

Our Community Matters

January 2024
Issue Seventeen



The latest news, views, and announcements for the
Community Academies Trust



#catschools/#schoolscat

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This issue introduces new
network groups, leads and
collaborations.



The second half of the autumn term is a great one for concerts, celebrations, and nativities. The children in the above photo are from Stoneydelph Primary, and they had a smashing time in concert at Lichfield Cathedral. They were joined by Chadsmead Primary Academy to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Benjamin Britten’s Noyes Fludde. You can read more about that later in this 17th edition of OCM.

If you’re a primary colleague, you have no doubt met our Director of Schools (Primary) Ally Brown whilst she’s been out and about. Ally is the subject of our “Introducing” feature where she talks about her journey to taking up this new role within our trust.

Finally, I’m drawing attention to the Internship programme run by the IoE during the summer term. This 3-week programme is designed for eligible undergraduates who want to try out teaching. The programme pays £300 per week, making it a worthwhile opportunity to see if teaching is the right career choice. Check out the QR code for more information and share the love.



Michelle, Editor
Our Community Matters



Message from Philip Hamilton OBE, CEO



Happy New Year - welcome back after what I hope was a restful and enjoyable break

As of the 1st January there are changes to the way the central trust leadership teams are organized. As many of you will know, I founded our trust back in November 2012 with Edward May who at the time was Headteacher of Birchwood Primary School. Ed and I have worked closely together for all that time. From 1st January Ed is changing his role in the trust from Executive Director (Education) to Director of Policy and Governance and reducing the time he spends working for the trust to 2 days a week. Ed has achieved so much professionally having made substantial and tangible differences to children's lives as Headteacher, Executive Headteacher and system leader. His influence is felt in every aspect of our work. I am so pleased Ed will continue to work for the trust. I know he is not done yet when it comes to making a difference for young people.

Linked to this, as of 1st January, the Executive Leadership Team will be replaced by the **Trust Executive Group** which I will lead and comprises:

Lois Gordon - Executive Director (Finance and Operations) - leadership of all non-education provision and Company Secretary

Allyson Brown - Director of Schools (Primary) - Enabling, Empowering and line managing Primary Headteachers

Maura Favell - Secondary Schools Strategic Lead - Enabling, Empowering and line managing Secondary Headteachers and the Headteacher at The Polesworth School

Alexis Rickus - Director of our Institute of Education - Leading professional development, teacher training and aspects of school improvement including support for the new Teaching Toolkit, Growing Great People and our professional networks.

Jo Howell - Director of Behaviour and Safeguarding. Taking trust wide responsibility for safeguarding and related monitoring, support and training as well as working with schools to support the ongoing achievement of the highest standards of behaviour.

Edward May - Director of Policy and Governance - Leading local governance in our schools as well as the effective governance of education policies and the trust complaints policy

Together this group will take the strategic lead for the trust, assuming responsibility for achieving the objectives in our trust strategy (we are now in year 2 of a 5-year set of actions and objectives) and for monitoring, evaluation and delivery of our Excellence standards set out in "Ensuring Excellence".

As a follow up to my message in the last edition of OCM, my thanks to the 600 members of staff who contributed to my survey of your views on Ensuring Excellence in your school. Your contributions in autumn 2022 changed the direction of much of strategic work last year. Your contributions this year will do the same. They provide a rich source of information which is crucial to our next steps.

Best wishes for the term ahead

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Hamilton'.

Philip Hamilton OBE, CEO

Ensuring Excellence

Snapshots of what our schools have been up to this half term.



Stoneydelph Primary School and Chadsmead Primary Academy raise the roof at Lichfield Cathedral

On Saturday 11th November, year 5 and 6 pupils from Stoneydelph Primary School and Chadsmead Primary Academy took part in a special Musicshare 20th birthday concert of the Benjamin Britten operetta, *Noyes Fludde*,

which tells the Old Testament story of Noah's ark.

The concert was held in Lichfield Cathedral and 150 pupils from 5 schools spent their Saturday afternoon rehearsing with a full orchestra and professional opera singers who played the roles of Noah and Mrs Noah. Noye's Fludde is a community opera, where children take on many of the roles and our pupils portrayed the pairs of animals who marched into the ark before the great flood arrived. Children wore headaddresses to represent their animals and t-shirts designed by a Disney artist completed our performance costume.

Staff from Musicshare visited both schools in the weeks leading up to the concert and taught the pupils the Greek prayer *Kyrie eleison* as a children's chant, and an *Alleluia* chorus, amongst other traditional hymns. Performing the concert to a full house of parents and invited guests in the evening was the highlight of the day. The music made by these amazing, talented young people in such an awe-inspiring location, was incredible. Music really does have the power to change lives and this inspirational experience has certainly ignited a love of a new genre of music for our pupils.



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In remembrance of sacrifice and hope for the future

Thank you to everyone who attended The Polesworth School's Annual Remembrance Commemoration on Friday 10th November 2023.

This year we had the High Sheriff of North Warwickshire, Sophie Hilleary and Lord Lieutenant of North Warwickshire, Timothy Cox join us which was a great honour.

It was great to see so many students pay their respects by attending the service and to those who wore their cadet and scout uniforms to school for the day.

A big thank you to these students who took part in the service, Andrew B in Year 13 and Braydan W in Year 8 who held their youth groups banners and to Lily-Rae P in Year 11 and James M and Corey S in Year 13 for their readings of "Anthem for Doomed Youth" by Wilfred Owen, "We Who Remain" by Anthony Devanny and the scripture reading of Matthew 5:43-48. Part of the service involved the laying of the wreath in our Memorial Garden by our Year 10 students, Thomas L and Leo M.

And last but no means least, thank you to Grace A in Year 9 for playing The Last Post with us and who also played in Atherstone on Remembrance Sunday.



Polesworth student makes final shortlist for Astronomy Photographer of the Year Competition

Well done to Harrison J in Year 11 who entered the Astronomy Photographer of the Year Competition run by Royal Museums Greenwich!

Harry's image of the Elephant's Trunk Nebula which he named, "An Elephant You'll Never Forget!" (Featured above) made it to the final shortlist in the global competition and has been published in this year's book along with all the other finalists.

Harry was invited to attend a special VIP event at the National Maritime Museum on Tuesday 26th September 2023 which featured the winners and shortlisted entries. At the event, Harry took part in an interview for a new Royal Museums podcast, met some of the judges, finalists and people who run the various museum (RMG) sites.



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Harry and his family viewed the exhibition of winning images and enjoyed seeing Harry's image displayed on a big screen and in the book. They also took the opportunity to visit the Royal Observatory, stand on the Meridian Line and see where and how the founders of Astronomy mapped the stars and planets and decided how we measure time and location. Harry has come away even more inspired and will certainly be working on his submission for the competition next year!

If you would like to see some of Harry's growing collection of Astrophotography pictures and vlogs then please copy the link below:

https://linktr.ee/astroadventurers?utm_source=linktree_profile_share



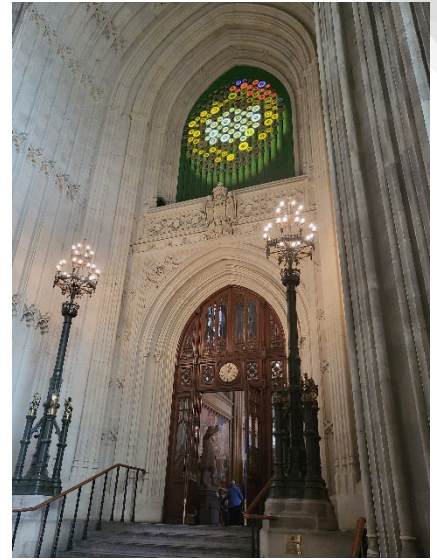
Sixth Form Students ponder the process of democracy in Parliament.

On Monday 16th October 2023, Polesworth History and Politics A-Level students had the opportunity to go to the Houses of Parliament in London. It forms the basis for students considering the foundation of parliament and democracy in the History curriculum as students will study King John, Magna Carta and the conciliar rule of Henry III. The Palace of Westminster also has a considerable Tudor connection. For our Politics students, it was an opportunity to visit the centre of UK power and influence that plays such an important role in their studies.

Having navigated our way through the security checks on our way into Parliament, donned visitor badges and collected our audio headsets we were given a tour that took us through the principal sections of the Palace of Westminster. We were guided through the most famous

rooms of the Grade I listed building and UNESCO World Heritage site including both chambers of parliament: the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The gold throne was particularly stunning in the House of Lords and will host King Charles III next month as he formally opens Parliament. It is a fully functioning workplace and students were impressed to see Members of Parliament moving through the Central Lobby and Commons floor. The paintings depicting various historically significant events in British history impressed, but several students commented on their surprise at the relatively small scale of the site compared to the visual they had from the media.

Our tour concluded with a workshop that allowed students to debate in the style of the Commons, supporting motions with ‘ayes’ and being kept under control by our own student ‘Speaker’. The final part of our visit involved meeting our local representative for North Warwickshire, Craig Tracey MP. Students had the opportunity to hear what the work of an MP entails and specifically how Mr Tracey found the experience of Parliament. Students engaged really effectively in a Question-and-Answer session that followed and gained an insight into their local candidate in the probable election next Autumn.



Through the experience students were able to gain a valuable insight into the process of democracy and the role played by Parliament. They were also a credit to the school in the way they carried themselves and engaged with the sessions.



Attention Primary Schools! Has your school used the Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI) in past 3 years? If so, it continues to be funded for this academic year. Don't miss out!

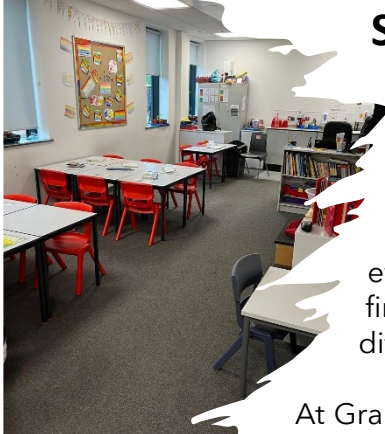
The NELI Programme is an integrated programme consisting of “LanguageScreen”, an assessment app, training, mentoring and support for a 20-week intervention that has been **proven to improve children’s language and early literacy skills**. Independent evaluations found NELI children made on average 3-5 months of additional progress in language as a result of the programme. **Behaviour of children undergoing NELI was also seen to improve substantially**. More recent evidence shows that the lasting effects of NELI on language and reading have been seen two years on in children. What’s more, the NELI programme is proven to improve educational outcomes for the children who need the most help. A recent evaluation found that children eligible for free school meals made on average seven months’ additional progress in their language ability, suggesting that NELI could help close the language development gap between socio-economically disadvantaged children and their peers.

The NELI Programme was provided at no cost to schools as part of a DfE-funded programme from September 2020. Funding was due to end in July 2023. But at the last minute the Government agreed to fund this programme for another academic year, until July 2024.

Make the most of your funding. Would Reception children benefit from language support?

NELI Whole Class is a new companion to NELI Intervention. It complements NELI Intervention to support you in delivering oral language enrichment to all the children in your reception class, as well as further boost the skills and confidence of the children receiving the intervention. If you’re funded, don’t know if you’re funded, want to restart NELI intervention, or start for the first time. Please get in touch with your local Pearson contact who can support you. Don’t miss this!

Sally Fitton for schools in Staffordshire and Telford sally.fitton@pearson.com
Kauani Lima for schools in Warwickshire kauani.lima@pearson.com



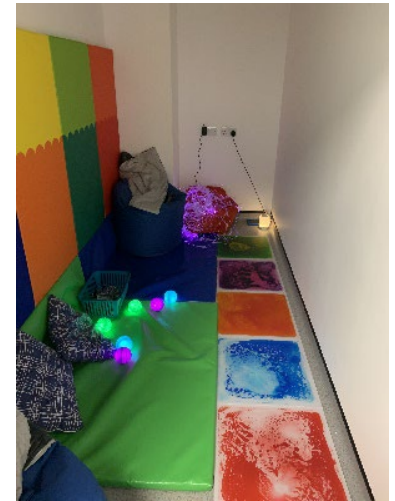
SEND at Grange Park Primary

by Jemma Roberts (SENCO)

At Grange Park primary we have a significant number of children with Special Educational Needs. A high proportion of these pupils have social and emotional difficulties and can find school overwhelming at times. Building strong and trusted relationships with our pupils is at the heart of everything we do at Grange Park. Unfortunately, at times some of our pupils find regulating their emotions too overwhelming. When this happens, it can be difficult to find a calm and safe environment for the child to self or co-regulate.

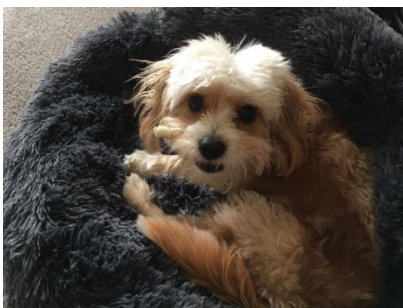
At Grange Park we have created two spaces for the children to feel safe and secure. Base 1 is our school nurture room, which is run by a fully qualified teacher and 2 experienced teaching assistants. In Base 1, the children focus on fundamental skills such as, resilience, emotional regulation, developing mutual rewarding friendships, restorative practices, and team building. The children also access daily Maths and English lessons, which are taught a slower pace with regular movement breaks.

The second space is a newly converted small sensory room to support some of our pupils that find the classroom environment overwhelming. The feedback from the children has been extremely positive. The new projector and gym ball has been very popular!



Base 2 is a designated classroom for all things 'SEND'. As part of the SEND team at Grange Park we have non-classroom-based SEND teaching assistants. This allows us to provide speech and language, phonic and ELSA interventions every day. It is also a space that can be used by outside professionals that work in school, such as our teacher of the deaf, learning support advisory teacher and play therapist.

We use 'InPrint' at Grange Park. This software allows us to make accessible resources for our pupils, by providing a picture prompt next to each word. We use this software for writing scaffolds, timetables, check lists and displays.



Freddie is our school dog, and he lives with our headteacher and comes to school every day. The children enjoy regular walks and throwing Freddie his ball. Freddie is often a calming influence when children are feeling overwhelmed.

We have recently held our first SEND coffee morning, giving our parents an opportunity to share experiences and meet with services that offer support to SEND families in our local area. At Grange Park we are always adapting our provision to find new and innovative ways to meet the needs of the children.





Stratford upon Avon Primary School celebrates 200 years!

By Gill Humphriss – Head Teacher

Headteacher Gill Humphriss looks back over the annals of school logbooks as staff, children and former pupils at Stratford upon Avon Primary School celebrated 200 years of educating children.

This year we have had fun celebrating 2 significant milestones in our history.

Our school was founded in May 1823 and named The British School. Our founder was Rev Thomas Helmore, a non-conformist minister. When he moved to Stratford upon Avon, he realised that only a handful of the town's children were lucky enough to be educated. Finding such a lack of opportunities for teaching the poor, Rev Helmore opened his school.

British Schools were those supported by the British and Foreign School society. They provided an elementary non-conformist education and focused mainly on reading, writing and arithmetic with some map reading, music and singing. Our records show that he was an active founder until he trained a schoolmaster William Pardoe to take sole charge. The records also say 'An infant school, quite a novelty in those days, if we except the good old fashioned dames' schools, was a source of great delight to those who watched its development under the loving care of good little Mrs Corbett, directed by the indefatigable minister, who

taught the tiny creatures to do a variety of useful exercises which have now become familiar to educationalists today.'

At one point there were over 300 children in the British School.

Over time the school became uninhabitable and in 1881 the school board purchased land to build a new school to house the 300 children. Stratford school board took over management and in 1883 Henry Cordingley took over as master of the new school on an annual wage of £120! Our current building was opened on 19th November 1883 and so this year we also celebrated our building being 140 years old. Our present school was built on vegetable plots known as poor man's land. When it was first built it had 5 classrooms to educate 300 pupils up to the age of 14. Soon extra classrooms were built, and it doesn't look much different to the Victorian building today apart from further extension in the 1990's when a library, hall and 2 more classrooms were added replacing wooden huts in the playgrounds.

Our logbooks show that children were encouraged to learn gardening and tended a small orchard.

In the classroom they learnt reading, writing and arithmetic and the scriptures. Over the years our school has been known by many names: The British School, Stratford Board School, Stratford County Juniors, Broad Street Primary and today Stratford upon Avon Primary.



To celebrate such a momentous occasion, we have been busy creating a history/memory trail through the corridors and ex-pupils and teachers from the 1920's onwards have shared memories, photographs and artefacts.

A favourite item has been a handkerchief, well-preserved pencil, and bible to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953.

A former headteacher, Percy Worth, became mayor of Stratford in 1957, and another head from the 1920's became president of the National Association of Teachers.

Every year we form a remembrance trail in honour of 23 men who are listed on the Stratford war memorial and were once pupils at our school.

During the 1960's, sports days were a huge affair with bound programmes and judges from the town council. They took place on Stratford cricket grounds. A famous pupil is well-known actress Kim Hartman who played Helga in 'Allo, Allo.' Previous pupils have even met Prince Charles, now our King.



To wish our school happy birthday we decided to dress to impress from Victorian times, through the World Wars, into the swinging sixties, through the 1980's to the noughties!

We opened up our doors and our archives and welcomed many visitors past and present to view our logbooks past registers, photos and more.

Old friends re-united, and our school rang with the sound of laughter. We learnt so much more about the history of our wonderful building. People came not only from Stratford and surrounding areas but from London, Norfolk and The North, and we all hope our school will still be standing in 200 years' time full of happy, confident children. However, I am pretty confident I won't still be the headteacher!!



Fond Memories of school days!

"My Dad, Cyril Robbins, went to Broad Street School and in turn my brother (Brian Robbins) and myself (Susan Robbins). My most special memory was watching the moon landing in the hall in 1969. I also remember being allowed to make the teachers their tea and coffee at lunchtime."

"My mother and her brothers and sisters were there in the 1920s and 1930s. I remember mum ran errands for her mother at lunchtime and sometimes prepared a boiled egg for the head teacher! I cannot imagine that she had time to eat anything herself. She said the children had to line up in the morning and have their hands checked for cleanliness."

"I remember Miss Lacey used to organise shows and took singing choirs to interschool competitions in Wood Street Hall. I was in one of the winning choirs and we sang 'The Ash Grove' and 'The Queen's Horses, The Queen's Men'. (Coronation Year). Miss Lacey also organised pageants in the boys' playground. I begrudgingly played one of Robin Hood's men (I hated dressing up). During the public performance, the show suddenly stopped when a harnessed monkey appeared on the wall of one of the Evesham Place gardens. We all stopped to look at it, and in that time a Bee stung my middle finger, the poison from it passed into my index finger which swelled up badly. Happy Days at School."



Safer Recruitment Training

Delivered by Jo Howell and Sam Sweet, this training is for anyone involved in recruitment of staff in our school communities.

Whether you are involved in planning interviews, advertising or decision making, you should be on this course.

Open to anyone from our trust community, this course is accredited by the Safer Recruitment Consortium and supports the requirements of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

If you wish to book onto this session, which will be delivered online via Teams then please email ioe@catschools.uk.

If it is coming up to three years since you last undertook this training, then there is a Refresher course planned for Thursday 18 April 2024 (9.00-1.00).

ESA Astro Pi Run your code on the ISS with ESA Astro Pi!

Astro Pi gives primary and secondary school pupils the chance to write computer programs that run on Raspberry Pi computers onboard the International Space Station!

Mission Zero is suitable for **primary pupils** and is open from 18 September 2023. The mission takes under an hour and pupils will send a personalised image to the ISS astronauts!

Mission Space Lab is suitable for **secondary pupils** and is open from 6 November 2023. In this mission, students will use their coding to measure the velocity of the ISS!

The challenge can be completed in just 60 minutes and teams receive a certificate. **The deadline for entries is 25 March 2024.**

Moon Camp

Teams are invited to design a human space habitat in the solar system, using a design tool of their choice. It could be an outpost on Mars, Jupiter's moons, or an asteroid...the choice is yours!

This project is suitable for **primary and secondary pupils** and teams receive a certificate and are invited to an online event. **The deadline for submissions is 25 April 2024.**

To join or find out more about any of the above projects, check out the link here: [ESA Astro Pi here.](#)



Introducing....

Ally Brown joined our trust this September and will already be a familiar figure in our primary schools. Ally brings with her a wealth of experience and has supported school improvement across the West Midlands.



Thank you for the very warm welcome that I have received from you all during my first term as Director of Schools (Primary).

It has been a very busy term, with my first priority being to develop strong and trusting relationships with colleagues and to get to know our primary schools really well. During this time, I have also supported a number of CAT primary schools through Ofsted inspections.

For those of you who I haven't had the opportunity to meet yet, a little about myself- I was a headteacher for 18 years and worked across a number of different local authorities and settings, including a small rural school as a teaching head to the other extreme of large two form entry schools within Telford. Throughout my career I have also undertaken secondments to primary schools causing concern and have supported them to improve leadership & management in order to secure good or better outcomes in subsequent inspections. I was also a National Leader in Education until 2022 and supported school improvement across the West Midlands region.

Over recent years, I have moved into more focused school improvement roles- firstly, as a school improvement adviser at Telford & Wrekin LA and subsequently within the Severn Teaching and Schools Alliance, Telford. I then took the leap into the academy system as a school improvement adviser for a small primary Trust within Shropshire and was promoted to Deputy CEO shortly afterwards. I also became an Ofsted inspector in September 2022.

I believe a significant strength is my understanding of how to move schools quickly on their school improvement journey. My Ofsted inspector role ensures that I am constantly abreast of the latest research, training and thinking in relation to Ofsted- which I believe can support schools in the Trust significantly.

School improvement is my passion. I believe that my vision and values strongly align with those of Community Academies Trust, ensuring that strong schools are given the autonomy to be successful and innovative in their own way, whilst schools who need more support benefit from the resources and expertise of the good and outstanding schools around them. I believe that schools should reflect and serve the communities that they lie within and celebrate their uniqueness whilst understanding the need for continuous due diligence, in relation to school improvement, to ensure that the schools within the Trust remain highly effective and build and maintain their reputation for academic excellence and personal development.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the CAT team this term and have relished developing my role in a way that aligns with the needs of our schools in a partnership approach to school improvement. Opportunities such as this are rare, and it is my very great privilege to be the first Director of Schools (Primary) within your Trust.

I look forward to continuing this work with you all.

Ally Brown

Education Matters



If you haven't downloaded our App onto your phone yet, you can do so directly by accessing the OCMJ on the web here: <https://www.theocmjournal.com/> As usual control and click on the pictures below to access the full story. If you would like to submit an article, we would love to hear from you. Email: communications@catschools.uk



Michelle Borders
57 minutes ago · 3 min

Exploring the Effectiveness of Retrieval Practice in...

This is a summary of EEF Senior Associate Professor Rob Coe's explanation as to why, despite the amount of evidence to support the use of retrieval practice, there is still a question mark about how effectively it can be incorporated by teachers into lessons. **You can read the full article in the [EEF Blog](#).**

Maths colleagues interested in retrieval practices can join Mr Barton Maths as he explores memory and retrieval methods during the next Network and Expert Group meeting on Wednesday 17 January 2024. Join using the zoom link on www.thecatoinstitute.org.



Dec 6, 2023 · 2 min

A Spell for Curriculum Depth: A Call to Slow the Haste and Embrace the Wonder

Based on Mary Myatt's piece in Curriculum 101, #055, Mary examines the importance of depth over speed when it comes to the curriculum.

CAT Institute of Education Matters



A spotlight on the trust's Centre for Teacher Training, Professional Development and school improvement by Alexis Rickus, Director of Institute of Education

The commencement of a new year often signifies a time for change, where individuals set resolutions to alter their habits. If you're a member of our extensive support staff community with a level 6 or degree qualification, you may be contemplating a career transition into teaching.

This is an excellent time to pursue training as numerous pathways offer generous scholarships and bursaries. Through our collaboration with Derby University, we provide training opportunities across our trust. If you possess exceptional communication skills, hold an honours degree, and meet our eligibility criteria, consider joining our team of beginning teachers as they embark on a journey towards becoming qualified teachers. Get in touch with us at ioe@catschools.uk to explore how we can help you take the first step.



In Partnership With

Accredited NPQ provider

National Professional Qualifications

Start Studying in Spring 2024

Apply by December 20

If you're still considering undertaking an NPQ, then this is your last opportunity as far as we have been made aware, for guaranteed funding. **The absolutely last date that Best Practice will accept applications is Friday 26 January 2024.**

To benefit from a fully funded NPQ apply now on <https://www.bestpracticenet.co.uk/npq> using "CATTS" as the delivery partner and "scholarship" when it asks how it's funded.

Alexis Rickus
Director, CAT Institute of Education



Network and Expert Group News

Joining Link for the next Expert Groups Meeting on Wednesday 17 January 2024 at 3.40pm is [here](#). Please register, then join your session.

Network Groups Update by Neil Coleman

On Wednesday 22nd November all of our Network Groups came together for the second meeting of the school year. A total of 15 Network meetings took place, with 137 staff taking part (up nearly 30 from the previous term). A big thank you to our Head Teacher colleagues for enabling their staff to be able to attend these meetings.

For the first time we were able to hold a network group meeting for each curriculum subject area, ensuring full representation. The new network groups for Geography, D.T, Art and Music are now up and running and have made a positive start. A warm welcome to anyone who has joined one of our Network Groups for the first time. We look forward to your contributions and to sharing good practice. All agendas and minutes for all meetings are available to view on the IoE website.

This year, a key role of the subject Networks is to work alongside the IoE to support the construction of The Teacher Playbook. The IoE have tasked each subject Network to support them in the development of 4 key areas, producing and contributing resources and ideas:

1a vi Have knowledge of resources.

1a vi Plan to use retrieval practice to link and embed prior learning into long-term memory.

1a i Have secure subject knowledge.

1a iv Have knowledge of misconceptions.

The non-subject Networks will also be supporting the work of the IoE this year, as they focus on producing standards for non-teaching staff as part of Growing Great People.

The next round of meetings is set to take place on Wednesday 17th January 2024. The link for the meetings is available in the link at the top of this section and on the IoE website. As this is a secure link, please make sure that you register before you try and join the sessions. We look forward to continuing to work together as a family of schools and professionals.

'Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success' - Henry Ford.

Explore memory and retrieval with Mr Barton Maths

How can we help our students remember the things they once knew?

Of all the areas of research that have found their way into the classroom over the last few years, research into memory and retrieval is top of the list. But while teachers may understand the importance of things like retrieval practice and spacing, do our students?

Join me on Wednesday 17 January 2024 as we look at how we can help our students understand some of the key research findings in order to improve their engagement in class and the effectiveness of their study.

We will discuss some general principles of memory that have powerful classroom applications, including the role of cues, confidence scores, different types of retrieval questions and how to make corrections as effective as possible. We end with a deep dive into two key retrieval opportunities that often become lethal mutations - Low-Stakes Quizzes and the Do Now.



Features

- ✓ Make corrections quizzable
- ✓ Ideas to improve your low stakes quizzes
- ✓ Ideas to improve the Do Now

Craig Barton has been involved in teaching maths for 15 years. He was the the TES Maths Adviser for 10 years and is now the Head of Education at EdI. Craig is the author of the best-selling books "How I wish I'd taught maths" and "Reflect, Expect, Check, Explain", the host of the Mr Barton Maths Podcast, the creator of mrbartonmaths.com, diagnosticquestions.com, variationtheory.com, ssddproblems.com and mathsvennus.com, and Visiting Fellow at the Mathematics Education Centre at the University of Loughborough.

Maths Expert Group

Wednesday 17 January 2024
3.40pm on Zoom



www.thecatoinstitute.org

SUPPORTING STRUGGLING READERS AT KS2/3

This full-day training serves up all the critical building blocks for early reading, giving you tools to help your students catch up quickly, no matter what approach you're using.



Benefit From

- ✓ Essential subject knowledge to support pupils with Phonics and early stages of reading.
- ✓ Identify Phonic difficulties and use simple solutions to solve them.
- ✓ Identify what the Reading Framework 2023 considers best practise and how to achieve it
- ✓ Take away simple and practical suggestions you can use straight away

Delivered by Emma Spiers,
The Learning Lady
Thursday 1 February 2024
9.30-3.00pm
Dordon Primary School

Who should attend

- A teacher with struggling readers in S2/3
- A TA supporting pupils struggling with phonics and early reading
- An ECT/English Lead/SENCO

Register Now!
ioe@catschools.uk



www.thecatoinstitute.org

Computing Network Group News

Following on from the November meeting, Sara Vaughan, Regional Lead for the National Computing joins the January Network Meeting.

Join Sarah as she leads you through the minefield of mapping the curriculum for computing.

The session will look at the resources available to help you, training that is available and look at how you can develop your own curriculum. What strands or elements are you missing.

We're also excited to be looking at AI and its applications during this session.

Don't forget to join us on 17 January.

Pastoral and Behaviour groups combine!

As the interests of the pastoral and School Culture groups overlap to such an extent, the group leaders have agreed to combine forces into one group aimed at covering issues of mutual interest.

The main item on the agenda on 17 January will focus on the Toolkit with a focus on behaviour in our trust schools.

Apprenticeship and Training Opportunities for Office, Data, IT Technicians and Communications colleagues,

The following apprenticeships are free to colleagues, (funded through the trust's apprenticeship levy). As well as the qualifications themselves, there are a selection of standalone courses that may be of interest -listed below. If you are interested in any of these courses, please contact ioe@catschools.uk.

Analytics:

+ [Level 3 Data Technician with Business Insights & Analytics & Excel Masterclass](#)

+ [Level 4 Data Analyst with PowerBI/Python & AgilePM](#)

+ [Level 4 Business Analyst with Agile Project Management & Agile Business Analyst](#)

IT:

+ [Level 3 ICT with Microsoft Azure / AWS/CompTIA](#)

+ [Level 4 Network Engineer with Security & Servers](#)

Marketing:

+ [Level 3 Digital Marketer with Artificial Intelligence](#)

+ [Level 3 Content Creator with a Videography Masterclass](#)

Additional free qualifications:

- + Agile Project Management Foundation
- + Agile Business Analyst Foundation & Practitioner
- + CompTIA qualifications
- + Internet Business Assoc.
- + AWS Cloud Practitioner
- + Microsoft qualifications
- + ABC Scrum Master
- + PowerBI
- + MTA Database fundamentals



AMET, ATM, MA, NAMA, and NANAMIC are pleased to announce that the Crowne Plaza in Stratford-upon-Avon will be the venue for the Joint Conference of Mathematics Subject Associations from ****April 3 to 5, 2024****. The conference theme is "**Shape Up**," and it provides a unique opportunity for members and non-members of all five associations to come together and learn from one another.

Explore new ideas, build professional connections, and share your passion for mathematics education. Choose from a variety of workshops and talks to create a personalized professional development experience that meets your needs.



For more information, pricing, and booking, please visit: <https://shapeup.org.uk/book/>

New National Professional Qualification (NPQ) Replaces NASENCO for SENCOs

The Department for Education has announced that a new leadership level national professional qualification (NPQ) will replace the NASENCO.

The [NPQ for SENCOs content framework](#) outlines what participants should know after completing the qualification. The lead training providers accredited to deliver this new national professional qualification have yet to be selected, but we will let you know once the list has been published.

It will still be mandatory for SENCOs to complete the training within three years of appointment. Schools and SENCOs must ensure they are enrolled in training that meets this requirement.

Transition guidelines have been issued based on the current situation:

- SENCOs can enrol in NASENCO training until the end of the academic year 2023 to 2024. If completed within three years of taking up a SENCO role, this course will fulfil the mandatory training requirement.
- If a SENCO commences their role during the 2023 to 2024 academic year and has not begun the NASENCO before September 2024, they will need to enrol in an NPQ course starting no later than Spring 2025 to meet the statutory role requirements.
- To meet the statutory requirements for the role, aspiring SENCOs must have commenced the NASENCO course before September 2024.
- As of September 2024, all SENCOs or aspiring SENCOs who have not completed or started the NASENCO will be required to take the NPQ.

Our Half Term in Pictures



And finally.....

Hopefully you found us on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/schoolscat/> (#schoolscat) as well as on Twitter @SchoolsCat (#catschools). Follow us and we'll follow you back. You can also find us on our App via the Wix Spaces, Our Community Matters.



Em Cee @crossy783 · 19h

The beautiful artwork of children from both schools as part of our work, collaboration with the National Memorial Arboretum, on remembrance 🇬🇧



The Telford Priory School reposted

Solutions for the Planet @S4TPOfficial · 17h

We ran our very last Big Ideas Day of 2023 today and excitingly it was at a new school with mentors from a new business partner! 🙌 Thanks for having us @telfordpriory and thanks for being there PAM Building!

#BigIdeasProgramme #mentoring #stemeducation #sustainabilityeducation



@Grange Park Gardening @GardeningPark · Nov 21

We can't wait to taste our home grown cabbages with tomorrow's roast dinner 🍽️

@SchoolsCat @RHSSchools @GWandShows

#allotment #growyourown #cabbages #school dinners



Birchwood Primary @BirchwoodPrim · Nov 30

Redwood 4 enjoyed investigating whether they could hear sounds through solids and liquids during their science lesson today.



CAT Institute of Education @CATTSAlliance · 12 Oct

At Derby University today! Come and talk to us about how you can #getintoteaching in our fantastic schools. With attractive bursaries of £30k there's never been a better time! @UoD_SecPGCE thecatinstitute.org



Stoneydelph Primary School @StoneydelphPS · Nov 21

Thanks to the HGV company GXO for visiting our school for a brilliant day learning about HGV and road safety. This launched our road safety week brilliantly. @SchoolsCat @GXOLogistics



Birchwood Primary @BirchwoodPrim · Nov 23

Well done to our year 2 winners of our 'house competition'. Your halloween stories were 'spook-tacular!' The children received a book token to use at our book vending machine. We hope you enjoy reading your chosen book! 📖👻 @SchoolsCat @SchoolReading



Our Community Matters

