

RAEDWALD TRUST

NEWSLETTER

EASTER 2022



GLOWING REPORT

**Ofsted inspectors praise
Trust for reading programme**

Farmyard friends

Animals help
mental health

Colourful characters

World Book
Day costumes



Ofsted inspectors heaped praise

on the Trust for our tailored reading programme...

OUR reading curriculum developed to reflect the lives of our students has won praise from Ofsted inspectors.

They found the bespoke programme, created in partnership with Greenfields Education, helped students to develop a love reading high-quality books.

They said books on the list were "high quality", reflected the students experiences of students and promoted positive learning attitudes.

The report states: "School staff and trust leaders have a well-considered programme for the teaching of reading. It ensures that reading is at the heart of their overall curriculum approach.

"Texts often reflect pupils' own experiences and interests. This makes an effective contribution to promoting positive learning attitudes."

Books on the innovative reading list are selected so pupils can see themselves in the characters and themes that they read about. There is also literature, which explores wider societal issues such as discrimination, climate change and globalisation.

Lauren Meadows, Director of Greenfields, who helped develop the programme, said: "We are delighted that the Raedwald Trust Readers for Life curriculum has been recognised in this way by Ofsted.

"The provision has been specifically designed to serve the alternative provision community and it is exciting to see the impact that this is having in the hands of great teachers and leaders."

Angela Ransby, CEO of the Raedwald Trust, says the Ofsted report is a testament to the passion and dedication of teachers and staff.

"We are extremely pleased with the report which confirms our firm belief that with expert, extra support, all children can reach their potential.

"As inspectors have rightly pointed out, we have put a lot of thought and effort into our curriculum which, for the first time, focus on the specific needs of our students.

"They say ours is a calm, caring but also academically rigorous environment where children who may have struggled in other settings can thrive.

"This report is a testament to the hard-working and dedicated whose passion for teaching shines through in everything they do in supporting our children.

"Ours is a school and a trust who has always thought differently about alternative provision. We do not see it as a step backwards or as a side step. We are all on a journey and sometimes we don't always take the same route."

Report makes for excellent reading



The provision of books to our students has been praised by Ofsted inspectors.



Lauren Meadows
@GreenfieldsEdu

Replying to @RaedwaldT and @WeldonCat

YES! Reading at the heart of your provision. Love it.

What Ofsted said about us...

Alderwood is a calm and friendly environment. Pupils often arrive at school with previously negative experiences of education. They settle quickly...

Pupils appreciate the way that adults care for them and understand their individual needs well. Pupils reengage with learning and build their self-esteem as a result...

ALDERWOOD Academy has been applauded for helping to rebuild self-esteem for youngsters who have had bad experiences at school.

The centre, part of our family of alternative provision schools, was described as caring, calm and friendly by inspectors following a visit in March.

They praised the school's innovative curriculum specifically the reading programme which is tailored to the students experiences and interests.

In the report, a parent is quoted as saying the school has "surpassed expectation" and has been "the best thing education wise" for their child.

Students are referred to Alderwood via Suffolk County Council for short-term interventions if they are at risk of, or who have been, permanently excluded from school.

Tom Baker, Head of School at Alderwood Academy, said: "This report reflects the commitment invested by all staff here at Alderwood. They always have the best interests of each individual student at the heart of everything they do."

Very proud of our community



When reading this newsletter, I can truly reflect on how humbled I am to be the CEO of the Raedwald Trust.

The responsibility of my role manifests itself in a commitment aligned to the Nolan Principles of Public Service.

These are that someone who serves the public should adhere to the following principles; Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership.

As we move into a post pandemic world, the commitment of all public servants has never been more important.

I, with the people I work alongside and am proud to call my colleagues, believe in the transformational impact of education.

As you will read in this newsletter, this term we have been investing in our students' futures with a range of programmes aimed at giving them the confidence to reach for their goals.

I am proud of what our community achieves; in awe of what the dedication I witness every day; inspired by the promise of future excellence.

It just remains for me to wish you all a happy and restful Easter. We look forward to welcoming you back after the holiday.

Animals are so awesome!

OUR students have been learning about the importance of wellbeing as the Raedwald Trust marked Children's Mental Health Week.

The activities focused on the theme of Growing Together and raises awareness of the campaign towards ensuring every child has access to mental health support.

They learned the importance of nurturing one another during a trip to Deben Community Care Farm.

They also looked at the growth of animals by visiting pregnant sheep due to give birth to lambs.

Head of Outreach, Alice, said: "Seeing the animals teaches empathy and lots of transferable

Farmyard trip helps students mark Mental Health Week...

skills. Being in the natural environment is good for mental health.

"The theme of Growing Together is powerful within the farm environment – the children can then transfer this understanding to other spheres."



Libby and Maya (below left) enjoyed meeting the animals at Deben Care Farm.

Access to mental health services

OUR students and families are being encouraged to look after their mental health with a range of support services.

An NHS study found one in six children aged five to sixteen had a mental health issue.

The NSPCC website has plenty of advice to help you support your child who may be experiencing low mood, depression, anxiety, suicidal feelings or self-harm.

You can access further advice and support at the NSPCC website.

Visit [nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/)

In addition, we recommend the following websites to young people, should they require extra support.

These websites provide lots of information and advice for parents and carers too:

Kooth — www.kooth.com
Teenage Mental Health — www.teenagementalhealth.co.uk

Children and young people can also use the following text/phone services for additional support.

YoungMinds Crisis Messenger: Free 24/7 text mental health support. Text YM to 85258.

Childline: You can speak to someone at Childline about how you're feeling, no matter what the issue. Call free on 0800 1111.

We are here to support and can also access our School Nursing Team for further advice.



Brilliant books and their cool characters

Students and staff dress to impress for World Book Day celebrations...

STAFF and students enjoyed a fun-packed day of reading activities as schools across the Trust celebrated World Book Day.

At Alderwood, our young bookworms enjoyed dressing up as their favourite characters which included Harry Potter and Hermione Grainger from JK Rowling's famous books.

Teachers joined in the fun with Head of School, Tom Baker, donning a red hat in ode to famed literary bear, Paddington. Other costumes included Dr Seuss's Cat in the Hat.

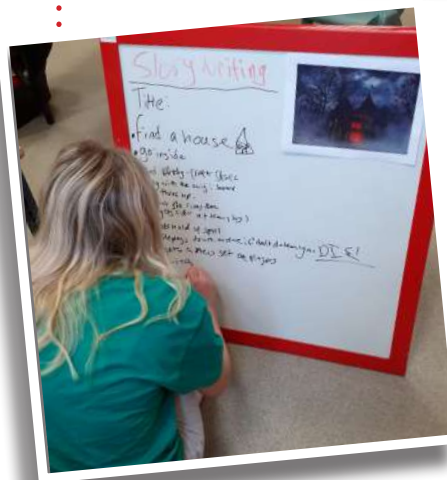
Mr Baker says the event was also a celebration of the reading programme put in place by the academy.

He said: "This year we have really prioritised reading. World Book Day was a great success and enjoyed by all.

"The students got to go into the community library dressed as their characters and explore different books. They also got to visit a supermarket to buy a new book with their vouchers."

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Tom Baker,
Head of School,
Alderwood Academy



STUDENT Libby was inspired to plan and write her own story for World Book Day.



At First Base Bury St Edmunds Academy, children shared their favourite books with classmates for World Book Day.

Striving to innovate

Here to assist our young people

I AM PCSO Whight; I work side-by-side with the Raedwald Trust and the police keeping children safe, in education and out of any criminal activity.

This year, I have a lot planned and to work towards in order to help display the work of young people around the Ipswich area.

These include photography, art and installation pieces to be placed in empty shops within the town centre to stop anti-social behaviour and brighten our town.

We want our schools to be safe and comfortable spaces for our young people to be able to speak about things that are concerning them, such as their mental wellbeing, school, futures and much more.

We have positivity and goal jars which

students can add to over their time here at the Raedwald Trust which will allow them to reflect and look back on what they have achieved or things they have done that are positive.

We carry out charity-based work around Ipswich, helping and supporting different communities.

Our work also involves looking at what needs development around Ipswich which we can then devise and send to the council and groups which can benefit themselves and the wider community.

That's just a few of the things that I am working towards this year. There is much more ahead, so watch this space.

Fundraising is a hoot

Artistic students help hospice with colourful creation...

OUR Parkside KS3 students have showcased their artistic skills by creating a decorative owl which will be used to raise funds for St Elizabeth's Hospice.

As part of a district-wide appeal, The Big Hoot will see up to 40 owls form part of an art trail in and around Ipswich.

Since the start of the project the students have been fully engaged and committed to creating the piece while realising the importance it had within the larger community.

They worked together creating different designs using colour charts and took part in workshops delivered by Big Hoot co-organisers Wild inArt,

Joint Head of School, Sian Sherman, said: "Our students have worked very hard together to create the piece which has turned out really well.

"They have been Inspired by the school's core values to create their designs. They had a lot of fun naming our owl. They choose Archimedes."

The school has raised half their target amount of £650 with bake sales.

Year 9, Aimee, said: "Be positive. That is what the owl represents to me."

Jimari said: "My favourite part has been painting my design for the word creativity onto the owl."

The owls will be on display in Ipswich town centre, waterfront and Christchurch Park from June to September.

Our colourful owl has helped raise much-needed funds for St Elizabeth's Hospice.



Always passionate

Weekly class gives students a taste of the great outdoors

THE nationally renowned nature programme Forest School has been introduced to the meadow area at First Base Bury.

Children are thriving during the two-hour weekly lessons which sees student-led activities such as den building.

Donations and grants have also meant that the school could purchase gardening equipment and outdoor clothing such as wellies.



Head of School, Sonia Myhill, says following lockdown the sessions have proved invaluable.

She said: "The natural environment has helped them with their mental health especially since lockdown where they had very limited social fields.

"The children are really thriving and take part in their activities and go to the shed to collect equipment.

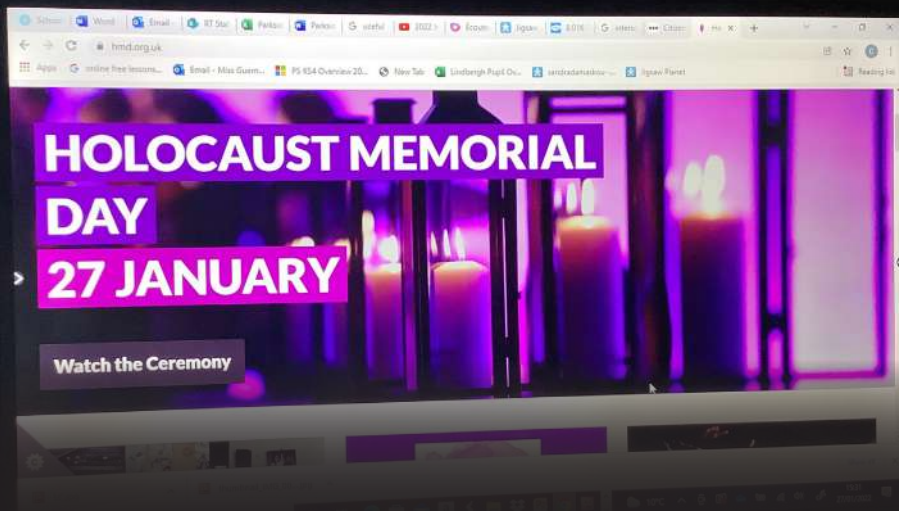
"It is very student-led but following the Forest School programme. They take part in their activities then have hot chocolate where there is time for reflection.

"We are so grateful to Michelle because she worked so hard in transforming the area. It makes a huge difference."

Online safety

The Outreach team were pleased to invite PCSO Ellen Whight to deliver a workshop on internet safety.

It focussed on social media and gaming and followed on from Safer Internet Day which saw the children take part in a range of activities on how to behave safely online.



History lesson is so important

Presentation places spotlight on the darkest of times...

PARKSIDE KS4 students marked Holocaust Memorial Day with a poignant presentation and discussion surrounding its emotive themes.

The session, which was informed by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, saw students view powerful images of everyday familiar objects which were left behind by victims of genocide.

Images of cooking utensils and a mound of glasses recovered from victims at Auschwitz demonstrated the horror of the holocaust.

The students were shown an eye colour chart used by the Nazi's used to select those for transportation to concentration and to death camps across Europe.

They also discussed how propaganda was used by the Nazis to justify their actions and to present an alternative reality. Comparisons were drawn with modern time 'fake news.'

Teacher of PSHE, Nicola Edwards, led the session and says the class

were very engaged and attentive throughout.

She said: "It is so important that the students know what happened during the Holocaust and to other genocides around the world.

"The Holocaust saw the murder of around six million jews, but the Nazis also persecuted homosexuals, native Poles, and gypsies.

"To demonstrate this, we discussed the story of German boxer, Johann 'Rukeli' Trollman.

"The young sportsman was persecuted due to his Sinti heritage and eventually murdered in 1944."

She added: "I think it's important to hear this story. The students were really engaged with it, and it showed lots of different people were persecuted at that time.

"They really absorbed a lot of the information and were interested to hear of Rukeli who was defiant but was tragically beaten to death."

“ It is so important that the students know what happened during the Holocaust and to other genocides around the world... ”

Nicola Edwards, PSHE teacher

Jasmine's on song with award

OUR talented singer Jasmine has hit the high notes by achieving a Silver Music Award.

The award is an equivalent of Grade C, GCSE and has seen the young creative dig deep to develop confidence in performing while developing leadership skills.

Gil Walters, teacher, says he could not be prouder of the teenager's achievement.

He said: "Jasmine has been brilliant. She has worked with vocal coaches and performed John Legend's All of Me as well as an Ed Sheeran song.

"The performance project was partly organised by her and formed part of her leadership skills for the award."

He added: "She only decided to choose singing last September and was really encouraged by staff. Jasmine is so bubbly and positive and she benefited from vocal coaching and organising the concert."



Performing has helped Jasmine improve her confidence while attaining her Silver Music Award.



STUDENTS learned skills such as teamwork on at problem solving resilience camp held at Foxburrow Farm. Harry, Isaac and Alexi completed an assault course between a circle of trees. They helped each other make it all the way round without touching the ground.

Grant for storytellers

Students at Westbridge edited their Tell Your Story video with Jim Horsfield from Slide Productions.



TWO Raedwald Trust centres have been awarded a grant to develop an exciting project called Tell Your Stories.

Westbridge Academy and Parkside KS3 will work alongside Ipswich Educational Partnership and Ipswich Opportunities Area, to facilitate creative collaborations between young people and Ipswich artists.

Teacher, Mr Adum-Yeboah, said: "We were pleased to receive the grant and decided to offer our students the chance to make short films, using the expertise of Jim Horsfield, a digital film and VJ (video jockey) artist with an excellent reputation in the industry."

Jim's company, Slide Productions, has been involved in a multitude of public, corporate and music-based projects.

He is well known in the area for his work at festivals and large-scale projections on buildings in our communities.

Jim is working with 12 students across three RT sites, to help them plan, film, edit and present short films to 'Tell Your Stories.'

Students are working in groups or independently to make one, to two-minute short films or animations.

Mr Adum-Yeboah added: "The project is going well and we are looking forward to the finished results by the end of term."



STUDENTS analysed the work of Issac Newton by making non-Newtonian fluid tarts.



WATCH out Mr Kipling — students baked these tasty Cherry Bakewells.



OUR pupils showed enthusiasm in the kitchen while making hot cross buns in preparation for Easter.



OUR students at Parkside had had fun in the kitchen making American pancakes.

PICTURE CORNER



PARKSIDE students showcased their artistic talent as they work hard on their Arts Awards.



OUR Seals class took part in a courtroom style debate while engaging their love of reading and imagination to decide who from the troll and the billy goat should stay on the bridge.



TV CHARACTER Homer Simpson was the inspiration for this artwork by student Jack.



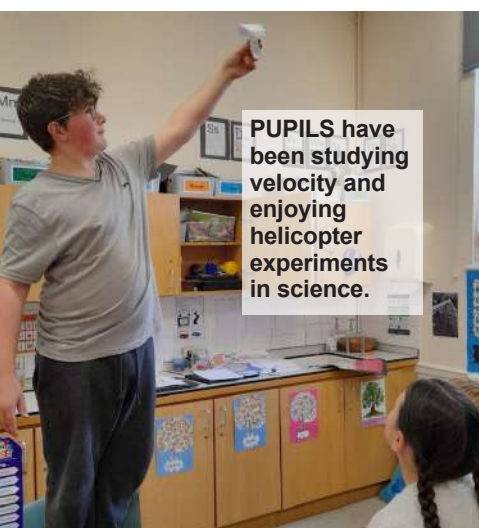
CHECK out this excellent pet portrait by a student.



FIRST Base Ipswich students have been looking at capacity in a creative way in maths by following a recipe to create a troll's potion.



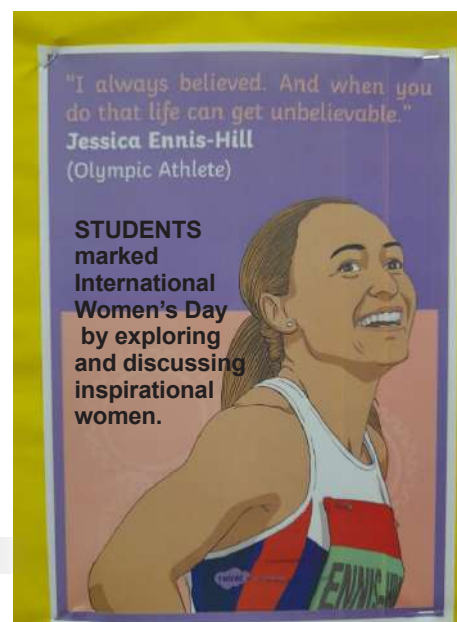
STUDENTS learnt about painting and decorating and visited the Vehicle Spray Paint department at Suffolk New College.



PUPILS have been studying velocity and enjoying helicopter experiments in science.



OUR students had a very special visit from How to be a Hero, Take up the Quest author Cat Weldon.



"I always believed. And when you do that life can get unbelievable."
Jessica Ennis-Hill
 (Olympic Athlete)

STUDENTS marked International Women's Day by exploring and discussing inspirational women.