

## Autumn 2022 Newsletter

Welcome to our Autumn 2022 PET newsletter! It has been another busy term this autumn, with a welcome return to a vast range of activities in our academies. Our staff and students have really embraced the opportunities available this term, whilst keeping themselves and others safe. In this term's newsletter we are showcasing the amazing events in our academies, our Autumn term PET joint inset Day and the community-based activities in our academies. Our first every PET Christmas Concert took place on 5<sup>th</sup> December at the Mitchell Arts Centre which is covered in more detail in our end of term letter. Enjoy our Autumn Newsletter!

Mark Kent, CEO

Martin Jones, Chair of PET Board



1 2 5 3 0 8 0 6 0 POLAROID 3F  
Werrington Primary School, Year 3  
Harvest Service with Rev. Steve Parker



1 2 5 3 0 8 0 6 0 POLAROID 3F  
Sixth Form College Level 3 Transition  
students at Stanley Head



1 2 5 3 0 8 0 6 0 POLAROID 3F  
Biddulph High School students build  
and race robots in Science Club



1 2 5 3 0 8 0 6 0 POLAROID 3F  
Moorside High School students set off  
to complete their Duke of Edinburgh



We are thrilled to share in celebrating our girls' football team's success as winners of the Staffordshire Moorlands Girls' District Year 5/6 football competition held at Moorside High School. Well done to them all, and thanks to their coach Mrs Bennett.



Year 3 took part in a local harvest service led by Reverend Steve Parker at the local church along with members of the community. They found out more about why Christians celebrate harvest, read extracts from the bible and sang hymns.



[@wps\\_staffs](https://twitter.com/wps_staffs)



[Werrington Primary School, Staffs](https://www.facebook.com/WerringtonPrimarySchoolStaffs)

Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic day out to Blists Hill as part of their history work, learning about 'The Victorians'. They dressed up as Victorian school children and took part in a lesson, as well as learning about the money used by the Victorians. They exchanged their own money and used it to buy some chips. A great day out was had by all of the children.

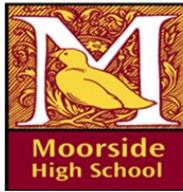


On behalf of Werrington Primary School, a wreath was laid on Remembrance Sunday by some of the children at the memorial. They also attended a service to remember the sacrifices people made fighting for our country.



Year 4 visited the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, linking in with their learning about 'The Ancient Greeks'. They each made a Greek coil pot out of clay and explored different Greek designs to add interesting patterns. They also enjoyed exploring the different range of artefacts in the museum. Year 4 had a fantastic day.





Our 'Brilliant Club' has started in German this term. The first session was all about the Berlin Wall and the differences between East and West. Students are doing fantastic university style work researching the origins of the Wall and the political climate in which it was built. Pupils will go on to do a research project about an aspect of life in partitioned Berlin.



This football team are the gift that keeps on giving... the Year 8 football team started their season off with a fixture in the English Schools FA Cup at home to Sir Graham Balfour. Taking a 5-4 win! Well done. Excellent result.



[@Moorside\\_High](https://twitter.com/Moorside_High)



[moorsidehighschoolstaffs](https://www.instagram.com/moorsidehighschoolstaffs)



[Moorside High School](https://www.facebook.com/MoorsideHighSchool)

Throughout the remembrance period, a group of twelve Year 7 students diligently sold a range of items from the Royal British Legion in support of their fundraising activities. They all worked incredibly hard to cover the entire school numerous times. Their efforts really did pay off, and the money box became so full that it simply could not be carried anymore. Thank you to everyone for your generosity and caring nature.

Although this was clearly a fantastic effort, Mr Philips was even more impressed by the reasons each student gave for wanting to volunteer their time. All twelve students gave reasons, which ranged from "family members having survived in the forces" to "losing loved ones" as motivations for 'wanting to do their bit'. They really are a credit to the school.



School of Rock rehearsals are gaining momentum now, and last Thursday the cast practised their rendition of "Stick it to the Man". They really put some gusto into this performance, and it is looking very entertaining and very promising. Mr Milward is undoubtedly excited about the upcoming performance!





On the 14 September students took part in the Aintree heat of Greenpower's Formula 24 racing. Our team consisted of six Year 10 students.

We were extremely delighted with the performance of the cars and also the team, they were a total credit to the school and themselves. One of the cars came in 5th place and the other finished in 6th place which was a superb result.

Well done.



In support of Black History Month we emphasised its aims within our curriculum.

The aims of Black History month include: promoting the knowledge and understanding of Black History and culture, acknowledging and celebrating the contributions made by Black people to the cultural and economic development of the UK, disseminating information on positive Black contributions to Society and heightening the confidence and awareness of Black people to their cultural heritage.



[@BiddulphHigh](https://twitter.com/BiddulphHigh)



[@biddulphhigh](https://www.instagram.com/biddulphhigh)



[Biddulph High School](https://www.facebook.com/BiddulphHighSchool)

On Friday the 18th of November, Sixth Form leaders organised and managed a fantastic 'Mr & Mrs' event to raise money for Children in Need. The total raised for this event was £200! Well done to everyone who organised this event and a big thank you to the staff who took part and the students who came along to watch.

The winning 'couple' was Mr Woolhouse and Mr Leech.



Our BH6 Computer Scientists virtually attended the Computer Science in Action Conference. This consisted of 5 sessions run by both academia and industry experts. The sessions included top tips for examinations, the development of driverless cars and how they are developed to deal with unpredictable humans. Did you know that algorithms are not new—they were used in 13th Century Venice to determine the ruler. We learned about 'what is logic and what is it good for?' It was a fabulous day of learning which broadened our understanding of Computer Science.





In October, our Health and Social Care students completed a sponsored memory walk to fundraise for Alzheimer's Society. As part of their course, students are currently learning about supporting people with dementia. These students collectively decided to raise vital funds and awareness within our community, raising over £400. Congratulations to all involved and thank you for caring.



October 10th was Mental Health Awareness Day, and the college hosted its own 'Hello Yellow' day. Staff and students were encouraged to wear something yellow or our yellow ribbons on offer. The Mental Health and Wellbeing Team engaged with students, handing out cakes and drinks during lunch.



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[@SOT6thformcollege](https://www.facebook.com/SOT6thformcollege)

On the 16th of November, we welcomed Year 10 from Moorside High School to the college for a 'challenge day'. During the day, students participated in a business enterprise session, a criminology law crime scene investigation, and a media/film challenge.



Staff and students attended a remembrance service in the atrium to listen to student readings and pay their respect by observing a 2 minute silence, which ended with a poignant rendition of the Last Post played beautifully on the trumpet. Our Level 3 Transition students created a Remembrance Day display.



Our A Level Maths students achieved the best results in recent years at the UK Maths Trust Senior Mathematical Challenge. Nine achieved gold and made it through to the next stage, 10 silver and 7 bronze. Well done. Fabulous achievement. Wishing you all the best for the next stage.



# Potteries Educational Trust News



## Students across three academies of the Potteries Educational Trust attended a virtual talk with Global Cybersecurity Advisor, Jake Moore.

Staff and students across the Potteries Educational Trust attended a virtual talk on Thursday the 24th of November, delivered by Jake Moore, world-renowned Global Cybersecurity Advisor for Europe's number one Cybersecurity company ESET.

Jake Moore's prominence in Cybersecurity started when he worked for the police force, investigating computer crime in the Digital Forensics Unit and Cyber Crime Team in Dorset. He was later approached to pilot a Home Office scheme to implement local forces with cybersecurity advisors to make their communities more resilient to increasing cybercrime.

During his time in the police force and ESET, Jake has assisted in murder investigations, breaking encryption, social engineering, and even accessing company networks ethically. Jake's expertise and notoriety within the industry have led to many national and international TV appearances including the BBC, ITV, Channel 5, France 24, Al Jazeera, Euronews, NBC and Canadian CBC.

Computer Science and IT students attended the virtual talk from three academies; Moorside High School, Biddulph High School, and The City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College.

During the session, he discussed a variety of hacking techniques and social engineering tactics to give students an understanding and a greater depth of knowledge about the industry and what it would be like to work in cybersecurity. He also gave advice on how our students can best protect themselves from rising threats online.

Jake Moore commented, "It's always fantastic when young people are interested in learning about the world of cybersecurity, so this was a perfect opportunity to talk about an area which is so important. I covered hacking techniques, and I was able to demonstrate some social engineering tactics used to hack into companies and showcased the incredibly fun side of the industry. Hopefully, it gave insight to those who want to work in cybersecurity in the future, as well as engaging with those who had never thought of working in cyber."

Deputy CEO of the Potteries Educational Trust, Heather McLachlan, stated, "Jake delivered a fantastic session for staff and learners across the trust. His advice on how we can improve our cybersecurity was simple and easy to follow – I've definitely changed all my passwords as a result! We would love for Jake to return and give advice to more of our students, staff, and parents; they too can benefit from his advice gained from vast expertise with both the police and private industry."

You can find out more about Jake Moore by visiting [www.jakemoore.uk](http://www.jakemoore.uk)

### Continuous Professional Development Feedback:



A small number of our technical IT Leads participated in the CPD event; Jisc Security Conference, hosted at the ICC in Newport in early November. The experiences and keynotes across the two-day event have helped us to develop more robust internal systems, assisted in the technical measures and requirements for our Trust device anti-malware and security solution, as well as provide an excellent platform to create supplier contacts/relationships within the Jisc Framework. And..... look who we bumped into!



## **New proposal for a multi-million-pound school to be built on the Sixth Form College site**

On Friday 14th October, CEO of the Potteries Educational Trust, Mark Kent hosted a launch event for the proposed multi-million-pound school. The new school will focus on digital technology and creative design and the Trust is set to submit plans to the Department for Education next month for a new academy for 16-19-year-olds.

The school will cater for approximately 400 students locally and from surrounding counties and will be built over the car park of the Sixth Form College. The Trust is working collaborating with Staffordshire University, Keele University and the University of Derby as well as other local schools, colleges and businesses.

Mark Kent, CEO of the Potteries Educational Trust, said: “Our vision is to create a Centre of Excellence for digital technology and creative design at a specialist post-16 academy with a particular focus on A Level computer science – the first of its kind in the UK.

This new type of school builds on opportunities in the government’s Levelling Up initiative. Our Free School will be different, with a focus on a model of education which promotes creative problem-solving and independent, investigative thinking and enquiry. In doing so it will enable the highest standards of academic achievement through the curriculum and experiences.

Should this application be successful we aim to produce the next generation of skilled workers within Stoke-on-Trent, North Staffordshire and the region. We want the new school to be a driver for investment and regeneration, creating new jobs and opportunities.”

At the launch event at the Sixth Form College , supporters of the project included Port Vale owner Carol Shanahan, of data firm Synectics Solutions, and MP for Stoke-on-Trent South Jack Brereton.

Right Honorable MP Jack Brereton, representing Stoke-on-Trent South said, “Stoke-on-Trent MPs are backing the new school. I think it’s really important that we champion the excellence that we have in the city in computing and games design. We do these subjects extremely well here – it’s the industry of the future.”

Carol Shanahan said, “We as a city can really take advantage of this. We can make Stoke-on-Trent the heart of the games design industry, and help to bring the highly skilled and highly paid jobs that we want to see.”

Right Honorable MP Jonathan Gullis representing Stoke-on-Trent North, Kidsgrove and Talke said, “This will benefit not only my constituents but also the development of both employability and creative skills for the wider City. I fully support this bid and it will aid to continue to raising the profile of Stoke-on-Trent.”

Right Honorable MP Jo Gideon, representing Stoke-on-Trent Central said, “The Potteries Educational Trust has a proven track record in the delivery of great education. It is so important that we build on our creative heritage and this will enable Stoke-on-Trent to bring new opportunities for our young people to access the new digital industry jobs. Let’s harness this chance to build on opportunities in the Government’s Levelling Up initiative.”

The application was submitted on 29 November and a decision is expected in late spring or summer 2023. It will take around a calendar year to build and is proposed to open in September 2025.

Any businesses wishing to support our free school application can download a template letter by scanning the QR code below. Please feel free to adapt, add business logos and return via email to [info@potteries.ac.uk](mailto:info@potteries.ac.uk) marked FAO Mark Kent CEO.



# PET Inset Day

Our PET inset day took place on the 31st October. The day opened with a keynote from the PET Executive Group to discuss vision and values. There was great collaboration and the day focused on curriculum mastery and how PET staff are using this to ensure consistently high quality teaching and learning. Our priority for all PET learners is to develop a deep and durable understanding of key curriculum concepts and preparation for their next steps. Team Leaders said:

“What a great opportunity to network and share ideas, experiences, challenges and solutions.”

“ We were able to exchange ideas on future plans and curriculum developments.”

“We created a teams group to allow us to share resources. The sessions that were in breakout rooms were useful.”

“ The learning journey was purposeful and showed progression of difficulty of skill development.”



## Our values:

- ◇ Strive for excellence
- ◇ Inspire our children and young people
- ◇ Work in partnership across all phases of education
- ◇ Open access policy
- ◇ Broad, holistic education for all
- ◇ All partners have an equal place and will work together with honesty, transparency and fairness

A Caring Community, Delivering Excellence and Inspiring Futures



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