

## Welcome. . .

Welcome to the autumn edition of our newsletter to keep you updated with news across our Trust.

You are receiving this newsletter because your child attends a Wimborne Academy Trust (WAT) school – and we are proud that your child and their school is part of our Trust.

This academic year began with some exciting news as we welcomed another school to our family – Queen Elizabeth's School.

That now brings us up to 12 schools, including first and middle schools, a nursery and upper school. This not only makes us one of the biggest multi-academy trusts in Dorset, but it also means we now offer an all-through education for children in our community.

What we're particularly proud of is that, all the time we are growing, we are keeping the same values at heart – we are a

local trust, in the heart of the local community and serving local families.

We also had fantastic news towards the end of the last academic year when we had not one, but five brilliant inspection reports for our Church of England schools.

By bringing our news all together in one newsletter we hope to enhance that sense of working together and being part of one Trust family. Everyone in



the Trust community plays an important role in our success and we are always keen to hear any feedback or ideas parents may have.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Academy News.

**Liz West, Trust CEO**

## Trust offers all-through education

We are delighted to welcome Queen Elizabeth's (QE) School to Wimborne Academy Trust.

This means we now provide an all-through education for children in the local community – from as young as two and right up to 18.

CEO of the Trust, Liz West, said: "We are absolutely thrilled to welcome Queen Elizabeth's School to our Trust, cementing what was already an extremely close working relationship.

"More than anything, we see this closer unity as providing a valuable service to our local community.

"By giving children in the Wimborne area an all-through education, we are also providing continuity – not only for them but also for their parents and families.

"QE joining our Trust opens the door for so many exciting opportunities for all our existing pupils, our future pupils and, of course, our staff. We can't wait to begin this journey."

QE School in Wimborne – which was



founded in the 15th century by the mother of King Henry VII, Lady Margaret Beaufort – is home to 1,550 students from Years 9 to 13 and 150 members of staff.

Acting headteacher Katie Boyes joins the senior leadership team at WAT which, with the addition of QE School, now serves 5,000 pupils across east Dorset.

Katie said: "Three-quarters of our students come from Wimborne Academy Trust middle schools and we wanted to make what was an already strong partnership even more powerful.

"It is a perfect coming together, as we both share the same vision, which is putting students at the heart of everything we do."

# Five of our schools receive glowing report from SIAMS inspectors

## A 'beacon' of education

St John's has been declared a beacon and pioneer of church education in a glowing inspection report.

Our first school in Wimborne has been judged excellent across the board in a SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection.

After giving the top possible rating, the inspector, Lizzie McWhirter, said that St John's was "a beacon Church school and a pioneer within this field".

She also praised the school's dedicated and robust leadership and the supportive culture of care it offers to both pupils and staff.

The quality of teaching and staff knowing every child was also praised for ensuring the school is meeting pupils' needs – with children achieving results above the Dorset and national averages.

The report highlighted the support that Wimborne Academy Trust (WAT) provides, citing that WAT clearly knows the future direction of the school and offers robust monitoring.



The inspector concluded that St John's not only leads the way in what a distinctively Christian school can be, it is also a family "where absolute joy shines through".

Katharine Anstey, who was headteacher at the time of inspection, said: "We were absolutely thrilled to receive such a stunning testament – this is no more than the staff and pupils deserve for their tremendous hard work and efforts."

## Small school wins a huge accolade from inspector

Our smallest school has received gigantic praise following an official inspection.

Witchampton CE First School received the top 'excellent' rating from a SIAMS inspector.

The inspector, Susan Bowen, said the school lives by its ethos of having a big heart, with a culture of love and care clearly articulated throughout.

Parents, the inspector noted, said the school feels like an extended family and goes 'above and beyond' in supporting families. And a member of staff described to the inspector that coming to work felt as if she had two arms wrapped around her.

The school, the inspector judged, is well supported by a committed Wimborne Academy Trust, which encourages its development as distinctively Christian.

Academic progress and achievement also typically



matches or exceeds national averages.

Head of School, Jo Hancock, said: "I'm particularly pleased that the inspector singled out the caring and nurturing environment we provide all our pupils.

"We might be a small school but we have the biggest of hearts."

## Academic and creative excellence combined

St Michael's School has been praised for combining high academic achievement with a creative and nurturing environment.

Our Colehill middle school received the highest possible rating of 'excellent' in a SIAMS inspection.

The inspector, Lizzie McWhirter, said St Michael's had excellent senior leadership, showed strong team work, offers exceptional pastoral care, produces high academic standards for all and has a highly prized creative offering in its curriculum. She also declared that St Michael's values of aspiration, belief and creativity was lived out daily in an extremely supportive environment.

The children, she said, are inspired to achieve well, while staff are relentless in ensuring pupils enjoy school and are passionate about meeting their social and well-being needs.

St Michael's role in the community and its relationship with the local church was also commended by the inspector.

Headteacher, Ron Jenkinson, said: "We are absolutely thrilled with our excellent rating and delighted the inspector praised what we believe is the unique offering at our school."



## Emmanuel's 'transformational journey' praised

Emmanuel has been praised for undergoing a "phenomenal transformational journey" since joining our Trust.

Our Verwood middle school has been declared 'Good' across the board following a SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection.

This is the first time Emmanuel has received an independent inspection since joining WAT in January 2018 as a sponsored academy. Emmanuel was placed in Special Measures by Ofsted in February 2017.

Inspector, Lizzie McWhirter, said: "Being part of WAT has enabled Emmanuel Middle School to be on a transformational journey, whilst preserving its uniqueness, stirred by its vision and values.



"The leadership team has created a culture of high aspirations, going beyond the limits and empowering leaders within the school and harnessing talent amongst the trust.

"Pupils are passionate about the phenomenal change in the school, which is enabling them to live out the three values of excellence, endeavour and enjoyment."

The inspector praised the school for being a family unit and investing in leadership, resulting in rising standards and rapid improvement, especially in Key Stage 2 results.

## 'Vibrant' Verwood First receives excellent result

Verwood CE First School has been praised as a vibrant Christian community where pupils flourish academically, socially and emotionally.

SIAMS inspector Lorraine Pugh gave Verwood the top possible rating of 'excellent' and said the commitment of the headteacher was strongly supported by Wimborne Academy Trust leaders and skilled governors.

The SIAMS report also praised Verwood's highly distinctive Christian vision, which it said "permeates all aspects of school life, where every person is loved, cared for and valued".

It highlighted how the school's rich curriculum, combined with skilled teaching, has led to pupils achieving well and academic results are consistently above national standards.

The inspector praised pupils and said they always try their hardest in work and behaviour.

She concluded that Verwood CE First School lives by its values "where everybody matters".

Headteacher, Adam Parsons, said: "The hard work and dedication of all our staff and students richly deserves this recognition and praise.

"We are supported by equally dedicated Trust leaders and governors and we are pleased that this was also noted by the inspectors."



## Rappers strike a chord on plastic

These five superstars transformed into rappers to urge people to recycle their plastic.

The Year 6 girls, from Allenbourn Middle, so impressed people with their powerful lyrics and catchy tune that they were invited to record a demo at Queen Elizabeth's School's music studio.

Now the song has been taken up by Wimborne War on Waste and will appear on its website.

And when the girls got to perform it at a special show at the Tivoli one impressed parent, Phil Tappenden who owns the journal Soft Drinks International, played it to



representatives of Coca Cola and other big soft drink brands.

Phil said: "Recycling, sustainability and packaging has been a big issue in the drinks industry for some time now.

"When I heard the girls' song it really struck a chord with me and I thought it would be great

for people in the industry to hear the perspective of young people."

True to his word, Phil used the girls' track to close his opening introduction at a seminar he hosted for the drinks industry in Coventry.

The two-minute rap, entitled Save, makes an impassioned plea to

people to think twice about how they dispose of their plastic.

It was penned by Lauren Duff on her keyboard and friends Sapphire Taylor, Lacey Smith, Lydia Norrish and Nina Hicks all helped her write the lyrics.

Headteacher of Allenbourn Middle, Cindy Pritchard, said: "The girls have made such a powerful impression with their song and we couldn't be prouder of them.

"As their lyrics say, they are the next generation, and it's up to our generation to listen to what young people have to say on this very important issue."

## A warm welcome to Brian

We are delighted to welcome Brian Boyes as the Trust's new Director of Improvement.

This is a newly created role for the Trust and Brian will be responsible, both strategically and operationally, to provide the support and guidance that will help all our schools succeed.

Brian is an experienced leader, with a strong track record in school improvement, including his most recent deployment as an acting headteacher at a school placed in Special Measures. He is also an advanced skills teacher and nationally recognised Specialist Leader of Education.

CEO, Liz West, said: "When WAT was first formed in 2014, we were seven schools all rated Outstanding or Good. Since then, we have expanded to 12 schools and with Brian's appointment, our school improvement team has been significantly enhanced to support any future growth.



"Brian will also have an important role in working with other education providers through our Wimborne Teaching School."

Brian began his career in 2005 as a physics teacher and has taught in five secondary schools. He has been deputy headteacher at QE School in Wimborne, successfully completing the National Professional Qualification for Headship.

Brian said: "I'm thrilled to be joining Wimborne Academy Trust and taking up such a key position. I am passionate about every single child reaching their full potential and it is wonderful to join a Trust with the same vision and ethos."

## OUR TRUST SCHOOLS

