



Let's sing the praises of our young people

By **Andy Moorcroft**

Chief Executive of TCAT

As another academic year comes to an end, it is an apposite moment to reflect upon the year's challenges and successes.

Challenge comes in many forms and although it can feel uncomfortable; it is often necessary for growth or improvement and, as a trust, we navigate these challenges together. We must also celebrate our collective successes of which there have been many.

TCAT Times provides us with an opportunity to do just that.

One such recent success was our latest TCAT theatre performance, TCAT Performs. Yet again, we filled out The Parr Hall in Warrington with parents, carers and relatives who were treated to a magnificent collection of dance, music and drama from TCAT pupils ranging from 7 years of age to 18.

It was a joyous event in which our children and young people demonstrated an amazing array of talent and skill which really embodied the spirit of the trust and the real power of collaboration between our staff and pupils/students.

So, enjoy flicking through these pages and reading about these successes; have a great summer and see you all on the other side!

Academies take to the stage



TCAT Performs took place Wednesday at the Parr Hall, Warrington, in June. Thirteen academies were involved in this spectacular event that showcased the vast array of performing arts talent. From Matilda to Blood Brothers, K-Pop to contemporary dance, it was a night to remember. The young people rose to the

challenge of performing on a prestigious stage to an audience of over 1,000 people and treated everyone to a spectacular performance creating an electric atmosphere. It was a joyful and collaborative event that celebrated all the members of the TCAT community and left everyone feeling extremely proud.

College commitment to inclusivity

Priestley College has been rewarded for its commitment to inclusivity and its dedication to improving the lives of its students. It received the Rainbow Flag Award - a national badge of honour for organisations that work hard to ensure a place feels safe and inclusive. Pastoral Head Jenny George said: "We have skilled teachers,

supportive parents and governors at Priestley. "We also offer an inclusive and diverse curriculum so this approach really is at the heart of our values at Priestley."

The Rainbow Flag Award is a national quality assurance framework for all schools and youth-centred organisations. The award focuses on positive LGBT+ inclusion

and visibility. Priestley's commitment to the award shows how the college wants to improve the lives of all the young people in its care, those from LGBT+ families, and LGBT+ staff members. "Ensuring students feel supported and secure throughout their college experience is a top priority for Priestley," said Jenny.



For more information about the Rainbow Flag Award please visit: <https://www.rainbowflagaward.co.uk/>

Bridgewater Duke of Edinburgh success

Bridgewater congratulates the 40 Year 10 students who have completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition. Completing 50km over the hills of Llangollen – including a 577-metre climb, they all really excelled themselves during a hot and sunny

weekend. It had previously been a rough ride for this year group weather-wise, but their latest weekend finally provided some sunshine. The students could not have done it without the school's amazing DofE Staff team.



Scaling the heights in Lake District

Children at Dallam Primary enjoyed a fabulous day in the sunshine which brought their geography learning to life with fieldwork to support their comparison of Warrington with the Lake District. They showed incredible determination and teamwork as they supported each other to reach the top of Gummer's

How where they took in a breath-taking view of Lake Windermere. It was quite a climb, but the sense of achievement at the top was worth all the hard work. The group was met by Fell Foodie, Harrison, who cooked delicious fajitas on outdoor stoves for their lunch just before they reached the top.

Putting on a show

Despite tests and preparing for high school, Year 6 still found time to put on an end-of-year performance at Broomfields.

'I'm a Year 6, Get Me Out of Here!' was a brilliant performance with super songs and acting. A

favourite moment being Cringe – referring to how embarrassing parents can be.

They produced their own dance routines and even invited parents onto stage to perform trials – which included grammar rules.



Pupils show business minds

Children at Great Sankey Primary put their young business minds to the test during Enterprise Week.

The children were tasked with making a small budget stretch as far as they could with the help of family and friends with the goal of making a profit. Any money made went

towards their end-of-year celebrations.

It was great to see the children's business brains working, haggling prices and coming up with small business ideas including bake sales, loom band and friendship bracelet stalls, splat the teacher, pie the pupil and the traditional tombola.



Titanic Day at Meadowside

Children at Meadowside learned about the Titanic during a special day at school.

They linked their history work in with the 111th anniversary of the ship's sinking by splitting into first-class and third-class passengers, dressing accordingly for their roles. There was dancing, acting,

food tasting and playing games, even the office staff were involved in warning the captain about the approaching iceberg throughout the day.

The children absolutely loved the day and were excited to share details about it with the wider school.



Practically perfect in every way!

Students at Penketh High School recently completed three sold-out performances of *Mary Poppins Jr.*

From the moment the curtain rose to the final applause, the hard work, talent, and dedication of everyone involved shone brightly, capturing the

hearts of the audience, and creating a magical theatrical experience. Every song, dance, and scene was executed with precision and passion,

reflecting countless hours of rehearsals and a deep commitment to bringing this beloved story to life. This incredible achievement would not have been possible without the unwavering support of Penketh High School's amazing staff, dedicated volunteers, and supportive families. From set design and costume creation to managing lighting and sound, the behind-the-scenes team worked tirelessly to ensure that every aspect of the production was seamless.



Art on the menu at Padgate

Year 10 students at Padgate embarked on a unique artistic journey alongside renowned artist Joel Penkman. The day was dedicated to mastering the delicate art of egg tempera and creating original pieces inspired by the photo-realistic style Penkman is celebrated for. Under Penkman's guidance, students delved into the intricate techniques of egg tempera, a medium known for its historical significance and vibrant colour depth.

From mastering the blend of egg yolk and pigment to applying layers with precision, each student honed their skills to bring their artistic visions to life. Teacher Mrs Mitchell said: "Working with Joel Penkman was a fantastic opportunity for our students to explore a meticulous art form and gain valuable insights into the professional art world. It encouraged them to consider how art can be a meaningful part of their futures."



Cambridge trip offers university insight



Twelve students from the South Wirral High School Debating Society embarked on a trip to Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, for a series of debate challenges, an introduction to university life, a financial planning game, and a tour of the city. The first debate focused on the question 'Is space exploration a waste of money?' Postgraduate and undergraduate students from the college presided over the debates, and we celebrated the teams' victories. After lunch in the beautiful

grounds of Fitzwilliam College and a tour of the eco-garden, the students returned to the Trust Room for a university-style lecture on what life at Cambridge is like, along with a 'how to budget' game. This exercise provided our students with valuable insights into available finances, how student loans work, and how to manage a weekly food budget. They then walked around Cambridge, visiting additional colleges and soaking up some history as well as witnessing a protest.

Teamwork Award for Boteler



Six Year 9 students at Sir Thomas Boteler received their bronze award after attending the EDT Industrial Cadet Celebration event at the University of Liverpool. Over 12 weeks the students worked after school and at lunchtimes to create a community garden design. They built a model of the garden, researched innovative engineering solutions and wrote a project report. The students were confident and eloquent as they presented their vision to all of the other teams at the event.

They then took part in some fun STEM activities including coding a robot to move, dance and even display emotions before setting off on a university tour. Finally, at the awards presentation the team's hard work and communication skills were recognised as they won the 'Teamwork Award' where they received a trophy, beating over 50 teams from all over the North West. They also made the shortlist of four in the project of the year competition.

Praise for Penketh South's Early Years provision

Penketh South welcomed more than 50 practitioners from across England to view its outstanding Early Years provision. They spent time exploring the environment both indoors and outdoors including the newly-developed forest school and allotment areas. Staff held some very thought-provoking conversations about ethos and pedagogy as well as discussing in detail how the setting is tailored to meet

the children's needs. Visitors' comments made everyone at the school feel very proud of their accomplishments. One such comment came from the Headteacher of Whitefield Infant School & Nursery (Lancashire) who said: "It was a pleasure to visit Penketh South this morning to see their stunning learning environment carefully-crafted for their children. Very inspirational and such attention to detail...oozing in excellence."



Pupil podcast informs and entertains

All the classes at Dallam Primary created a podcast to share their learning with their friends and families in the spring and summer terms. They practised presenting clearly and confidently before recording their podcast using the radio station. Their podcasts are broadcast via the school tannoy each Friday morning. As well as their learning, each class sets a challenge or quiz and keeps everyone up-to-date with important school news.



Race for charity

Bridgewater staff ran the Race4life 'pretty muddy' 5K event in support of pupil James who is receiving treatment for cancer. Many of James' friends were present, including his girlfriend Evie, also in Bridgewater's Year 11. It was Evie who inspired Bridgewater's teachers to get involved. Evie was also running the Race4life for her mum, Vickie, who is receiving treatment for a rare form of cancer. It was a fantastic day with lots of fun enjoyed by all who participated. The staff team raised £2,731.25 and Evie raised a whopping £5,878.75, giving a grand total of £8,610 for cancer research.



Making maths add up

Year 4 children at Broomfields participated in their First Maths Challenge as part of the school's efforts to develop a mastery of maths in its pupils. The results were incredible, with two children being awarded the highest standard of gold, silver and bronze. Broomfields also celebrated Year 4 for their hard work

and determination with learning their times tables. The school has adopted the Numbersense Timestables scheme, taking the approach of learning 36 key facts in manageable chunks.



Golden times at sports festival



Great Sankey Primary pupils attended Warrington's Primary Sports' Festival. The school's dance troupe performed at the opening ceremony and led the workout for each of the schools before the event. They also walked away with 'Gold' in lacrosse.

Pupils prove they are 'well read'

Bridgewater's Year 7 reading group took part in the final of the Cheshire Book Quiz at Christleton High School, in Chester.

They were accompanied by members of the school's Year 7 / Year 8 reading groups, who had also taken part in the quiz.

Dan Smith, author of 'Nisha's War', one of the books the groups had read, attended and signed copies. He talked about how he

took his inspiration from films, the world around him and history.

After reading five books in six months, and competing against 23 other schools across the Cheshire area, Bridgewater's Year 7 team scored a place in the final, finishing third overall.



World silver for Tom

Penketh High School student Tom, who is part of the TCAT Sport+ program, has secured a silver medal at the World Taekwondo Championships. Tom demonstrated extraordinary skill, resilience, and sportsmanship, distinguishing himself among the elite in the world of taekwondo.

His journey to the podium is a testament to countless hours of rigorous training and unwavering determination.



Ola secures four offers to study Medicine

A Priestley College student has received offers to study Medicine from four universities - the maximum number it is possible to achieve.

Ola Grabarczyk, who studies A-Level Chemistry, Biology and Geography, received offers from Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield and Leeds.

"You are only allowed to apply to four different unis to study Medicine because it

is so competitive," said the former Cardinal Newman Catholic High School pupil. "I'm made up and surprised to have received all four offers, I wasn't expecting it." High-achieving students, combined with thousands of applicants, makes the admissions process for Medicine one of the toughest in the UK. There are only 9,500 places available and an average UK Medical School has an acceptance rate of 16.7%

meaning competition is fierce.

At Priestley this year 80% of students who applied have received offers to study Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science - all of them have taken the Pre Med and/or The Graduate programme, alongside A-Levels as a way of preparing for the rigour of the application process and academic study.



Robbie powers through

Penketh High School's Year 9 Academy Sport+ pupil, Robbie, earned the right to represent England in the Home Nations and UK Armed Forces Weightlifting Cup.

Competing on a stage that brings together top athletes from across the UK is an extraordinary achievement for someone so young, highlighting his potential in the sport.

Robbie not only represented his country with pride, but also achieved two personal bests in the snatch and clean-and-jerk competitions.

The school extends heartfelt congratulations to Robbie, acknowledging the hard work, discipline, and passion that have driven him to this point.



Boys secure their goals



Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School students Joel and Mathias have been selected for the U16s Cheshire Schoolboys' football team. Both work incredibly hard, training frequently in their own time, so this is a well-deserved reward.

Young chemists strike gold

Priestley's Chemistry students pitted their minds against peers across the country in a recent olympiad.

Rachel Da Luz Vieira and William Evans both struck gold, collecting the highest prize in the Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad meaning they were in the top 8% of the 14,915 students who took part. "I was surprised to finish in the top 8%," said Rachel, a

former Penketh High pupil who is planning to study Chemistry at University of Manchester.

"The paper was all about problem solving and applying what we had learned about Chemistry in class."

William, an ex-Bridgewater High pupil, added: "There is a big creative thinking element to it, which is something that I like."

As well as Priestley's Second



Year Gold Medalists, there were four silvers and a bronze awarded. First Years Stuart Roberts and Billy Cave also collected bronze -

a year ahead of when they would normally expect to sit the paper.

Adventures in the great outdoors

Sir Thomas Boteler took 100 Year 7 students for a few days of outdoor challenges and adventures at Colomendy, North Wales. It was an action-packed 72 hours with students challenging themselves to take part in activities designed to enhance their physical, mental and social skills.

Activities included caving, conquering the Jacob's Ladder, tree climbing and the Leap of Faith.

There was a relaxing night walk and an entertaining campfire where the students had the opportunity to toast marshmallows. There was lots of laughter and memories created to last a lifetime.



National honour for rugby players



Two Year 10 students from Padgate Academy, Ellie and Summer, have been selected for the prestigious England Rugby League Talent Hub.

They are two of only six players from Warrington to earn this honour of joining the England Talent Pathway programme.

This award-winning initiative is designed to cultivate the next generation of Rugby League talent and their selection not only highlights the students' potential but also the excellent coaching and support they have received.

Both students currently play for the Warrington Wolves, where they have shown remarkable talent and dedication.

Champions at Penketh South

Penketh South's Year 5 girls' football team played for the Warrington School Cup at Liverpool Academy.

They played nine games in the tournament without any losses – winning it for the third time.

Key to their success was teamwork and supporting one another.



Rowing crews impress on the water

Sir Thomas Boteler's Year 8 rowing crews competed in North West School's Regatta, winning four out of four races.

The girls' crew achieved the fastest time across Warrington schools, and fourth in the North West. The Open crew achieved

fourth fastest across Warrington and ninth in the North West.

Year 8 have been rowing every week and have improved hugely thanks to the support and motivation of coaches at Warrington Rowing Club.



Twelve Penketh High students have planned, written and published a book with the help of Higher Horizons.

From brainstorming intriguing plot twists to crafting engaging characters, the pupils demonstrated exceptional literary skills and a deep commitment to completing 'Error Code: 692'.

The achievement stands as a source of immense pride for the entire school community.

'Error Code: 692' is available now on Amazon.

Learners publish first book



Pride of self

Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School's LGBTQ+ Council held a 'be your true you' day as part of Pride Month. For a 50p donation, staff and students could

wear an accessory to express themselves, and at lunchtime a cake and clothes sale was held raising more than £100 for the LGBTQ+ Council's charity of choice: Peace & Mind.

Great Danish trip for students

Year 6 at Penketh South recently visited a partner school in Denmark on a trip organised and sponsored by the Turing Scheme.

Ten students took part and visited the vibrant city of Vejle, the whole experience of being in Denmark – said to be the second happiest country in the world – provided the perfect backdrop for an enriching experience focused on mental health awareness

and intercultural learning. Penketh students fully immersed themselves in Danish school life, participating in cooking lessons, presentations and a memorable trip to the beach.

The trip to Denmark was undoubtedly a transformative journey that epitomised the essence of educational exchange and cultural immersion.



Magical memories are made

Years 4 and 6 at Great Sankey Primary have made memories for life thanks to their visits to London and the Lake District.

One of the favourite stops was the Warner Bros Studio Tour – The Making of Harry Potter, where the children experienced first-hand the movie sets from the films and learned all about how the movies were made.

They also explored The Tower of London, Natural History Museum, watched a West End performance of the Lion King and dined at the Hard Rock Café and Pizza Express.



Exchange of ideas and experiences

Bridgewater students and staff welcomed new friends from America as part of the Martha's Yard Exchange. In October they visited the region, but this summer it was their moment to return the hospitality. The visitors enjoyed a centurion tour in Chester, The Beatles' Story experience in Liverpool

as well as trips to Conwy Castle and Alton Towers. Host families treated them to restaurant trips, parties, visits to London and, in some cases, to Wembley. As everyone said their goodbyes at the end of trip, which was first held 31 years ago, they realised lifetime friendships and lasting memories had been made.



Overcoming obstacles at Broomfields

Twelve schools from across Warrington brought four teams to take part in the Bales Race at Broomfields. The relay uses the extensive grounds of the school, including jumping hay bales as obstacles.

The aim is to secure the lowest combined score for the boys' and girls' teams. It was such a close race, but Broomfields were thrilled to win the trophy for the Year 5 and 6 race.

Young athletes making waves

A dedicated Padgate student has caught the eye

of scouts as a potential Olympic athlete.



Nifemi Adewusi's talent and commitment to the sport has earned the rower recognition and the opportunity of specialised coaching. Padgate's rowing programme has been pivotal in nurturing the school's young talents, providing a supportive environment where they can hone their technique and compete in local and regional

competitions. "We are incredibly proud of our students' achievements in rowing," said Miss Mills. "Their dedication to the sport is inspiring, and it's wonderful to see their hard work paying off. The opportunity for one of our students to be scouted as a potential Olympian reflects the calibre of talent we have here at Padgate."

Musical lessons worthy of note

The children at Dallam Primary have taken part in lots of music workshops from around the world this term. They have learned Bangladeshi singing techniques to reach different notes – using a chest voice and a head voice to increase their range. An Irish music workshop introduced traditional instruments the children had never heard of

before, including the Irish concertina. This was a wonderful accompaniment to the Irish song and dance that the children learned with great enthusiasm. Finally, children took part in an Arabic and Syrian workshop where they had the opportunity to play instruments including the req, the table and the dof and persevered to do some very tricky Wadha clapping.



Faith's star is rising in computer game industry

A student who discovered her passion for character design at Priestley College has been named a 'rising star' in the computer games industry.

Faith Quick received the accolade after fulfilling a brief set by Grads for Games and standing out amongst around 400 other creative minds from across the country.

"I was surprised at how

well I did, especially when I looked down the list and most of the other people were already at university," said Faith.

"I always thought I might go into animation, but it was on the course at Priestley that I realised how much I loved character design." Grads in Games is an initiative that aims to help graduates become professionals in the

computer game industry. Judges in the competition looked at Faith's work and agreed she was a 'Rising Star in Character Art'.



Northern Lights shine on Penketh students

Pupils from Penketh High School recently embarked on their Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) expeditions, venturing into the great outdoors for an experience that was as challenging as it was awe-inspiring.

The students took on breathtaking hikes through rugged landscapes, pushing their limits while developing crucial skills in navigation, teamwork, and resilience. Each step of their journey was filled with the wonder of nature, culminating in the unforgettable experience of camping under the dazzling Northern Lights.

The shimmering auroras added a magical touch to their nights, creating memories that will undoubtedly last a lifetime.



VR offers a glimpse into the past

Great Sankey Primary pupils were transported to both the Amazon Rainforest and Ancient Greece – without leaving their classroom. They took part in Prime VR workshops, delivered over half a day, allowing children to experience first-hand what life is like in each layer of the Amazon and also to

relive what life would have been like around the time of the first Olympic Games. The workshops allowed children to experience the key learning from their History and Geography lessons in 'real-time' and were followed up by some excellent pieces of work to showcase their new learning.



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