



# Raedwald Trust

connection learning without exception resilience respect

NEWSLETTER  
SPRING  
2025

## ALL THE FUN OF BAKING

Children at First Base Bury enjoyed writing recipes for gingerbread men this term as well as making a three-course meal.

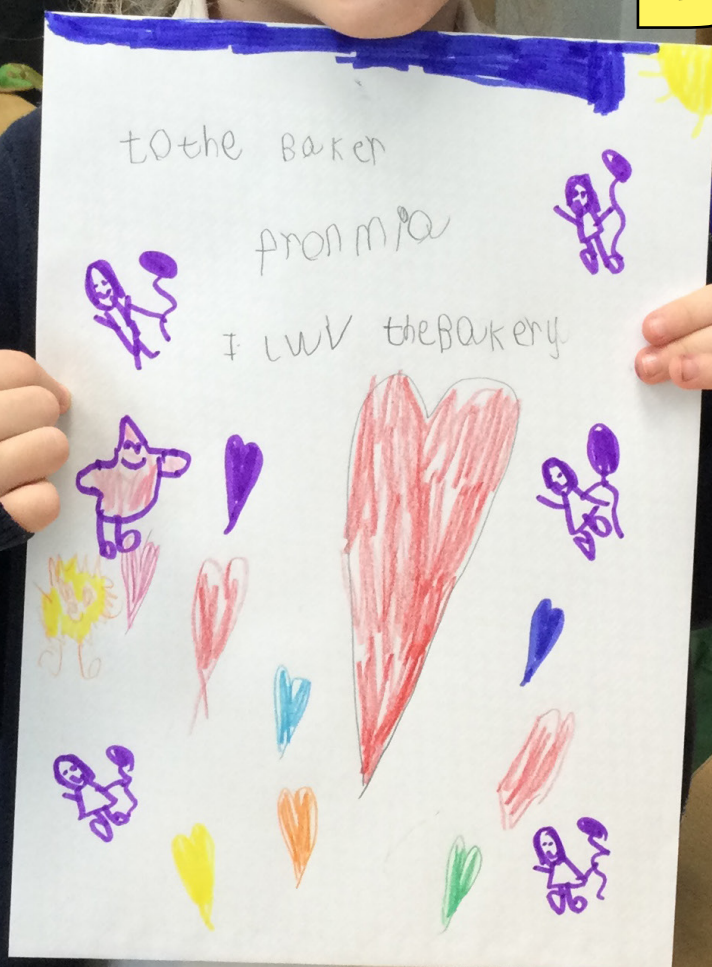
See pages 3 and 8

### BOOK DAY

See page 2

### FARM TRIP

See page 4





# ACTIVITIES CELEBRATE THE LOVE OF READING

## Alderwood students make the most of World Book Day

STUDENTS have been celebrating a love of reading as part of World Book Day.

The pupils at Alderwood Academy took part in a variety of different activities, including a group reading of a Gangsta Granny poem, with students and staff acting out various lines.

They also visited Gainsborough Library where they got involved in various activities such as storyboarding and designing tasks.

In the afternoon David Oates, one of our teachers who is also a children's author and illustrator, led

a creative writing task. Clinton Davies, Head of Pathways at Alderwood Academy, said:

"Reading is such a vital life skill and the importance of it cannot be overstated.

"To be able to celebrate World Book Day as a collective, celebrate reading and bring it to life with a range of activities was such a positive experience.

"Additionally, the experience provided by David demonstrated real links to the working world and an insight into the life of an author.

"From an educational perspective it also showed the benefit of resilience and

**TRUST CEO  
ANGELA RANSBY  
REFLECTS ON THE TERM:**

**WHAT a tremendous spring term we have had across Raedwald Trust: so many achievements; so much success. I hope you enjoy reading about some of our highlights in this newsletter. It is such a tremendous privilege to be part of a community of amazing professionals, families and children.**



**Children peruse the bookshelves**

persistence as David talked at length about the process of redrafting and linked that to their learning.

"Students had an amazing time. There were a host of tasks to revisit and there was a range of really positive experiences to take from the day."

**Pairs of Albany students made bridges spanning a 30cm gap**



## Bridge task a load of fun

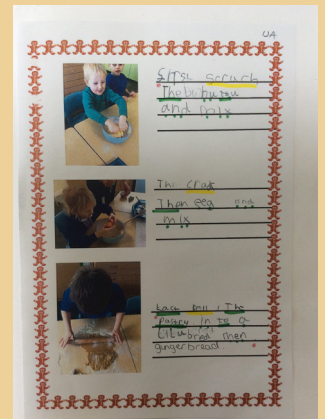
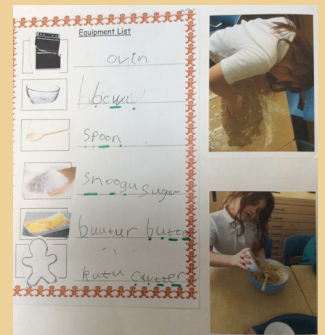
STUDENTS at The Albany enjoyed taking part in a special challenge working in pairs.

The pupils were tasked with working collaboratively and using limited resources to build a bridge between a 30cm gap that could hold the most weight. They had to share ideas about strength of shapes, best use of resources and communicating effectively.

The result was a fun activity with a sprinkle of competition, a dash of creativity and lots of collaboration.







Children of First Base Bury wrote recipe instructions before making a three-course meal. For more pictures, see page 8

## Gingerbread men fun for First Base

CHILDREN at First Base Bury have been working hard this term learning about The Gingerbread Man.

They were tasked with writing instructions on how to make gingerbread men and they finished their topic by becoming 'little chefs'.

They prepared and cooked their very own three-course meal which they enjoyed for lunch alongside cheese twists, pizza and cupcakes.



# LEARNING ABOUT FAITH

## Alderwood students visit River Church

CHILDREN at Alderwood Academy enjoyed a trip to River Church in Ipswich where they met staff and learnt about various faiths.

Students were able to engage with the wider community and learnt more about their world.

The visit linked up with the curriculum areas students across pathways have been studying, putting classroom-based learning into a real-life context.

Clinton Davies, Head of Pathways at Alderwood

Academy, said: "It enabled students to take their learning from school into the real world and gain greater context and see their learning as a real experience.

"All students had a really very enjoyable time and could comment when they came back about how it linked to their learning.

"Their attitude and engagement were referenced very positively from all those involved."



Students learned about various faiths



# A SWEET THANK YOU

## Patients show appreciation by baking biscuits

PATIENTS at our hospital school worked together on Valentine's Day to make and decorate biscuits.

The young people at West Suffolk Hospital School made the biscuits to share with their families and the ward staff to show their appreciation of how they are looked after on the ward.

As well as patients following a timetable of curriculum subjects when well enough, Raedwald Trust offer an Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) session each day.

Nicola Edwards, teacher at the hospital school, said: "Being admitted to hospital away from family and friends can feel

very lonely so we encourage patients to come together and complete activities with other children that will benefit their social skills and mental health.

"The children really enjoyed expressing their creative talents and were very proud to present their finished results to the staff who care for them and their families who support them during their admission.

"The staff were delighted to receive the treats that the patients took care and time to create."

**“ We encourage patients to come together and complete activities with others  
Teacher Nicola Edwards**

Children from St Christopher's toured Jimmy's Farm and learned about career opportunities



## Special trip to farm

STUDENTS enjoyed a special trip to the farm this term.

The children from St Christopher's went to Jimmy's Farm and were given a tour of the farm to learn about different career opportunities.

This included hearing from an animal ranger, meeting the ground and maintenance team, chatting to the retail and customer service team and meeting the marketing team who talked about how they promote the farm on digital media.

The children enjoyed visiting the different animals and eating in the restaurant.





## Chaplains get out and about to support youngsters

THERE are a number of different projects our local chaplains have been working on throughout the past term to support our young people.

They visited Vauxhall Farm (CYM Base) to mentor, cook and experience activities beyond the classroom. They ran a weekly staff wellbeing breakfast at Westbridge and a weekly staff wellbeing cafe at Alderwood.

Fe Dunachie, Trust Safeguarding and Compliance Lead, said: "There are so many

benefits to being outside both physically and mentally, so together we are starting to transform the outdoor spaces with students

**“There are so many benefits to being outside both physically and mentally”**  
**Fe Dunachie**

both at Parkside and Westbridge, where they are creating areas to grow their own produce, encourage wildlife and places to spend time reflecting and relaxing.

"We have also led two courses of Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing, led creative lunchtime activities at St Christopher's, and seen students across five different sites for 1:1 wellbeing sessions.

"We look forward to what the summer term brings."

# THE MAGIC OF SCIENCE

## Westbridge students enjoy 'fantastic' week of activities

STUDENTS at Westbridge Academy enjoyed celebrating British Science Week with a range of activities.

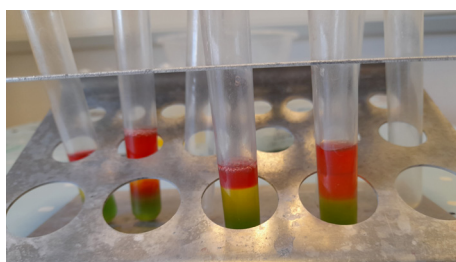
They took part in a special competition where they were challenged with blending in butterflies around the school which fitted with the theme of change and adapt.

They created crystal flowers, made matchstick rockets and took part in a mystery activity where they had to do different food tests to investigate the contents of pretend evidence from a crime.

They also had the chance to take part in a unique game online called "I'm A Scientist Get Me Out Of Here". They had a live chat with different scientists and asked them questions about their roles.

Students also attended a school trip to Kinetic Adventure in Claydon, where they took part in scientific workshops that incorporate STEM subjects including all aspects of science and astronomy.

Teacher Emily Langdon said: "It was a fantastic week with lots of different activities to keep the children engaged. It's so important that we make science fun to help children with their learning and understanding."



Students visited Kinetic Adventure, main picture, hid butterflies around the school, inset, and carried out food tests, left

# Church staff helping out to tackle food poverty

A GROUP of staff from Anglican Churches in Ipswich have been working together under the banner of Ipswich Top Up Shops. They are looking to alleviate food poverty

and social deprivation by partnering with organisations such as FareShare, Neighbourly and local food wholesalers and producers to offer good quality food to local people at

discounted prices. They cost £2 per bag. To find out where your nearest Top Up Shop is, visit their website at [ipswichtopupshops.co.uk](http://ipswichtopupshops.co.uk).



## HITTING THE RIGHT NOTE

### Wolsey trips explore career options

STUDENTS at Parkside and Westbridge Academy enjoyed some special trips this term including to a music studio and live performance venue.

It was organised by the Thomas Wolsey 550 project in a bid to encourage young people to think about their future interests and careers.

They paid a visit to 'The Smoke House'

and 'Brighten the Corners' to give students the chance to explore the wider music industry and how it all works within the music scene of Suffolk.

Teacher Gil Walters said: "Many of our learners had never experienced a professional live music performance before, and this was a chance for them to achieve this.

"They were able to explore skills such as

setting up microphone stands and using the mixing desk which controls all the sound connected to instruments and microphones. Students were also able to explore using the lighting desk to control ambience within the room.

"They left having experienced unique career and industry standard skills should they desire to take these skills further in post-16 education."

The Wolsey 550 project was launched in 2023, and now with further funding to March 2025 thanks to a community grant from Suffolk County Council's £2m Ipswich Improvement Fund.

It is open to all primary and secondary schools and alternative provisions within the borough of Ipswich that support children and young people aged 5-16. It is a multifaceted programme, and Westbridge and Parkside have been able to access world of work encounters, offering young people real-life insights into career paths in organisations across Ipswich.



**Students visited a music studio and a live performance venue as they were asked to think about their futures**



# GIVEN CHANCE TO THRIVE

## Youth group working with children in community

A YOUTH group is working with young people in the community to support them to thrive.

4YP works with children and young people aged 7 to 25 at their Ipswich town centre hub, in schools and in the community.

Since it was founded in 2000, 4YP has provided a generic wraparound support

for young people which is determined by their individual needs along with a range of clinical and therapeutic services for people with poor mental health and wellbeing.

Their vision is that all children and young people have somewhere safe to go, something positive to do and someone trusted to connect with. In the last 12

months, 4YP has delivered 6,500 counselling sessions to more than 1,000 young people.

Youth workers have had contact with over 5,000 young people.

To find out more about what support they offer and how to get involved, visit [4yp.org.uk/](http://4yp.org.uk/) or call 01473 252607.



**Students marked World Book Day with a range of activities, such as dressing up as their favourite characters. They also got cooking and learned about different faiths during an action-packed term**



## MP responds to student's concern over transport

AS PART of their citizenship lessons, pupils were encouraged to contact an MP about a local issue that they felt passionate about.

One pupil at Westbridge Academy wrote to MP Jack Abbott regarding the cost of rural public transport and concerns that the rises in prices would isolate vulnerable members of the community.

The student received a reply from their MP, who made it clear that there are lots of discounts available to different groups within the community.

Head Teacher Emily Duque said: "We are really proud that our students are having their voices heard within our local government and that they feel empowered to advocate for others."

Thank you for your email regarding the increase in bus costs. I thought the arguments that you put forward were well thought out. Although you are correct in saying that the bus prices have increased, there are some discounts for the following groups of people. Those aged between 5-16 currently receive a third off bus journeys. While those aged 16-19, with a cashless Endeavour Card, can get at least 25% off full price adult fares, on participating bus services. Citizens who are of state pension age and live in Suffolk, are entitled to a bus pass which allows free off-peak travel on local buses.

I hope that this answers your query. Please do get in touch, if I can be of any further assistance.

Kind regards,

Polly

Office Of Jack Abbott  
Member of Parliament for Ipswich  
Labour and Co-operative

**The letter about rural transport issues received from MP Jack Abbott**



# TASTY TASKS FEED THE IMAGINATION



Children at First Base Bury wrote gingerbread men recipes, made cup cakes and cheese straws as well as visited a bakery as part of their activities this term

