

RAEDWALD TRUST

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2023

REPORT IS GOOD WAY TO END YEAR

**Ofsted inspection recognises
hard work of staff and pupils...**

AWESOME AWARD

Wellbeing work
earns accolade

LOOKING AFTER YOU

Team tackles
safeguarding

RAEDWALD
TRUST CEO,
Angela Ransby

Hard work rewarded by Ofsted



We were very proud to share the news that First Base Bury St Edmunds Academy has been rated as “Good” in all areas by the recent Ofsted inspection.

This achievement is testament to the values central to our mission, that of dedication, kindness, and patience.

Our team believes in the potential of every student under our care, creating a safe and nurturing environment where students can flourish.

It is heartwarming to know that, because of our collective efforts, our children are learning new academic and social-emotional skills which will help them successfully reintegrate into mainstream education.

As the CEO of the Trust, it was particularly

pleasing that inspectors noted the positive relationship between staff and students.

They praised our Readers for Life programme which has been designed to reflect the unique experiences and emotions of our students.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will get a chance to meet our welfare and safeguarding team.

Being able to put a face to the name, I hope, will help our families feel comfortable with working with this dedicated team.

They are here to help our families navigate the challenges that may arise. I encourage families to make use of this resource, if needed.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a restful winter break. Have a great Christmas. We will see you all in the New Year.

NEW RATING SO SPECIAL

The Ofsted Good grading given to First Base Bury St Edmunds has been a wonderful way to end the year...

FOR ALL INVOLVED

TEACHERS at a First Base Bury St Edmunds are kind and patient and believe in their students.

That was the heartwarming verdict of Ofsted inspectors when rating First Base Bury St Edmunds Academy as Good in all areas of education.

The students, ranging from 4 to 7-years-old arrive at the school having experienced disruption or difficulties in their education.

But after spending time learning new academic and social, emotional skills, many are able to re-join mainstream education, the report found.

They noted students feel safe with teachers and their peers and are able to build confidence in a school setting.

The report reads: “Pupils are well cared for and develop positive relationships with staff. Staff use their thorough knowledge of each pupil’s needs to help them manage their emotions and conduct.

“Determined, skilled Trust and

school leaders are improving the school. They share a common goal to equip pupils with the knowledge and skills to reintegrate into mainstream education.”

Inspectors also praised the school’s reading programme which is tailored to pupils’ own experiences and emotions.

The report states: “Most pupils join the school lacking the confidence or phonic knowledge to read fluently.

“The ‘Readers for Life’ programme, for example, includes books that mirror pupils’ own experiences and emotions, and also provides them with windows on the wider world.”

CEO of the Raedwald Trust Angela Ransby said: “As the report rightly points out, our teachers care deeply for these young people and believe in them wholeheartedly.

“They believe that pupils attending can make excellent academic progress; they support them to re-engage and to successfully return to mainstream education.”



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Angela Ransby,
CEO of the Raedwald Trust



AWARD FOR PLACING WELLBEING FIRST

Approach to pupils' mental health sees school scoop top accolade...

IPSWICH Hospital School has received national recognition for its commitment to supporting mental health and wellbeing.

Staff are over the moon after recently receiving the prestigious Pupil Wellbeing Award.

They were praised for their displays which create an attractive and welcoming space for children to learn while in hospital.

Staff have been teaching children at their bed side while the classroom is being redeveloped.

Kate Kingsford-Bere, from Ipswich Hospital School, said: "We were delighted to have been put forward by the Ipswich Opportunities Area for this award.

"We worked hard reflecting on and implementing recommendations throughout the process to ensure we met and evidenced the national standards for wellbeing and mental health across the school.

"We were delighted to receive the award in recognition of our drive to ensure positive mental health and wellbeing for all."



Kate Kingsford-Bere of Ipswich Hospital School is delighted with the recent award.



Warming to special jumper day

CHILDREN at St Christopher's embraced the festive season by wearing Christmas jumpers to raise awareness for charity.

Christmas Jumper Day saw students and staff don an array of festive outfits and costumes in support of Save the Children.

Staff at St Christopher's shared that Christmas Jumper Day is a feel good and fun day at work.

The jumpers make everyone feel festive and it is a great way to raise some funds for a good cause.

It's an opportunity for pupils to show off their Christmas jumpers and staff feel it's heartwarming to witness the pupils' enthusiasm.

Beyond the fun element, it offers valuable lessons. It teaches children about the spirit of giving by encouraging participation in charitable initiatives.

"Whether through fundraising or supporting a designated charity, this event instills a sense of empathy and community responsibility.



TASTY TOPPINGS!

Musical passion shines

A STUDENT learned about tempo, loops, songwriting and BPM during a one-to-one music lesson.

The Albany Academy student got a masterclass in music production while learning to use software.

Teacher Gil Walters said: "The student engaged very well and had some prior knowledge in this area which helped to progress."

"These kinds of unique opportunities to nurture something I feel we excel in at the Raedwald Trust."

Creativity showcase

STUDENTS got the chance to showcase their creative talents at The Raedwald Trust Christmas production.

Music teacher Gil Walters said: "For most children, it's a time of year where learners can experience showcasing their creative abilities through various arts."

"Students gain confidence from peer and staff feedback. Former students from the Raedwald Trust have also taken their creative skills to study music at college."

"It helps students to communicate their passion and creative skill sets effectively and it helps boost their self-esteem. It's always good for students to actively have a positive outlet."

Students learned all about food hygiene and preparation on a recent trip to Pizza Express...

STUDENTS were taught how to make their own pizza on a special trip to Pizza Express.

Alderwood Academy students learned how to serve up the tempting treats while being taught about hygiene standards in food prep.

They developed their personal, social and emotional skills by interacting with staff.

Teacher Ms Fairweather said: "At lunchtime, the students developed their social skills as they sat down and enjoyed the pizzas, engaging in conversation and discussing their creations."

"This is an invaluable skill which, no doubt, they will continue to use going forward."

"Alongside this, we wanted to provide an experience which could inspire them in their career ideas and motivate their engagement with learning."

"This trip aimed to build aspirations as the chef spoke with them and shared his journey into cooking."

"The pupils really enjoyed the trip and it was wonderful to see how proud they were of what they had made."

"This, in turn, would have built their self-esteem and self-confidence in attempting new things."

Lots of food for thought

Learning to cook is both a crucial life skill and an enjoyable pursuit for children.

At Parkside KS4, students are not only creating delicious dishes but also gaining valuable insights into safe cooking practices.

Teacher Ms Guernari said: "Food has somewhat evolved this year which has been amazing as it's allowed students to come into an environment where they feel safe and able to enjoy it as a subject while taking risks in a safe way."

"Watching students on a journey to becoming more confident and competent in the kitchen has been amazing."

THRILLING NEW

CHAPTER FOR

LIBRARY!

Shelves stocked with a wide range of great reads...

CHILDREN staying at the West Suffolk Hospital school have a whole range of books to enjoy thanks to the library.

Since opening in February, staff have developed a library stocked with a range of fact and fiction books for all ages.

When children are admitted, they are offered a First Day Pack to help them settle onto the wards.

Students have also been writing book reviews and decorating the school room.

Charity Listening Books donated tablets which allows students the chance to listen to a range of books.

Teacher Ms Edwards said: "The library is a wonderful resource for our students. It is incredibly well stocked meaning there is something for everyone.

"We are incredibly grateful for the kind donation of tablets from Listening Books. The children have really enjoyed them."

Big questions

A PARKSIDE KS4 student recently visited Hope Church as part of her studies.

She has been learning and reviewing religious texts with in-depth discussions around the death, resurrection and ascension of Christ.

Ms Webster, Humanities Teacher at Parkside KS4, said: "She very much enjoyed this experience, asking questions to a Hope church staff member confidently during the tour guide.

"It is vitally important our students are able to do first hand primary research in their studies."



It was wonderful to welcome some of our parents into First Base Ipswich for a parent share recently.

The children had the opportunity to share their favourite stories with their parents and they also completed topic-themed colouring.

STUDENTS wrote their own poems for National Poetry Day and did book reviews for World Book Day in the library at West Suffolk Hospital. Ms Edwards added: "We are so glad the children and their parents have enjoyed the various ways we help develop their reading on the ward."



Sharing is caring

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE MUSIC MAKERS!

Being creative through music and song is a great way for our students to express themselves...

STUDENTS had an insight into how music is produced thanks to a special workshop taught at Alderwood Academy.

The students developed music production skills and music arrangement skills which involved creating an introduction, verse and chorus for their original song.

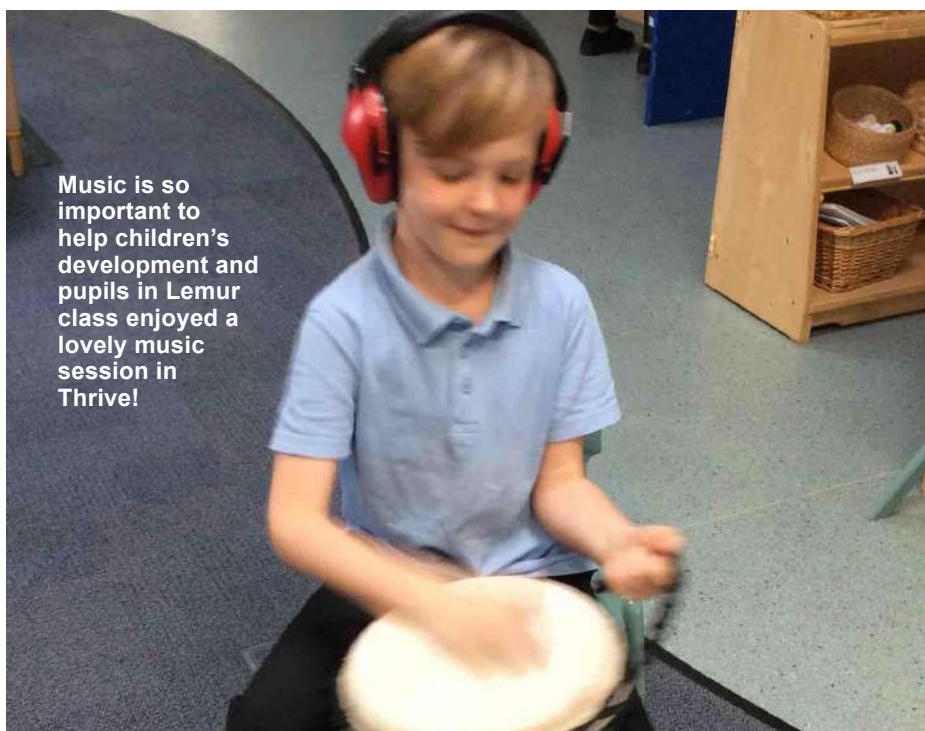
Teacher Mr Walters said: "Music production has excelled very quickly within the last 5-10 years, and has become a very accessible route into music for all learners.

"Students develop basic IT skills and software skills using music production software.

"They also get to learn how to use loops and samples which is how industry standard music is produced.

"They like to explore various genres of music and always take a lot of pride in their work when they learn to independently create music themselves. They have enjoyed doing this, as it gives them the freedom to express their original creative ideas."

Music is so important to help children's development and pupils in Lemur class enjoyed a lovely music session in Thrive!



THE school corridors reverberated to the sound of the drums when students took part in a workshop.

Pupils from First Base Ipswich and First Base Bury got the chance to play the bongos and an African drum called the 'Djembe'. Music teacher Mr Walters said:

"Students were able to develop their listening and performance skills, and use percussion drums that originate from the African culture.

"Developing rhythm, timing and tempo was also an area of focus and the students made progress confidently."



Sam shows a way with words

TEEN fiction author, Sam Scott, gave a reading from her book and talked to students at the West Suffolk Hospital school.

She talked about her books which focus on overcoming adversity after taking questions from students. The visit was organised by charity Clouds in the Sky.

Ms Edwards said: "It was wonderful for our students to meet Sam and to hear about her journey as an author."

Pathway to improved attendance



STUDENTS who may find attending school difficult have been given one-to-one support. They are working with the Engage team who spend time each week with students, families and mainstream school.

The Engage Pathway includes establishing routines, improving sleeping patterns, eating habits, as well as supporting transport into school.

The team also work with outside agencies such as food banks and social workers and support mainstream schools.

Ms Beckford, Learning & Progress on the Engage Pathway said: "Our experience supporting children and families, together with our understanding of signposting for wider support, enables us to help break the barriers that may exist due to cultural misunderstandings, social anxieties, and breakdown of communication.

"Building those relationships is paramount to the success of this pathway."

YOU'RE IN SAFE HANDS!

OUR Welfare and Safeguarding team are available to support our students and their families. The team, consisting of Ellen, Kayleigh, Nic and Sharon, are based at sites across the Raedwald Trust.

They work closely alongside safeguarding teams in our schools as well as with the Trust Safeguarding Lead, Fe. Their duties range from offering students a safe space to talk, to signposting families to additional support resources. They help students with things like winter clothing and food parcels, as well as working with the attendance team to make sure children are in school.

Support is at hand for families

FAMILIES needing extra support with coats, shoes and bedding or other items can apply for the Raedwald Trust Hardship Fund.

Our Welfare and Safeguarding team can also help with applications for further assistance via the Rope's Trust.

There is also support of up to £175 in heating costs available via the Surviving Winter Appeal.

For more information see the Citizens Advice Bureau website at www.citizensadviceipswich.org.uk/surviving-winter/

Or you can contact Citizens Advice Ipswich on 01473 298634.

If you would like support with any of the above, please do not hesitate to give your child's school a call and we can arrange for a member of our Welfare and Safeguarding team to contact you.

The Welfare and Safeguarding team:

- can offer support for students and a safe space to talk
- use a number of resources with pupils, as well as signpost pupils, parents/carers and families to external agencies for additional support
- offer support with applications for families in need, for items such as winter clothing, household items and food parcels
- support you and your child in meetings with other professionals, such as Family Network Meetings, Child in Need meetings and Child Protection conferences
- complete applications on your behalf to access other services such as the School Nursing team or the Early Help team
- are responsible for recording attendance and checking on students that are not attending school for various reasons – this could be a call, text or a home visit by a member of staff
- have regular communication with your child's home school
- support with any safeguarding incidents or disclosures that arise
- work closely with other professionals to ensure both you and your child have the necessary support in place





Amazing artwork created by our Parkside lunchtime art club.

PICTURE CORNER



First Base Bury had an amazing time at the Zog Trail inspired by the Julia Donaldson book.



OUR Lion Cubs class has been learning about volume by making magic potions.



OUR students learning about their emotions and feelings in Thrive sessions.



OUR students dressed up as super heroes to complete a themed obstacle course.