

# RAEDWALD TRUST

NEWSLETTER

Easter 2024

## REPORT PRAISES SCHOOL

Ofsted rates  
Parkside good  
in all areas

## WORLD BOOK DAY INSPIRES

Events promote  
love of reading

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## STAYING CONNECTED

Robots help students  
to keep up with class

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# 'Staff are confident and effective in teaching'

OFSTED inspectors reserved special praise for the support offered by leaders at the Raedwald Trust.

The report states: "The schools in the multi-academy trust work very closely

together. Teachers can develop and improve their practice.

"This ensures that pupils experience a good quality of education. Staff are confident and effective in teaching the curricu-

lum using the school's chosen strategies."

CEO Angela Ransby said: "The Raedwald Trust is a collective effort with everyone pulling in the same direction in the interest of our students."

## PARKSIDE IS RATED GOOD IN ALL AREAS

### Cause for pride as Ofsted report praises school after inspection

WE are very proud to announce Parkside Academy has been rated good in all areas following an inspection.

Ofsted said the alternative provision school has created the right conditions to help students return to mainstream education.

The glowing report notes some students are experiencing success for the first time in many years.

Inspectors said there was a culture of high expectation and very positive relationships between staff and students.

As a result, youngsters say they are positive about getting good grades in their GCSE exams.

On the school's reading programme, the report states: "The school carefully selects books to interest pupils and mirror their life experiences and supports pupils to improve their reading."

CEO of the Raedwald Trust, Angela Ransby

**Inspectors noted the incredibly positive relationships between staff and students**

**CEO MS RANSBY**



said: "This glowing report describes a school where the teachers are deeply committed to the children they teach.

"I was so pleased that inspectors noted the incredibly positive relationships between staff and students.

"It is genuinely touching to read that our students are experiencing success, some for the first time in years.

"They are growing both academically and in confidence and returning to their mainstream schools ready to meet challenges."

These sentiments are echoed by Kirsty Osborne, the Head Teacher, who is proud to be a part of the journey and successes of the school.



### The report's findings

#### STAFF AND STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS:

*"Relationships between staff and pupils are highly positive and encouraging. Staff quickly get to know the pupils."*

#### TRANSITION BACK TO MAINSTREAM:

*"The school creates the right conditions for pupils to return successfully to mainstream education."*

#### READING PROGRAMME:

*"The school carefully selects books to interest pupils and mirror their life experiences. This helps older pupils to improve their reading."*

#### WELLBEING:

*"Staff consider pupils' well-being throughout the day and make adaptations to provision as needed."*

RAEDWALD  
TRUST CEO,  
Angela Ransby



## Collaboration is a powerful force

I WAS incredibly pleased that Ofsted noted in its inspection of Parkside Academy the close-knit collaboration among teachers and staff.

Working together allows us to develop and improve classroom practice; coming together to share ideas, resources, and strategies.

It means we are all aligned in terms of our vision and values as a collection of schools, united in a mission to deliver the best education to our students.

We pool our expertise and experiences to refine teaching strategies, keeping them responsive to the needs of our young people.

It means we have calm and confident teachers knowing they are supported and able to work towards a common goal.

Elsewhere we have been talking to our students about how we can improve their

learning experiences. Our half-termly pupil questionnaire gives our young people a platform to express their thoughts, concerns, and suggestions regarding school.

Their comments will serve as a roadmap for improvement, guiding our schools towards more learning and growth.

At the end of last term, we watched in awe as our students showcased their performance and musical talents.

We were left spellbound by the creativity and passion that flowed from each of their performances. A true celebration of the incredible talents at the Raedwald Trust community.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continuing support. Have a restful Easter break.

See you next term.

# LEARNING ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST

## Students look into dark time in history to mark memorial day

PARKSIDE Academy have been learning about the Holocaust as part of their history lessons.

They learned about the dark period in human history to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

The classes help understand the depth of human suffering to help students stand up

**“We want them to become agents of positive change in their communities**

**Ms Webster**



### Information about the Holocaust

to prejudice in the modern world.

Vanessa Webster, Teacher of humanities, said: “Here at Raedwald we look carefully at how history shapes the past and ways in which students can understand the world we live in today.

“Our students develop a skill set of empathy and are given an historical context that allows them to call out discrimination and prejudice.

“We want our students to become agents of positive change in their communities, speaking out against bigotry.”

## Getting to grips with climbing

YOUNGSTERS at First Base Bury have been learning rock climbing in their PE classes.

They learnt techniques such as crimping and pinching while working in a team to help one another.

Lily Perkins, Lead Teacher, said: “It is so great to see the children work as a team, problem solve, cheer each other on and build their strength to get to the top.

“They thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We have been getting great feedback on sessions.”



## Process is food for thought

PUPILS have been learning about the impact on health of processed food in their food tech classes.

Pupils at Parkside Academy have been discovering how processed food is defined this term.

They created delicious dishes from scratch including pizza, sweet and sour chicken, sausage rolls, tikka masala and carbonara.

The aim is to teach students life-long skills they can take with them into adulthood.



# PARKSIDE AWARDED UNICEF ACCOLADE

## School given silver honour for promoting rights of children

PARKSIDE school has been awarded UNICEF UK's second highest accolade for commitment to promoting children's rights.

The silver award is in recognition of teaching pupils to respect each other's rights in school.

It means the school is putting the United

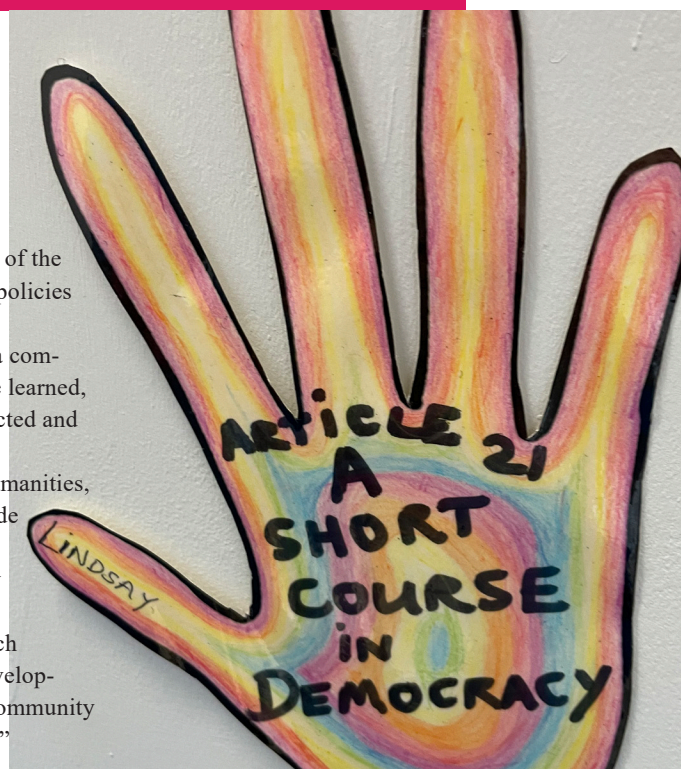
**“ We have created a culture which places importance on personal development  
Ms Webster**

Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of its planning, policies and practice.

A Rights Respecting School is a community where children's rights are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted.

Vanessa Webster, Teacher of humanities, said: “We have been able to provide evidence children's rights are part of the school and are part of every area of school life.

“We have created a culture which places importance on personal development, positive relationships and community based on mutual respect and trust.”



## Learning that goes beyond the classroom

STUDENTS have been taking their learning beyond the classroom as part a new programme aimed at giving them new experiences.

The children at First Base Ipswich have been going on a school trip or having a visitor in for every topic unit.

This could be a local walk, having the local emergency services visit or going to a farm – and it all links to the topic the children are studying.

Teacher Jessica Ellery said: “The trips can support children's understanding of how to be safe outside

of a school environment and how to treat the world around us with respect.

“It is also helping them gain a deeper understanding of the subjects they are studying. Seeing it in real life brings learning home.”



## Geographers out and about

YEAR 11 students have been testing theories and conducting fieldwork experiments as part of their geography lessons.

The Parkside Academy pupils have been taking their learning beyond the classroom

while researching urban developments.

Humanities Teacher Ms Webster said: "It is really important for students to get real life experiences while studying. In geography, that is particularly important."

'Crucial that they feel part of the process'

STUDENTS at Raedwald Trust have had their voices heard thanks to a new survey.

The school were pleased with the positive feedback from the half-termly pupil voice questionnaire.

The comments formed part of a recent Ofsted report at Parkside Academy.

Ms Webster, Teacher of humanities, said: "Students answered questions on how the trust shapes future provision and provision is quickly adapted to help students remain on track.

"We are proud that all our students see this as a useful part of our provision. It is crucial they feel engaged and part of the process of their education."

'We are very proud of their achievements'

STUDENTS have been preparing the listening part of their English Language GCSE.

Year 10 and 11 students at Parkside Academy have been working on their presentations to complete their exam.

Topics covered include the benefits of smartphones and professional footballers' high salaries.

They created cue cards and PowerPoint slides to help deliver their presentation.

Teacher Emma Osborne said: "They showed that they could communicate clearly to an audience and responded appropriately to questions on their chosen topic.

"We are very proud of their achievements and the way they have worked so hard on their presentations. They have done us proud."

# WORLD BOOK DAY IGNITES PASSION

## Events promote a love of reading

STUDENTS and staff dressed up as their favourite literary characters as the Raedwald Trust marked World Book Day.

At Alderwood Academy students took part in a range of activities at Gainsborough Library.

They chose books to take home and were given forms to join the library.

Alderwood Academy Head Teacher Tom Baker said: "World Book Day is a great way to ignite a passion for reading in the pupils we teach.

"We want them to love reading and libraries and make it a place they want to visit and that's fun for them.

"People who work in libraries tend to be passionate about reading and it is great to see that enthusiasm rub off on our pupils.

"When the time came to leave, some pupils did not want to go.

"One pupil specifically asked if he could read his book from the library during the reading slot in the afternoon."



## It's bean some way to learn!

CHILDREN learned about the fairy tale Jack and the Beanstalk by planting their own magic beans.

First Base Ipswich pupils visited Dobbies Garden Centre (pictured) to choose plants to grow in their playground.

Teacher Jessica Ellery said: "The children were very excited by the



variety of different plants they could choose from and couldn't wait to plant them back at First Base.

"On our way out of the garden centre, the children were complimented on their amazing behaviour and for being so polite by two different members of the public."

## Making their own tunes at the music hub

STUDENTS from Alderwood have been learning production at the Raedwald Trust music hub.

They have been getting to grips with professional music software to create their own tunes.

This term they have been working on their film scores, which will be used for their art award qualification.

Music Teacher Gil Walters said: "Students have been really engaged with this project and have come up with great work."

# STAYING CONNECTED

## Robots helping students keep in touch with classes

ROBOTS are helping students stay connected to their peers and education while unable to attend classes.

The AV1 is an audio and visual telepresence connection to school when a student cannot be at school.

The robot sits in classes which has a camera and microphone link to a device such as an iPad.

This could be from home, a different

school setting or even a hospital bed. The student can watch and listen to their teacher as well as turn on their own microphone to speak back to their teacher with comments and questions.

The head of the robot has 360-degree movement so it can 'look' around the classroom.

Students can also communicate with their teacher through emoji settings which change

the facial signs on the robot, whether that be an indication of confusion or understanding.

Lauren Hunwicks, Teacher for St Christopher's Academy, said: "We have been using this technology successfully to support our students to access their mainstream education.

"Although it seems daunting at first, students quickly pick up the skills needed to use the technology safely and effectively.

"Some students prefer to quietly listen to their teachers and then complete lesson tasks while others answer questions and interact.

"We have found the robots help students to still feel connected to their mainstream school and build relationships with their teachers for when they return during their reintegration phase.

"We have seen students be able to keep up with GCSE content delivered by subject specialists through the robots."



**“Students quickly pick up the skills needed to use the technology safely”**  
**Ms Hunwicks**

# Did learners enjoy chess? Check!

STUDENTS have been learning the moves of the grandmasters while learning chess.

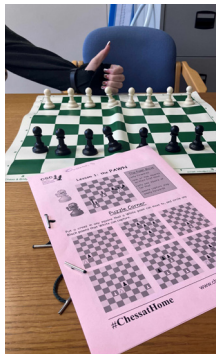
Westbridge Academy students have been taught the rules and basic strategy of the board game during personal, social and emotional development classes.

They now know their pawns from their rooks and bishops, and will be soon moving around the board like experts.

Teacher Ms Ottley-Gooch said: "Chess isn't just a game; it's a tool for developing crucial skills.

"It fosters problem-solving abilities, en-

hances communication skills and promotes teamwork and social interaction.



"Beyond chess, these skills are transferable to various real-life situations, making it incredibly valuable for our pupils' development.

"Our students have really enjoyed the challenges chess presents, the opportunity to work together and the sense of achievement as they progress.

"Engaging in structured activities like this not only enhances their intellectual abilities but also brings joy and excitement to the learning process."

## Talent wows crowd

STUDENTS wowed audiences with their creative talents at the Christmas concert last term.

There were musicians playing instruments, dancers showcasing their moves and singers belting out tunes at the Raedwald Trust wide event.

Music teacher Mr Walters said: "The show was streamed live across the Raedwald Trust for all staff and students to watch and engage with.

"For pupils this evidence will be used towards being entered for different arts awards."

# STAYING SAFE ONLINE

## Guidelines on how students and families can avoid web dangers

Fe Dunachie, Trust Safeguarding Lead, said: "We all know how important it is that young people can use the internet safely.

This article is advice to our pupils on how to enjoy social media safely."

### Safely Enjoying Social Media: A Simple Guide for All

In today's world, social media is like a big playground where students hang out and have fun. But, just like in any game, there are rules to follow to make sure everyone has a good time. Here's a simple guide for students to enjoy social media responsibly.

#### 1. Watch Your Steps: Your Digital Footprint Matters

Think of your online actions like leaving footprints in the sand. Everything you do on social media leaves a mark. So, before you post something, think about how it might affect you and others. Be kind and respectful, just like you would in real life.

#### 2. Keep Your Secrets Safe

Imagine the internet as a big treasure hunt, and your personal information is the treasure. Don't give away your treasures too easily! Avoid sharing things like your address or phone number online. You can use privacy settings to control who gets to see your posts and keep your information safe.

#### 3. Stand Up Against Online Bullies

Nobody likes a bully, and unfortunately, they can show up online too. If you see someone being mean or hurtful, speak up! Tell a member of staff at your school, a parent, or a friend. We all deserve a safe and happy online space.

#### 4. Don't Believe Everything You See

Sometimes, things online aren't what they seem. There's a lot of information out there, and not all of it is true. Learn to check facts and question things before believing them.

#### 5. Take Breaks and Make Real Connections

Spending too much time online can be like eating too many sweets – it's not great for you! Make sure to balance your time between screens and real-life fun. Hang out with friends, play outside, and enjoy the world beyond the internet.

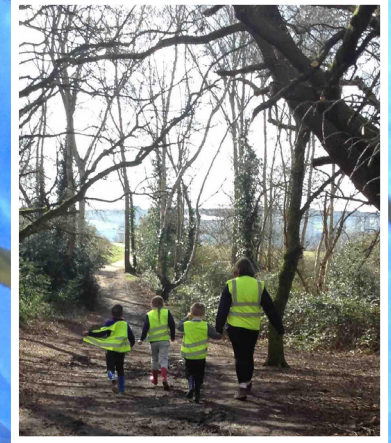
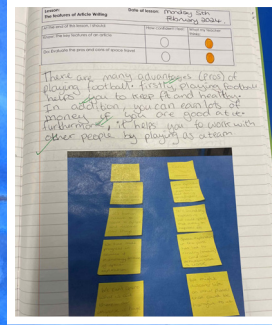
So, as you play in the social media playground, remember to be kind, use your common sense, and have fun.

Make sure to balance your time between screens and real-life fun.

Ms Dunachie

# PICTURE GALLERY

- Children using their imaginations by building dens in Thrive class (main picture).
- Following staff training on understanding memory our students are responding well to their tailored lessons (inset, right)
- Children getting to know the local area on a walk in the afternoon sunshine at Orwell Country Park (inset, far right).



A First Base Bury (Lemur) pupil relaxes with a foot spa, left; amazing work inspired by the cubism of Pablo Picasso, right; and, below, our Lion Cubs taking inspiration from artist Stephen Wiltshire to draw cityscapes.

