



Welcome from Dan Morrow, Trust Leader and Chief Executive Officer

As we reflect upon the first half term back of the new academic year, I am struck by the huge resilience and determination shown by the children and young people across our Trust; the professionalism and dedication of our staff that teach and nurture them and by the support and encouragement for all we are doing from you, their parents and carers. We are a co-operative trust and underlining that is a sense of truly being in it together. In all of my years in education and in well over 10 years of headship and Trust leadership that has never been truer nor more evident than in our communities that form this family of schools. Please enjoy this issue that exemplifies the stunning achievements of our schools and take good care over the school break.

European Day of Languages at Lydford

On 4 October schools have been celebrating European Day of Languages. This is a special day for linguists to celebrate the variety of different languages spoken across Europe. At Lydford Primary School the children learnt about why it is important to learn other languages with Mrs Dickinson, and then made posters. Mrs Jordan teaches French across Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust and was very impressed with the colourful and well-presented posters. Wren's poster highlighted that you don't need to be fluent to communicate in another language. Jessica's poster included lots of benefits of language learning and including the fact that 75% of the world's population speak no English at all. Millie stated that learning languages is good for your brain and fun to learn.



Trust Staff Announcement

I am delighted to confirm that, as we continue to strengthen the leadership and capacity of our Trust, we have now appointed Sarah Jones as our Executive Director of Schools, overseeing the education provided across our Primary and Secondary schools. Additionally, Derrick Brett is now our Executive Director of Civic Leadership ensuring that all we do is centred in connecting our schools and overcoming any barriers to achievement. Both are hugely committed to the communities we serve and in ensuring an excellent education for all.



Okehampton Primary Outdoor Learning

Over the past year, at Okehampton Primary School, we have been reflecting on how the recent pandemic has affected the experiences of our young people. We are aware of how children have missed out on vital opportunities to explore their local environment and make exciting new connections with their learning. The team at Okehampton Primary has therefore begun an initiative whereby we aim to create vibrant and creative areas within our school that will excite the curiosity of our young adults once again.

The areas in question will be completely designed and controlled by our young people, to give them a sense of ownership and responsibility. Each class will be creating sculptures to represent who they are and what they have explored this year.

We have been communicating with many businesses in our local area to source some exciting new resources. Mole Avon have kindly provided us with some pallet wood and have been very supportive of this project. We also have been partnering closely with the Devon Forestry England, who recently volunteered to clear a space for our outdoor learning classroom.

Over the next year, we will continue to create and develop our outdoor areas and reflect and develop how our outdoor environment in Okehampton Primary can be used in a meaningful and creative way.



Chagford Primary at Whiddon Autumn Festival

A group of our Year Five and Sixes performed as part of the Whiddon Autumn Festival at Chagford Church on Friday 10th September. They took part in a workshop with young professional musicians led by Freddie Crowley - a previous pupil of the school - before rehearsing and singing in the church in a programme of exceptional young professionals. This was the first time we have been able to perform away from the school since before the pandemic and was very moving for all of us who were there- pupils, families and staff alike. We're looking forward to lots more chances to perform together and to take part in activities in the community.



Bridgerule Cross County

Year 3, 4 and 6 visited Holsworthy Community College and took part in the HCC cross country race. We are extremely proud of all our pupils who took part in this race.



Romans at Boasley Cross Primary School and Northlew and Ashbury Primary School

This term children in Boasley Cross and Northlew Primary Schools spent time learning alongside Clive Pig, a historical storyteller, about the lives of the Romans. The children explored how the Romans lived, including their housing, their pastimes and their toolmaking. We are looking forward to seeing how the workshops they have participated in will help to build upon key skills they have developed and subject knowledge they have gained through Clive's visit. Once again, a huge thank you to Northlew PTFA and FOBS who paid for the visits.



Exbourne C of E Primary

Our school focus Christian value of **RESPECT** is now being championed by our newly appointed **VALUES CHAMPIONS** – their job will be crucial to promoting our Christian values across the school; they will be given extra responsibility across the school and in collective worship also. I would like to personally thank the children who put themselves forward to work alongside me on **VALUES**, **PUPIL VOICE** and other important jobs in school.



Exciting new partnership launches

Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust and Devon Wildlife Trust have started a new and exciting partnership this term, bringing together DMAT's desire to take learning outside the classroom with DWT's experience of working with schools to bring the benefits of working in and learning about the natural world around us.

Packaged as a journey towards "Natural Literacy" DWT will be working alongside outdoor leads and school leadership in each of the primary schools. The aim is to further strengthen the outdoor learning offer as well as propose new ideas to enhance children's understanding of their place in the natural world.



Outdoor learning experiences have been shown to benefit students in a wide range of ways. Not only do we recognise that time outside is good for physical health, but studies show that time in green or blue spaces have a significant impact on mental health. One of the aspects of this project will be the upskilling of staff in using nature as a vehicle for understanding and improving wellbeing, whilst equipping students with tools for self-management. The importance of this has been increasingly recognised, particularly following the pandemic, and is something we believe to be an important part of preparing children for the future.

Academic resilience is shown to improve with time spent learning outside; as it offers a different route to learning, many children also find it particularly stimulating. Alongside this, other 'soft' skills of cooperation, teamwork, communication, and problem solving can be developed in a challenging and stimulating environment.

Integral to the programme, is a pupil voice opportunity called "Wildlife Champions". This is a project that DWT has been running in schools across Exeter for 10 years. The aim is to give children the opportunity to have a say in improving their school grounds for wildlife, whilst also expressing concerns or taking action in their local community. The project will tie into developing our grounds for learning and afford opportunities for children to learn about how our actions can have positive outcomes for wildlife and people.

The project is designed to run over three years with all schools being able to access tailored support for the areas of wildlife and outdoor learning that they want to develop.

We are excited to be working together and are looking forward to seeing what the next three years hold. Watch out for updates. In the meantime, if you want to learn more about DWT visit their website at www.devonwildlifetrust.org



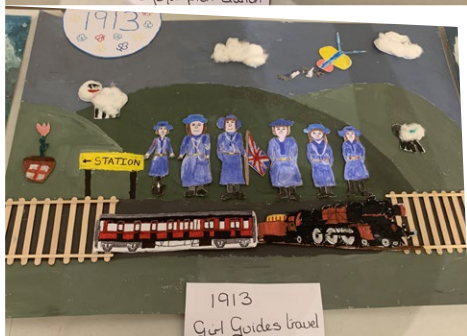
Devon
Wildlife Trust

Okehampton Rail Celebrations

A weekend of celebrations on 2-3 October marked the 150th anniversary of the first public passenger train arriving at Okehampton station.

The Dartmoor Line is scheduled to reopen later this year, heralding the long-awaited return of regular year-round trains from Okehampton to Crediton and Exeter.

Part of the historic timeline created by Okehampton Brownies and Guides



On Saturday 2nd there was a Victorian Tea Party in the Charter Hall with a play of the House of Commons debate making the case for, and against, a railway to Okehampton and on Sunday, the actual anniversary itself, there was a recreation of the events of 1871 with the railway to Exeter.

Friday 17 September was "Railway Day" at both primary schools and every child worked on something for the celebrations that day.

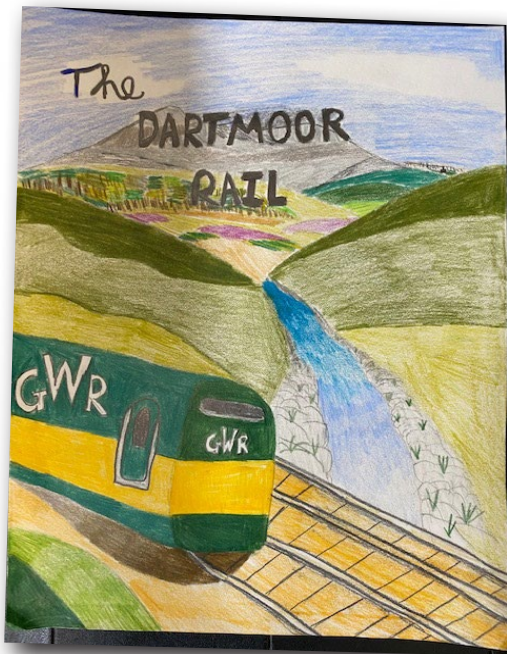
Dan Morrow, Trust Leader from Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust said: "We are incredibly proud of our children and the work they have done to contribute to this historic celebration. Pupils from St James CE Primary, Okehampton Primary School, Okehampton College and the Okehampton Guides and Brownies have all worked really hard to produce poetry, bunting, posters and a colourful timeline and have learnt so much about the Town they live in and the railway. This is truly a whole community event and we have thoroughly enjoyed building these partnerships which will continue."

Clay installation by Year 9 at Okehampton College



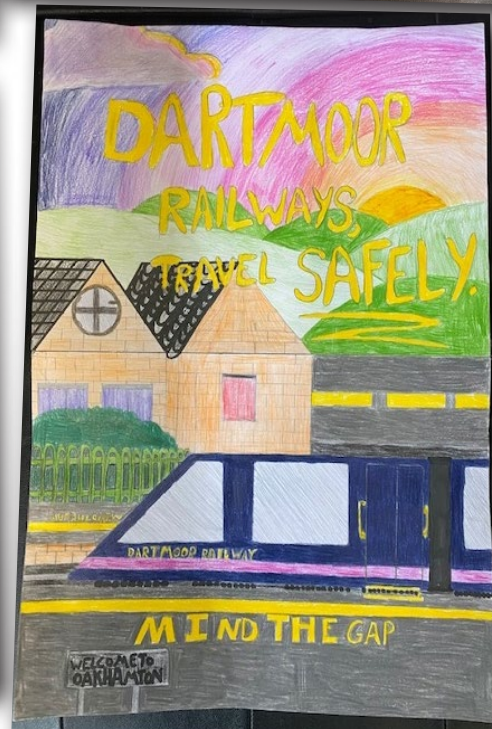
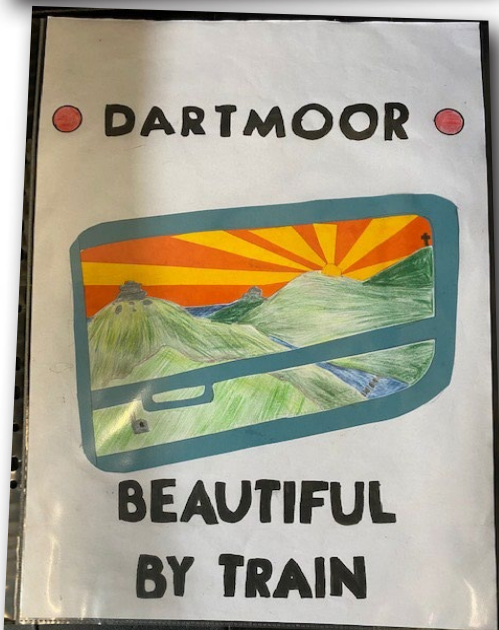
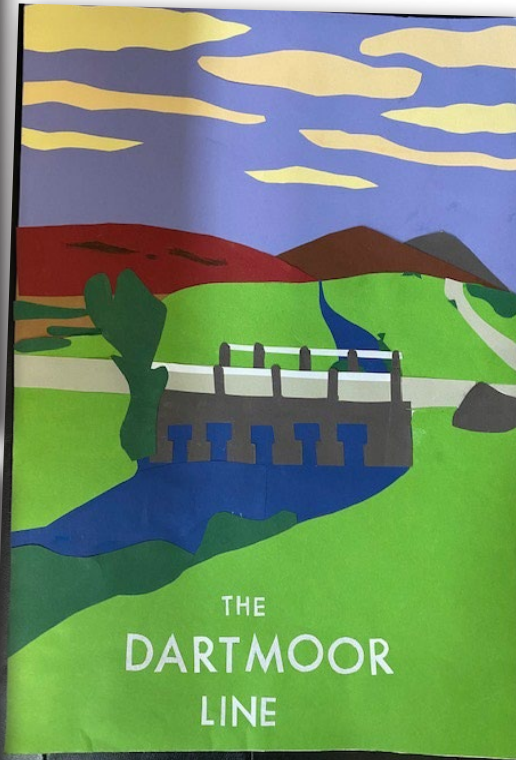
Fore Street, Okehampton

Bunting from Okehampton Primary and St James CE Primary



OkeRAIL
Okehampton to Exeter Railway

Artwork from Okehampton College





FREE Learn Devon Courses

IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH

LEARN DEVON HUB, OKEHAMPTON LIBRARY
JOIN ANYTIME
FRIDAYS 10AM - 12:30

FREE

Feel confident helping your children with their homework this school year. The course covers different qualification levels so the content will be designed to meet your exact needs. This will include the skills of communication, reading and writing.

To find out more and to enrol visit our website learndevon.co.uk or call us on 01822 613701.

IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH: JOIN AT ANY TIME

Wednesday 1pm - 3pm
Holsworthy Skills Centre

FREE

To find out more and to enrol visit our website learndevon.co.uk or call us on 01822 613701.

Finding the off switch - The Art and Skill of Proper Relaxation

HOLSWORTHY SKILLS CENTRE

Monday 25th October 2021
10:30am - 12:00pm

FREE

This course is for anyone who feels troubled or trapped by endless overthinking, anxiety and/or low mood. It is for those who want to learn the art and skill of proper relaxation.

To find out more and to enrol visit our website learndevon.co.uk or call us on 01822 613701.

Finding the off switch - The Art and Skill of Proper Relaxation

HOLSWORTHY SKILLS CENTRE

Wednesday 3rd November 2021
10:30am - 12:00pm

FREE

This course is for anyone who feels troubled or trapped by endless overthinking, anxiety and/or low mood. It is for those who want to learn the art and skill of proper relaxation.

To find out more and to enrol visit our website learndevon.co.uk or call us on 01822 613701.

Coming back to life - Free Yourself from Overthinking/Anxiety/Low Mood and find Wellbeing in the Present Moment

HOLSWORTHY SKILLS CENTRE

Monday 8th November 2021
10:30am - 12:00pm

FREE

Learn how to step out of relentless thinking and emotions and into the peace and stillness of the present moment, at will. This workshop is for anyone who feels mentally burdened or trapped by relentless overthinking, overanalysing, anxiety and/or low mood.

To find out more and to enrol visit our website learndevon.co.uk or call us on 01822 613701.

Finding the off switch - The Art and Skill of Proper Relaxation

HOLSWORTHY SKILLS CENTRE

Monday 22nd November 2021
10:30am - 12:00pm

FREE

This course is for anyone who feels troubled or trapped by endless overthinking, anxiety and/or low mood. It is for those who want to learn the art and skill of proper relaxation.

To find out more and to enrol visit our website learndevon.co.uk or call us on 01822 613701.

Coming back to life - Free Yourself from Overthinking/Anxiety/Low Mood and find Wellbeing in the Present Moment

HOLSWORTHY SKILLS CENTRE

Monday 6th December 2021
10:30am - 12:00pm

FREE

Learn how to step out of relentless thinking and emotions and into the peace and stillness of the present moment, at will. This workshop is for anyone who feels mentally burdened or trapped by relentless overthinking, overanalysing, anxiety and/or low mood.

To find out more and to enrol visit our website learndevon.co.uk or call us on 01822 613701.



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Project Rugby

Our Secondary Schools have benefitted from Project Rugby this Autumn Term where a team from Exeter Chiefs have delivered PE lessons and after school clubs and hope to encourage young people to try out their local rugby clubs.



New Free Special School for Devon!

Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust is delighted to announce we will be welcoming a new free school to our wider family of schools.

Following a successful bid to Devon County Council, the Trust will manage the new Free School presumptive for Devon, which will open in September 2022. The new School will be named the Promise Co-operative School and will be for learners with SEMH (social, emotional and mental health special needs) from the Mid Devon region who will be allocated places by Devon County Council in conjunction with the Trust.

The new school will be located in Okehampton and have 40 places initially for Early Years to KS4 and will grow year on year up to 100 learners.

As a Trust with a strong local identity, it is looking forward to using its strong local knowledge and strong local connections to support all young people – both within the Trust, in the wider area and in Devon as a whole – to reach the best possible outcomes.

The Trust is passionate not only about recognising and meeting needs in the region, but truly impacting the life chances of children and young people across Devon. **Dan Morrow, Trust Leader for Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust**, said “DMAT is delighted to have been successful with this bid and we are thrilled that such an important entitlement for our children and communities will be within the Trust family. This will help us on our journey to be the transformational offer that we know our families so richly deserve. As part of our Trust, the new free school will impact positively not just on the learners and young people who access it, but the schools, and communities from which they are drawn. We’re excited to get this process underway and continue to positively expand our family of schools”.



THE EVERYTHING OKEHAMPTON GALA WEEKEND 22 - 24 OCTOBER

...be a part of it...



Friday 22 October Gala Dinner Evening

7pm (for 7.30pm): Dinner
Okehampton College Sports Hall
Prosecco on arrival
Two course hot buffet
Entertainment from Johnny Cowling
Tickets £35, contact:
Christine: 07881 802055
or visit Donalds Menswear on Fore St.

After dinner silent auction closes.
www.galabid.com/pinkladies2021/items
to view lots and to bid.

Pink Ladies

All money raised benefiting local charities and good causes including the Okehampton Christmas Lights Appeal.

Saturday 23 October Craft and Community Day

10am - 4pm: Rural Craft and Community Fayre - Okehampton College Sports Hall and Pavilion in the Park. Local artisans selling their wares; a perfect opportunity for a spot of early Christmas shopping! Plus, mental health charities day. Come along, reconnect with local groups, find out what is going on in the local area.

FCN THE FARMING
COMMUNITY
NETWORK



7pm: A free evening of musical entertainment in Okehampton College Sports Hall, featuring local talents: Okehampton Community Orchestra, Mariners Away, The Wreckords and TNT Blues Collective.

Sunday 24 October Active Okehampton Day

11am-5pm: Free activity 'taster' day for kids at Okehampton College Sports Hall - come and get a feel for:

- West Devon Swords
- Tennis
- Hockey
- Football with Okehampton Argyle
- Badminton,
- All Stars Cricket
- Zumba
- Walking Football
- Table Tennis

OCRA

There'll be loads going on, fun for all the family. MC for the day is Okehampton's very own Rob Pudner.

www.visitokehampton.co.uk/everything-okehampton



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Okehampton
United
Charities



The Museum of Dartmoor Life

The Museum of Dartmoor Life will be having a spooktacular time on Saturday 30th October from 10am to 5.30pm. Mr Bones, played by Rob Pudner of Entertainingly Different, will be joining us all day for scary stories, poems, songs, tricks and treats. There will be surprises around every corner so be prepared to jump. Children in fancy dress get free entry when accompanied by a fee paying adult (max. 2 children per adult) all children under 4 are always free. Adult ticket price is £5. No charge for ghosts, you can just walk through the walls!

We are always keen to hear your **feedback** about our Trust newsletter.

Please email communications@dmatt.org.uk with any of your comments and/or suggestions.



St Martin's Voices in Concert

St Peter & St Paul Parish Church, Holsworthy

Thursday 28th
October 2021
7 - 8pm

**Tickets: £7.50 (£3 under 16)
including refreshments**
www.smitf.org/tour

The professional singers from **St Martin-in-the-Fields** present an hour-long concert that reflects on themes of love, hope, joy and peace.

Includes choral masterpieces by Thomas Tallis, Hubert Parry, John Stainer, Amy Beach, Ola Gjeilo and James MacMillan.

St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JH
020 7766 1100, www.smitf.org



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St Martin's Music



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