.

Another example of this was the TCAT Mentor Day when students from Priest-

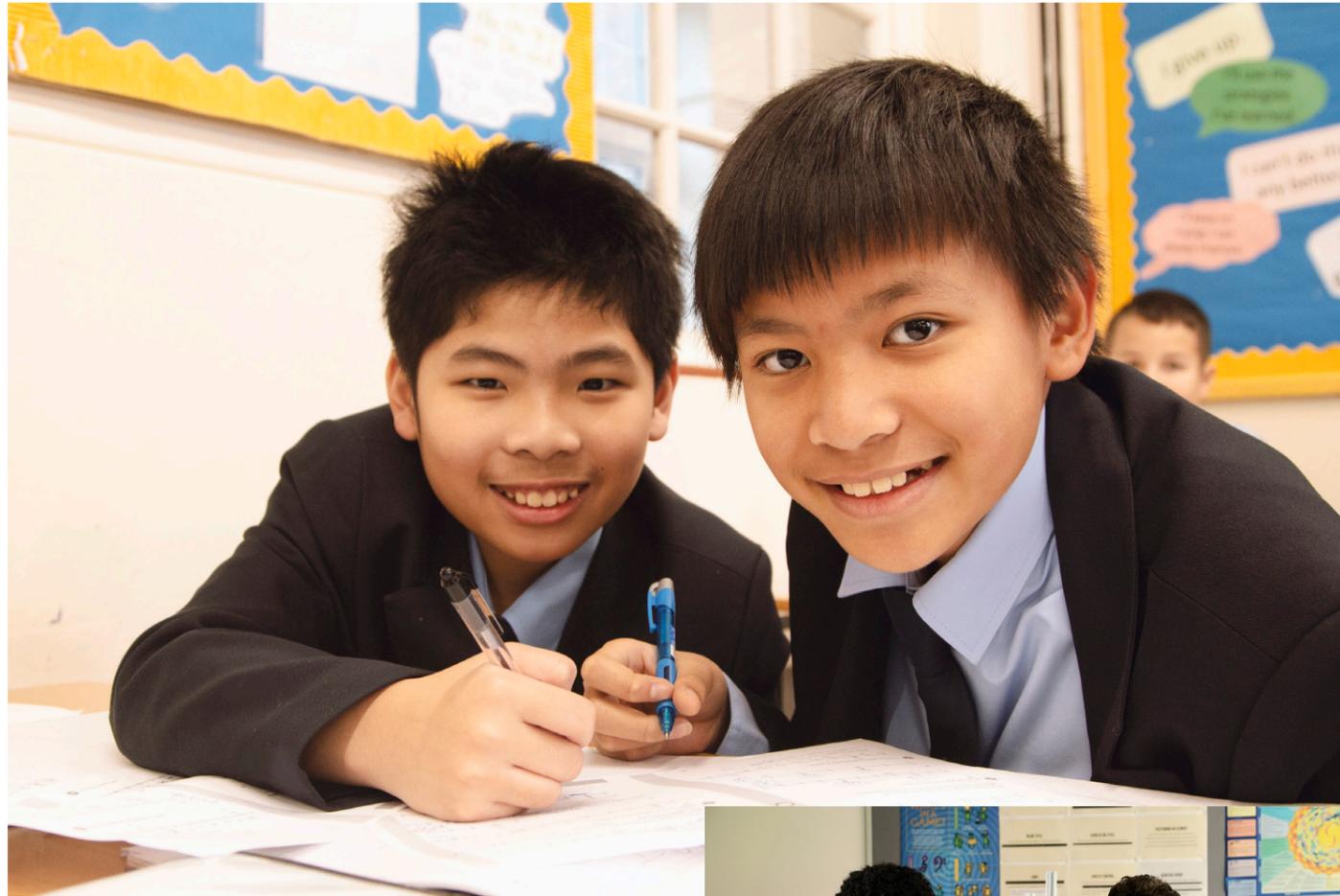
ley College worked with pupils from Penketh High School who are looking to the future to make their next steps.

Across the Trust, however, each and every one of our academies has had plenty to celebrate this year.

Our focus this edition is the most recent of those achievements, everything from the opening of a newly-refurbished library at Meadowside to the expansion of the Upper School at Bridgewater.

There have also been many individual success stories both academic, personal and sporting. So please do take time to read through and celebrate all the good things our young people have done.

Let's hope for more of the same joy and achievement in our academies in 2023 and as continue to give them the best start in life.



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PENKETH HIGH SCHOOL



PRIESTLEY COLLEGE



GREAT SANKEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



PENKETH SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL



BROOMFIELDS JUNIOR SCHOOL



BEAMONT COLLEGIATE ACADEMY



MEADOWSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL



APPLETON THORN PRIMARY SCHOOL



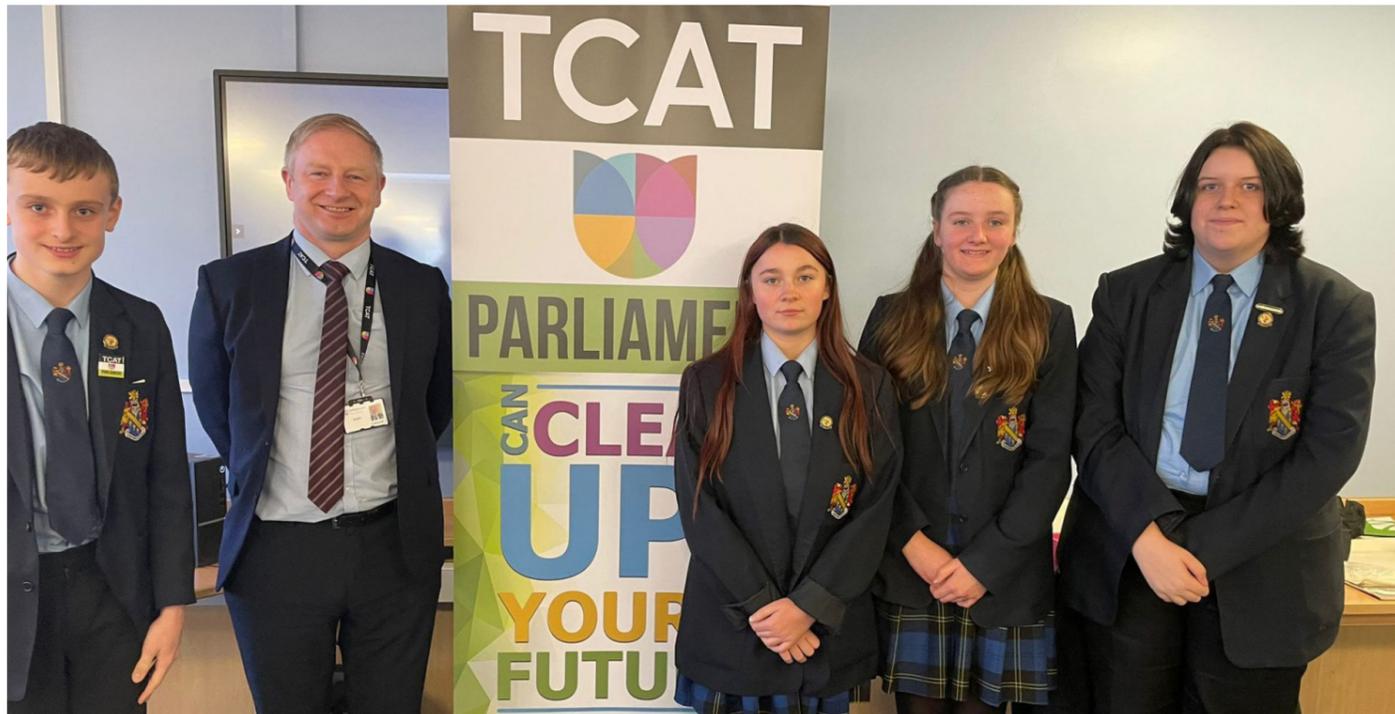
BRIDGEWATER HIGH SCHOOL



SIR THOMAS BOTELER CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL



TCAT Parliament can clean up your future



TCAT Parliament met in early December at the TCAT Centre.

CEO Andy Moorcroft welcomed them and talked about how student voice is crucial to the academies.

They then joined a workshop run by Cllr Hans Mundry and Marcus Devaney from the Environment Agency.

TCAT Parliament will be working towards raising the Trust community's awareness of climate change, as well as gathering student voice on issues in our schools.



School Cup champions



Penketh South CP School's Year 3 pupils won the Warrington School Cup in style. The children performed brilliantly, winning five games out of the five: 15 goals and none conceded. They demonstrated great teamwork and showed respect for their opponents too.



Meadowside Library opens doors to pupils

MEADOWSIDE has celebrated a new chapter with the opening of its refurbished library.

The school recognises the importance of reading for pleasure and takes pride in fostering a love of reading within its pupils.

No doubt many of the them will discover that love in this space, which had to be refurbished after it was damaged by flooding.

A new library card system allows children to check out books to take home both before and after school, so they can visit with family as well as during the school

day. Author Rob Parker – who has written crime fiction novels including most recently 'Far From The Tree' – attended the library reopening.

Curtis Jobling (creator of Bob the Builder and Raa Raa the Lion; and also the author of the fabulous 'Wereworld' series) officially opened the library.

He generated a real buzz around reading by hosting an introductory assembly.

Children had an amazing time feasting in the Booknic (think picnic, but with books) listening

to stories from staff and visiting the fabulous Starbooks for a hot chocolate, cake, cookie or blondie (courtesy of White Lace Bakery) all whilst sharing a book with their parents. They were even able to take some of the books from the 'old library' home.

The day was a huge success thanks to teamwork in the school and the support of the local community.

Huge thanks also to Rob, Curtis, White Lace Bakery, The Education Library Service (ELS) and Rachel from Waterstones.



Festive fun at Penketh

PUPILS at Penketh put their creative skills to the test with a Christmas Card Competition.

More than 100 entries were received, both hand-crafted and digital across all years, with Year 9 pupil Poppy's design crowned the winner. It was then transformed into a card and sent to local primary schools and members of the community. Amazing work by Poppy who was thanked for doing an incredible job representing the school.

It's cool to be kind

GREAT Sankey Primary celebrated 'It's Cool to be Kind' week which always coincides with Anti-Bullying Week.

The theme started off with odd socks day where the school applauded everyone's differences and celebrated uniqueness.

Kindness was celebrated and praised during the week which ended on Children in Need Day where everyone dressed up in something yellow and spotty.





Priestley lands place on Monopoly board



PRIESTLEY College has landed a place on the Warrington Monopoly board.

Priestley occupies one of the prestigious green squares with players having to fork out 320 Monopoly dollars to buy the 'property'.

Winning Moves UK – who make the game – first visited Priestley to find out why the college deserved a spot on the board.

"We have been wonderfully spoilt for choice putting this unique game together," said Jennifer Lau, of Winning

Moves UK. "It's a board celebrating Warrington's past and present and is very much reflective of the times."

The Warrington edition was launched at the end of October at Walton Hall and Gardens.

Among the many local dignitaries, businesspeople and other representatives at the breakfast launch were the four charities being recognised by Monopoly with their own places in the set.

They were St Rocco's Hospice, Warrington Foodbank, The Tim Parry

Johnathan Ball Peace Foundation and Warrington Disability Partnership.

"It's a proud moment for us to be on the board and to support the community as well as the four highlighted charities," said Andrew Moores, who represented Priestley College at the launch.

"We consider ourselves to be at the heart of the community and so it only seems right to see the college's name in this edition of Monopoly."

Warrington Monopoly is available in shops and online.



Charity Club all boxed off

LED by the BCA Charity Club, students at Beamont Collegiate Academy donated toiletries and gifts as part of their Christmas Shoe Box appeal. Well done to all involved for your kindness and generosity.

TCAT Mentor Day success

PENKETH High School welcomed a group of students from Priestley College to its first TCAT Mentor Day.

At Penketh pupils focus on developing a set of wider skills linked to its Dual Curriculum, which teaches the fundamental and foundation skills that support pupils' wider development, and their preparedness for the modern world as well as their academic development within all areas of school.

Pupils are provided with a framework to help develop each of the skills.

The mentor day allowed Penketh pupils to discuss their progress through the framework with their mentor.

Members of Years 7 to 10 were able to spend valuable time discussing their progress and what steps they could take to improve further.

The Priestley Mentor was able to verify pupils' advancement and have the opportunity to support them in developing skills



Kristopher's big medal haul



SIR Thomas Boteler Church of England High School's Year 8 student Kristopher competed at the Barnsley Christmas Sprint in Sheffield with his ORCA Team on Saturday 10th December.

Six races, three medals and gained four new PBs!

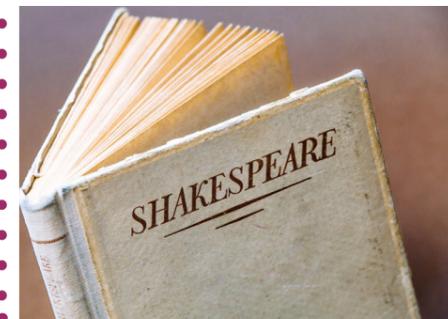
One incredible achievement.

All the world's a stage

EACH year thousands of young people from primary, secondary and SEND schools across the country unite in the world's largest youth drama festival.

Last month Beamont Collegiate Academy's Performing Arts team took to the stage to perform their abridged interpretation of Romeo and Juliet as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival.

The celebratory performance on professional theatre stage was the culmination of months of hard work as part of the academy's enrichment programme.



Biologists' trip of a lifetime



PRIESTLEY College took 20 students to Ecuador where they worked with conservationists and veterinarians to rehabilitate animals while a party of 13 travelled to Eswatini to learn about local culture, tracking animals and identifying species.

The trips were organised by Biology Tutor Louise Naidu who said the experience had enriched the lives of those who took part and given them invaluable entries for their university applications and CVs.



Remembrance: Lest we Forget

Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School held their Remembrance Service.

The service was led by School Chaplain Mike Wildsmith and attended by some of the schools' former student 'Old Boys', including former students who are currently in the cadets and serving in the forces. Current students who are cadets wore their uniforms, and the service was also attended by the Cheshire Fire Service, who brought along a fire engine and a boat.

The first part of the service took place in the schools' Peace Garden, which is decorated by a poppy cascade donated by St Barnabas CE Primary School, clay poppies made by our students and Union Jack flag donated from Bridgefoot cenotaph. The service then continued in the school hall with performances from students, leading to a 2 minute silence at 11am. Year 10 student Hayley Ng played the Last Post on her trumpet. The poppy dress which Head of Art Mrs Sam Joice created in 2017, made from over 900 individual poppies made by students across all year groups, again made an appearance being worn by Year 11 student Amelia Davies. Amelia also sang a solo, 'In Flanders Fields'.

Headteacher Mrs Scott-Herron commented: "It was a very moving Service. As the Boteler Family, today was about remembering those who are with us and those who aren't with us anymore. It is vital that our young people experience reflection within a service and understand



the impact that war and conflicts have on society. The level of respect shown in the service and around school really does demonstrate our Christian values of Hope, Compassion and Endurance. To be able to come together and to remember and reflect it is very powerful."

Bob Timmis, Secretary of the Boteler Old Boys, said "I thought the service was absolutely stunning. It was great to see the young people so involved. Bearing

in mind that I was here when it was a grammar school; pupils did not have as much involvement in these things as they do now. And that is one empowering thing to see happening."

Boteler Trustee Hans Mundry commented: "The service really demonstrates that we should always remember the people who have sacrificed their lives and their time to make sure that we have a better future."

Silver success for Bridgewater's Gabriel

KICKBOXER Gabriel only took up the sport in April last year, but is already picking up trophies.

In May he won silver in the ICO British Open and, most recently, won the WKA Amateur English Lightweight Title, beating his 17-year-old opponent over three rounds.

Gabriel hopes to be a black belt by the time he is 18 and is currently on blue. Later this year he will be fighting in the ISKA British Championship in Birmingham.

Dancers have all the right moves

BRIDGEWATER'S Dance department held a KS3 choreography competition. Competitors choreographed their own solos and group routines to a set stimulus and three external judges marked the competitors during the evening show. All dancers received a medal and certificate.

New books for school library

BRIDGEWATER pupils recently enjoyed a visit to the Educational Library Services in Winsford to choose new books for the Lower School library.

ELS provide library services and resources to subscribing primary and secondary schools across Cheshire, Warrington, Halton and the surrounding area.

Pupils were able to choose from a wide range of new fiction and non-fiction, with a well-deserved stop for cake and squash.



Teamwork makes the dream work

FOUR of Meadowside's amazing artists have worked with staff from FabLab Warrington at Beamont Collegiate Academy to produce their own range of Christmas decorations.

The project's focus was on raising self-esteem and aspiration and to show pupils the potential careers they could pursue in visual arts.

The team worked with new FabLab manager Ashley Diggle who helped them transform their drawings into Christmas decorations that were sold at the school's festive productions.

Meadowside's enterprise team have learnt new skills and used the 3D printers alongside the laser cutter to produce some incredible products about which they can be extremely proud.

World Cup dance experience

A GROUP of 27 children accompanied by some of Great Sankey Primary staff went to the Halliwell Jones Stadium to watch New Zealand versus Lebanon as part of the Rugby League World Cup.

Not only did they get to watch this exciting game, but, at half-time, they got to perform a dance on the pitch alongside some other Warrington schools.

This was all in front of thousands of spectators and TV cameras.

They danced brilliantly and were so proud of themselves, it really was a once-in-a-lifetime moment.

They got a RLWC beanie hat, a medal and a certificate as souvenirs.



Sporting stars at Broomfields lead way

IT has been another exciting term of PE and sport at Broomfields Junior School.

All the children have enjoyed taking part in the new PE and Dance curriculum, playing a variety of sports and improving their fundamental skills.

Year 5 children took part in the Road to Finch Farm football tournament, Years 4, 5 and 6 all impressed in the Walton Gardens Cross Country where the Year 6 boys took first place.

At the Bridgewater Primary Cluster local swimming gala, Year

6 finished in an impressive second.

Additionally, a number of children were lucky enough to try out new sports for the first time at the Warrington Schools' Primary Ability Day, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the children and staff.



Mini Police Officers to serve community



PCSO Dave Mahon visited Broomfields to speak in assembly about the Mini Police Initiative.

Following his talk pupils in Years 5 and 6 wrote to Mrs Morris Brown, explaining why they would like to become one.

They then had to be interviewed by Mrs Morris Brown, PCSO Mahon and PC Muldowney to explain why they could be trusted to make a positive difference to the school and local community.

Before long their police uniform arrived and the pupils were so excited to be invited to their Attestation at Warrington Police Station where they had a tour around the Police Museum and made their promise to serve the community to the best of their ability.

Their role in school is extensive, being great role models of good citizens and educators to parents.

Just this week they were seen out on

patrol at the front of school, addressing the serious issue of parking.

The children offered advice as to where would be safe for parents to park and supported the children to safely arrive at school and leave at the end of the day.

The school looks forward to seeing how this role will develop and the impact these officers of the future will have on safety in our school and community.

Message of inclusion

PUPILS at Penketh South CP found out more about inclusion through some wonderful visitors to the school.

The children met Liam and Jamie from Warrington Wolves Foundation who spoke about living with a disability and how sport, especially rugby, helps Jamie to feel included in society.

The children watched videos of Jamie playing football and rugby and saw how important being part of a team is for him.

Wolfie made a surprise appearance too!



Tradition comes to light

A German Lantern Workshop was held at Penketh South Primary School for KS2 children and families.

Children had researched Sankt Nikolaus and Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 learned different lantern songs in German, which are traditionally sung at their events.

Traditionally, in parts of Germany and other countries, Sankt Nikolaus is celebrated by making lanterns and then having a lantern parade.

Top boy Tyler

TYLER, from Beamont Collegiate Academy, raised £300 for Cash for Kids from his Young Enterprise Project.

He showed determination and resilience by turning his £10 investment into £300 and donated it to a charity.



SEND meet and greet

PADGATE Academy hosted its first Parents and Carers SEND meet and greet, giving parents and carers the opportunity to find out more about the support in place for students at the academy.

The event was led by Kath Bretherton (SENCO) and was a wonderful opportunity to share the inclusive ethos of Padgate Academy.



On the up at Bridgewater

BRIDGEWATER has celebrated the handover of an expansion at Upper School from Reads Contractors and project managers E3cube.

This completed a £4.5million build that began developing both the north and south side of the building.

It was a complex build, but was delivered with excellence by the contractors within

a 'live' school environment. The expansion allows Bridgewater to accommodate a larger number of students on the site and, consequently, Year 9 moved into upper site in November – the first KS3 students to be based permanently on the Broomfields Road site since Bridgewater opened in 1987.

The expansion has provided an extra

five general purpose classrooms; three science laboratories and a science prep room; a drama room and music room; a food technology laboratory; a meetings room and staff rest area.

The student break and lunch area has been extended and Bridgewater have added an additional servery for grab-and-go food items.



Recipe for success



PADGATE Academy Year 9 pupils Danny Bowden and Lukas Peckaitis competed in the Future Chef local final.

The competition helps students for Year 9-11 to develop their culinary talent and supports entry routes into careers into kitchens.

Lukas and Danny were the youngest in the competition and both prepared a main course dish in 60 minutes.



The Creative Arts and Technology department are proud of both for competing in unfamiliar industrialised kitchens and staying calm and focused throughout with four executive head chefs from across the Northwest watching them.

Lukas finished in second place receiving two first place votes out of the four judges.

Awards night for Penketh pupils



PENKETH hosted their very first awards ceremony since Covid and what a wonderful evening it was. The school celebrated its young

people achieving their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. All have worked incredibly hard and a handful have already

continued onto their silver award. Thank you to Mr Graham and Miss Clements-Paterson for organizing the awards.

Christmas joy

Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School recently held their Christmas Fayre. Parents Supporting Boteler, the PTA group, are extremely happy to share that £823 was raised.



Celebration of Performing Arts

AT Meadowside children are given opportunities to shine and a platform on which to show off their talents.

Being a part of The Challenge Academy Trust has given the pupils an opportunity to perform on a bigger stage as they recently took part in TCAT Goes Live at the Parr Hall.

They performed an incredible Cinderella medley of songs from their upcoming pantomime which will be premiering on the 15th and 16th February.

Sensational STEM

CHILDREN at Broomfields have been buzzing about science – hypothesising and testing their theories.

It has led to fantastic discussions and deep thinking and Years 3 and 4 have even completed the STEM Crest Award.

As part of TCAT Broomfields has also fully embraced the STEM opportunities offered by Oxplore.

Each workshop has engaged the children and ignited a passion to study beyond A-Levels.



GSP take over the Youth Zone

AS part of Great Sankey Primary's 'Together We Learn and Grow' topic pupils build positive relationships with peers across the school as well as staff.

These enrichment experiences also allow the pupils to develop skills such as resilience, determination and to push themselves out of their comfort zone as well as to just simply have fun.

It is always a highlight of the school calendar and has previously included trips to Delamere Forest, Formby Point and Croxteth Park.

This year the school visited Warrington Youth Zone. Around 270 children from Years 1 to Year 6, along with 40 adults, had a

fantastic time and were able to experience activities such as the climbing wall, pod casting, roller skating, outdoor games on the rooftop MUGA as well as arts, crafts and inflatables.

The staff at the WYZ were brilliant in facilitating requests and nothing was too much trouble.

