

21st October 2022

Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust

...everyone in our Trust.



Dear Parents/Carers

As we close on the first half-term of the academic year I am once again struck by how much has happened in such a short period of time. As a family of schools, we have some real successes to note.



We have been successful in our bid for the **Turing scheme** which means all of our Year 6 children will have the opportunity to go to France and vastly open up their learning and experiences. Year 6 pupils will deepen their knowledge of History, RE, Art and PSHE through a range of inspirational visits including; the Bayeux tapestry, Mont St Michel, the D-Day landing beaches and the magnificent new British Normandy Memorial. Pupils will of course also further develop their confidence to speak French through a

shopping challenge at a market, as well as visits to partner schools in Normandy. This residential will also enable Year 6 pupils across the Trust to unite and develop friendships in preparation for transition to secondary school.

The Turing Scheme is the UK's global programme offering opportunities in education and training across the world and enabling pupils to develop new skills and gain international experience. This year, the Turing Scheme received 513 applications, a significant increase on last year. Whilst most applications from universities were successful, Dartmoor MAT was one of only 4 schools in the Southwest which was awarded a grant through this highly competitive application process.

In our Secondary schools we have been working with Humanutopia to ensure that our young people have access to motivational and confidence-building opportunities, specifically aimed at improving the mental health and wellbeing of all participants by empowering them to make positive changes in their lives. We believe strongly as a Trust in the power of good habits, as well as a strong academic record, in generating good citizens for the future.

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The **Okehampton College Sponsored** walk took place at the start of the academic year, continuing a well-established tradition to raise money for charity and encourage tutor groups to be involved in a common challenge whilst they get to know each other. This year's chosen charities were Devon Air Ambulance, Cancer Support and Refugee Support Devon and we are delighted to

announce that the money raised has been confirmed as a total of £6279.22. Following a significant donation to Dartmoor NP, the rest will be split equally across the three charities.

We have also partnered with Dartmoor National Park to help students embrace the great outdoors and have launched three new initiatives to enrich the curriculum for our students. From sleeping under the stars to discovery days, the initiatives offer the chance to gain new experiences in the beautiful setting of their local environment, with one even specifically focused on encouraging confidence and exploration in young women. We hope this is just the beginning of our work with the Dartmoor Rangers and that we can continue to engage our pupils with the local environment in the future.



The Students of Tavistock College were invited to a nearby orchard to help pick apples as part of a local farm's annual harvest. The apples were then delivered to Pete's Apple Pressing at Treninnow Farm, where the students' impressive apple collection was made into 242 bottles of apple juice. The students were then given the opportunity to get their creative juices flowing, each designing a label for the bottles which they then sold at Tavistock's historic Goose Fair for £4 a bottle with proceeds donated to the Year 7 community fund.

In addition, as a Trust we continue to work on communication; to improve the relationship and connection between ourselves and you as parents and carers. We have relaunched our [website](#) and ensured that information is more readily available and up to date, as well as sharing news from across our family of schools.

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We have also worked hard on each of the school websites and hope that you are enjoying the added content that is available.

As we go into this October break it is against a backdrop of real anxiety and uncertainty; from rising inflation to utility costs. We are partnering with a number of charities and other organisations to ensure that if you need any form of support, guidance or help we can be there to work with you; please always do reach out and know that we will do our very best for you all - this is a time where we have to stick together, look out for one another and remember that we all deserve to feel secure, safe and hopeful for the future.

Do enjoy the time with your families and as ever a huge thank you for the support you give to our schools and the Trust- it makes all the difference.

Best wishes



Dan Morrow
Trust Leader & CEO

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