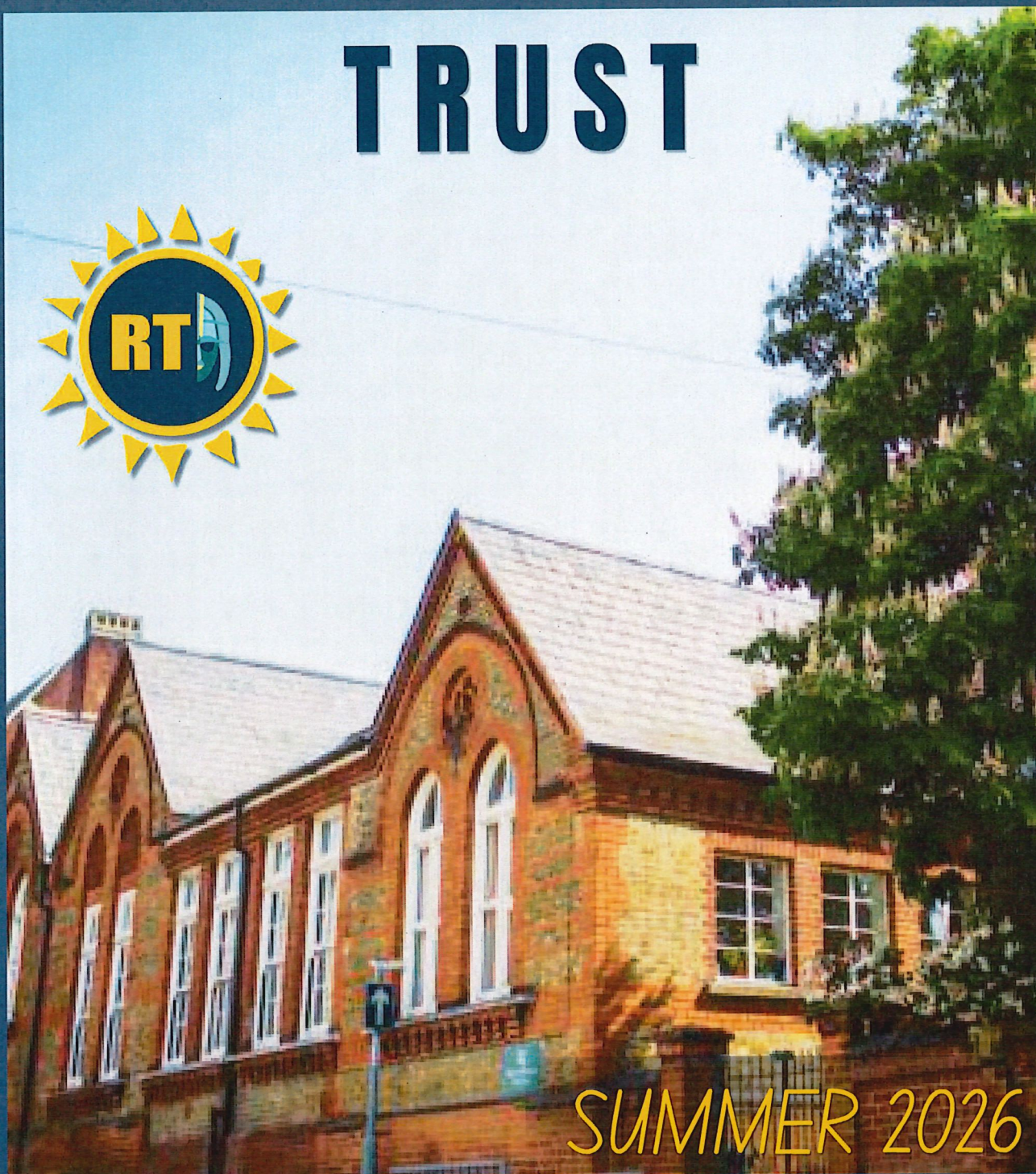


RAEDWALD

TRUST



SUMMER 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO:

Reflecting on the Summer term is really to reflect on the whole academic year. This year has been another of growth, shared experience and commitment to driving the lives of young people forwards and there have been too many highlights to cram into one document.

The last term of year often feels like the busiest and that has certainly been the case this year with 3 Ofsted visits in the space of a few weeks. Whilst this may knock some provisions and schools, we took it in our stride and enjoyed revelling in the success of St Christopher's, Alderwood and First Base Ipswich. We know the positive reflections shared by Ofsted are true of all our Academies here.

Before we close for the summer for a very well-earned break, we say farewell and a huge thank you to our year 11s who have worked tirelessly and valiantly to complete their exams and to our departing colleagues all of whom we will miss dearly.

Now we rest, but only momentarily as we look to seize the opportunity that academic year 2026/2027 will offer. More innovations, extending our reach and maintaining a relentless drive to support young people and families in our community in a way that only Raedwald can.

So, on behalf of everyone at the Raedwald Trust, here's to a long Summer of lasting memory enjoyed safely and happily.

ANGELA RANSBY



TEA TO SAY TA-TA!

Throughout this newsletter, you will see numerous instances of our academies saying goodbye to year 11 students. We are incredibly proud of each student across all of our academies in how they have handled themselves both through exam season and in their general conduct. Every single student has made a contribution to the Raedwald Trust in their own unique way and we are proud to have been a part of their journey.

Leavers at St Christopher's Academy enjoyed a tea party to say goodbye. It was a real team effort from staff and students to prepare the food and set out the table. Originally planned to be outside, St Christopher's had to pivot when BBQ smoke from next door forced the occasion indoors. The show must go on as they say, and it duly did with great enjoyment and emotion to close what we hope has been a positive era in our students lives.



Tennis player Malachi has already landed himself an apprenticeship with a big-name supermarket chain to move onto after his time with St Christopher's.

Having "struggled to fit in" and having seen a fall in his attendance at his previous school Malachai noted the smaller and more focused approach to teaching at St Christopher's, describing the staff as more forgiving.

He also says he felt like support is put in place for every student that requires it, something he feels has helped him in his last year of secondary education. All the best for the future Malachi!

THE ALBANY ALMANAC

What our students and parents say:

"Even on my bad days you believed in me and encouraged me to carry on."

"The Albany makes me feel confident."

"From the bottom of my heart, I thank you so much for believing in me and encouraging me to never give up."

**Your
Voice
Matters**

"The Albany has helped me grow my confidence because I would never read out in front of people before."

"His time with you has been the making of him."

"They have really nice teachers."

"He has come a long way and that's because of you all."

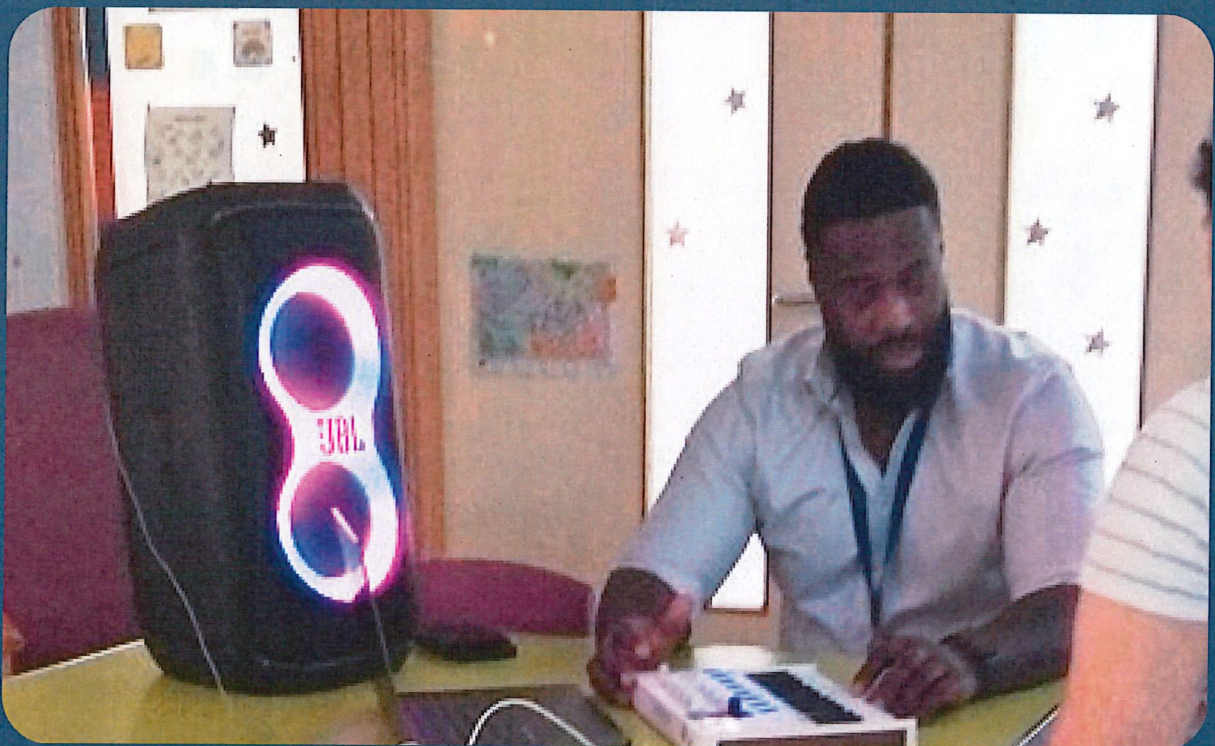
Moving into Bury St Edmunds for the next couple of features and we've been catching up with Rob Thompson, Head of Pathways for The Albany Academy and West Suffolk Hospital School. It's been another busy year for Rob who also acts as head of pathways at the West Suffolk Hospital School.

Rob was able to paint a very good picture of the academic year through his description of the students that have been with him: "We have had quite a mixture of students here – the quiet ones, the loud ones, the ones with a dry sense of humour, it's sort of like a liquorice all sorts which has created a great mixture."

You can see a picture at the top of this page that details the students own words on how they feel about life at The Albany Academy.

MUSIC THERAPY

Gil Walters, a teacher at Raedwald Trust, has been delivering music therapy to pupils at West Suffolk Hospital School. Rob said "Gil has been weaving his magic at West Suffolk Hospital School with music therapy and tuition. This is such an important component of the hospital offer as it promotes wellbeing, forms relationships, engages the patients in treatment and education and is an immense amount of fun. Thank you to Gil!"



LEGO THERAPY



Lego Therapy continues to be a vital part of our offering in the West Suffolk Hospital school and it is spearheaded by Nicola Edwards. As we close out the academic year, Nicola has been opening up on its effectiveness and has provided a detailed overview of how the program works. Keep your eyes peeled early into next year to catch up with that but for now here's some of the key takeaways and positives that we have found so far:

- **structured to help students build communication and social skills.**
- **Each session has 3 key roles. The builder, the engineer and the supplier.**
- **A good pathway into engaging with core subjects.**
- **Transportable so it can be completed in a classroom or bedside.**
- **Accessible to all, regardless of physical disability. App is available.**
- **It incorporates play and creativity.**

SUMMER FUN

@ALDERWOOD

On Tuesday 14th July, Alderwood hosted it's Summer Parent/Carer Event. Alderwood welcomed carers and family members to join in with Summer themed activities such as a Summer Quiz and various arts and crafts. The pupils then ran their own ice cream stall where they took orders and served ice cream cones with various toppings. Parent and carers also had the opportunity to look through their child's work books and celebrate all the amazing work that has been achieved over the Summer term.



AWE AND WONDER



The Awe and Wonder Programme at Parkside Academy has now reached it's conclusion after 12 weeks of personal growth, inspiration and fun.

The details of the programme have been well documented in previous newsletters and through the Raedwald Trust's varying social media channels but if you have missed those, in short, former Ipswich Town captain Luke Chambers has been working with a group of students at Parkside Academy to build resilience, respect and life skills through the art of sport.

The programme rounded off with go karting, an experience that the students expressed an interest in during the early stages of the programme.

Students that took part, enjoyed football, padel and running sessions as well as opportunities to learn about cooking for professional athletes and to visit places such as Fynn Valley golf club. It's a programme that was enjoyed by all as you will come to read on the following page.



Luke Chambers has led the programme alongside life coach Joe Thompson, personal trainer James Gaffer and Raedwald's own Kris Butler and Gil Walters.

He revealed how pleased he was with how students had developed socially across the 12 weeks: "When we now walk into a room, they have a genuine smile on their face, they shake your hand and say good morning"

We wanted to prepare them for when they leave education and have to go to a job interview and how to present themselves to the world"

Year 11 Ed was able to share some thoughts from the point of view of a student.

Ed stated that he enjoyed playing football and developing skills in padel, and he very much appreciated the time taken by the tutors to make the 12 week course exciting.

He valued being able to be taken offsite for the various activities. Ed has found a new love for football tennis and will miss that. Although he is very much keen to carry on developing padel skills going forward.



PODCAST

PODCAST



RT

KIRSTY
OSBORNE

PODCAST



RT

TOM
BAKER

PODCAST



RT

KATE
KINGSFORD

PODCAST



RT

EMILY
DUQUE

PODCAST



RT

ALICE
CROZIER-GREEN

WATCH NOW

THE OFSTED THREE

It's been a tremendously busy term on the Ofsted front with not one, not two, but three inspections crammed into the space of a few weeks.

We are incredibly proud of the positive feedback directed at Alderwood Academy, First Base Ipswich Academy and St Christopher's Academy.



Alderwood Head Tom Baker: The recent Ofsted experience at Alderwood was both positive and supportive. Ofsted noted the 'expert care' provided by staff and something all staff should be extremely proud of is that they recognised 'a culture of inclusion that pervades the school'.



First Base Ipswich Head Stacey Laws: The inspection provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on our strengths and our ongoing commitment to delivering the best care for every child to thrive. We are proud of the inclusive and ambitious culture that exists throughout our school community.



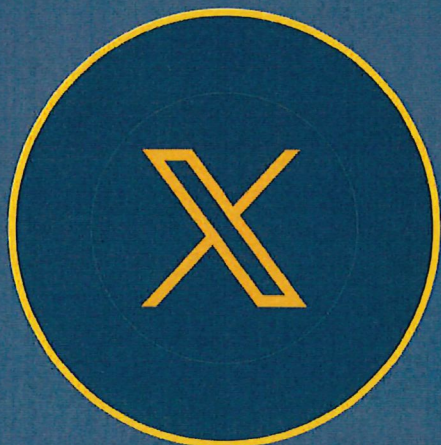
St Christopher's Head Kate Kingsford: We are incredibly proud of our staff and pupils, and pleased that Ofsted has recognised the positive, inclusive environment we have created at St Christopher's, where young people feel supported, valued and able to succeed.

EXAM SEASON

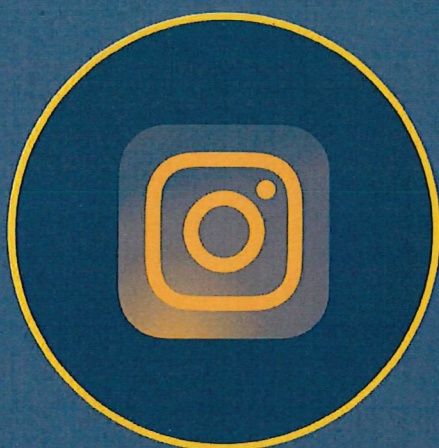
As is customary for this time of year, exam season ran through Raedwald this term, stopping at **Westbridge Academy, Parkside Academy, St Christopher's Academy and The Albany Academy**. This is a testing time (quite literally) for students and staff, navigating high stress levels and busy schedules all in the name of pupils trying to give the best account of themselves with just a pen and paper.

We are incredibly proud of every single student that has taken their GCSE's in the last few weeks and come rain or shine on results day, we know that the commitment and endeavour they have shown counts for more than a grade. We wish each student well and we hope that they all get the results they need to carry themselves into the next chapter of their lives.





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CHAPLAIN UPDATE

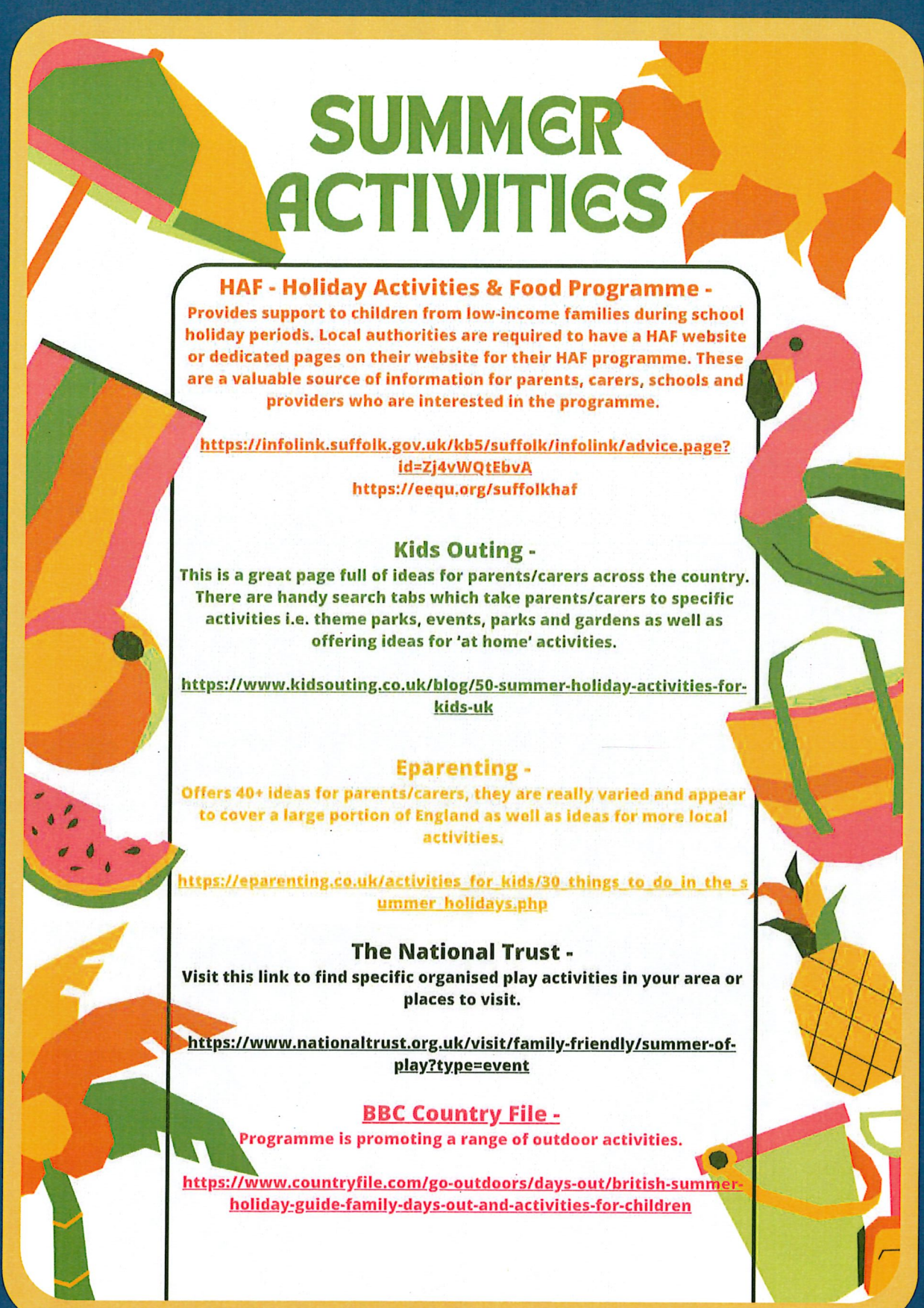
This term has been a busy and exciting one. The arrival of the sunnier weather has meant we could enjoy more sessions outdoors. We have planted sunflowers and started growing our own produce, including lettuce, tomatoes, and strawberries. The students have loved getting involved and watching everything begin to grow.

I was thrilled to join the St Christopher's students on a trip to Felixstowe and Rapid Falls Mini Golf, where I only managed to lose my ball a few times! It was a fantastic to see the students grow in confidence, hear them laugh together whilst creating wonderful memories.

This term, we also said goodbye to our year 11 students. I had the pleasure of creating a personalised leavers' pack for each of them, giving them a lasting keepsake as they begin their next chapter. It has been a true blessing to work across these wonderful sites and support such incredible students, whether through one-to-one sessions or group work. There is never a dull moment, and I'm pleased to say I'm definitely getting better at Uno (although I'm not sure the students would agree!)

As another academic year comes to an end, I find myself reflecting on the positive interactions and conversations I've shared with both students and staff. It has been a pleasure to be part of so many special moments big and small, and I look forward to doing all again in September!





SUMMER ACTIVITIES

HAF - Holiday Activities & Food Programme -

Provides support to children from low-income families during school holiday periods. Local authorities are required to have a HAF website or dedicated pages on their website for their HAF programme. These are a valuable source of information for parents, carers, schools and providers who are interested in the programme.

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/advice.page?id=Zj4vWQtEbva>
<https://eequ.org/suffolkhaf>

Kids Outing -

This is a great page full of ideas for parents/carers across the country. There are handy search tabs which take parents/carers to specific activities i.e. theme parks, events, parks and gardens as well as offering ideas for 'at home' activities.

<https://www.kidsouting.co.uk/blog/50-summer-holiday-activities-for-kids-uk>

Eparenting -

Offers 40+ ideas for parents/carers, they are really varied and appear to cover a large portion of England as well as ideas for more local activities.

https://eparenting.co.uk/activities_for_kids/30_things_to_do_in_the_summer_holidays.php

The National Trust -

Visit this link to find specific organised play activities in your area or places to visit.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/family-friendly/summer-of-play?type=event>

BBC Country File -

Programme is promoting a range of outdoor activities.

<https://www.countryfile.com/go-outdoors/days-out/british-summer-holiday-guide-family-days-out-and-activities-for-children>

ONLINE & AI SAFETY



Online & AI Harm:

Online and AI harm refers to the ways the internet and smart computer programs (like AI) can hurt people. These harms include scams, fake images, cyberbullying, and fake news. Many of these threats can be hard to spot and spread quickly online.

- **Deepfakes:** These are very real-looking fake photos or videos. People can use AI tools to create fake pictures of others without their permission.
- **Sextortion and Blackmail:** Scammers use fake images to threaten people and demand money. This is a major risk for teenagers and children.
- **Misinformation:** AI programs can write convincing but false stories or articles. This makes it hard to tell what is true.
- **Mental Health:** Spending too much time talking to AI chatbots can cause loneliness or confuse a person's sense of reality.

How to Stay Safe:

- **Think before you share:** Do not share personal photos online. They can be stolen and edited.
- **Limit AI use:** Do not let computers do all your work or thinking. Try to keep AI use to less than 30% of your total work.
- **Talk to an adult:** If you see something scary or get a threatening message, tell a trusted adult, teacher, or parent right away.
- **Report:** Report it to the police and CEOP - <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>



Why is Turning Off Screens So Hard for Children?

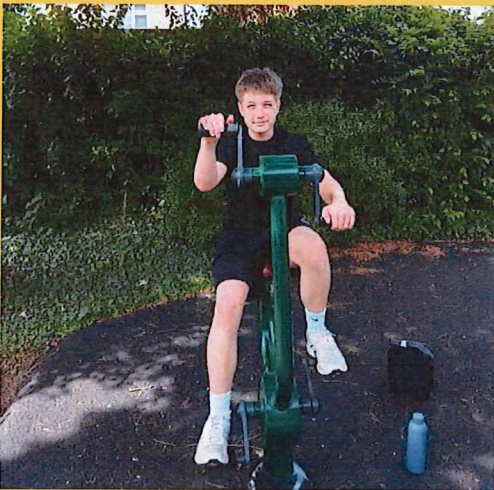
Techno-tantrums - what every parent dreads when asking their child to end a game or activity. Many online activities that children enjoy, such as games, YouTube and (in particular) social media are designed to be engaging, persuasive and grab attention and this is what often makes it particularly frustrating.

It's often a difficult one, what is right for one family may not be good advice for another, but an article in The Conversation piqued my curiosity because it gives parents some options to consider, so I think it's worth sharing with your parents as there may be something here that they haven't considered.

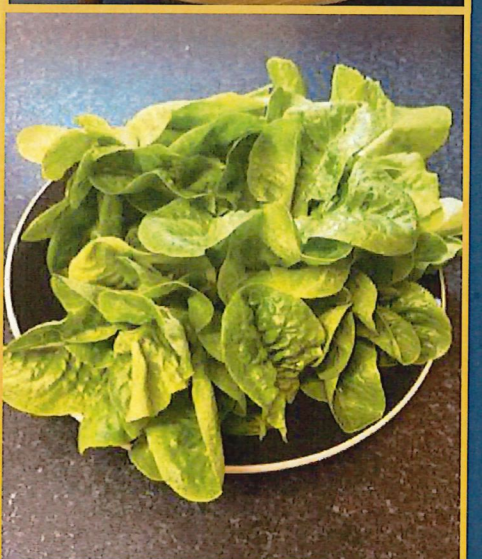
1. Give slower-paced options
2. Join in with children's screen use
3. Be careful using screens as a distraction
4. Establish a routine



Have a wonderful summer from all at The
Raedwald Trust and stay safe.



Hi as a last message to
 the school and my last time
 coming, I just wanted to
 say thank you to all the
 staff.
 If I was in a normal school,
 they wouldn't put up with
 me kicking off.
 You're the first school that's
 listened and helped and I just
 wanted to say that, and I
 know I'll miss being there.
 Thankyou for all you done
 for me whilst I was there.
 Just wanted to share this
 with you all : ❤️
 Parkside KS4 =
 - changing lives. ❤️





**SCHOOL'S OUT
FOR SUMMER!**

