



Dear friends

I write at the end of an incredibly packed term filled with exciting learning experiences - so many that I can't cover them all! Our children continue to benefit from so many high quality learning experiences. In the midst of all the excitement and preparations for the festive season, it is important to take a moment to reflect on the dedication of all of our staff team who work tirelessly behind the scenes to enable our children to access a wonderfully broad and balanced curriculum and to thank them for their hard work.

It is also important to thank all of our community supporters who work with us in so many different ways from providing one to one mentoring opportunities and reading with children to those who have enabled wider opportunities such as Councillor Stennett, West Suffolk College, Abbeycroft

Leisure, ASDA and many more. Please enjoy reading our newsletter with a small selection of those experiences. If you are interested in partnering further with us, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards

Alison Weir (Headteacher)

Aspiration

Our children were treated to an inspiring performance of Olive Branch by the Van Hulle Dance Theatre, organised through Dance East. This captivating show combined martial arts and dance, creating a dynamic fusion that left the children in awe. The performance's themes of reconciliation, strength, and unity resonated with our young learners, sparking their creativity and imagination.

After the performance, our Reception pupils took the opportunity to create their own "stick dances", drawing inspiration from the martial arts movements they had seen. They explored moving with balance and coordination, developing their confidence and expression through movement. This experience truly inspired them!



It was an inspiring day that highlighted the importance of the arts in fostering creativity and self-expression in our young children.



Experience

At Howard Community Academy, we believe that learning should go beyond the classroom. Educational trips offer a fantastic opportunity for our students to connect with history, nature, and science in ways that enrich our learning. This term, two unforgettable school trips allowed our students to immerse themselves in different worlds: a WW2 Evacuee Experience Day at Milden Hall for Otter class and an educational adventure at the Museum of Zoology in Cambridge for Badger class.

Otter class trip took us to Milden Hall, where our Year 4 and 5 pupils experienced life as WW2 evacuees.

Stepping back into the 1940s, the children learned what it was like to leave their families behind and travel to the countryside to escape the dangers of bombings. Upon arrival, the students were greeted by friendly guides dressed in period costume, who introduced them to wartime life. Taking on the role of evacuees, the students were given tasks such as collecting the eggs and experiencing what life on a farm may have been like.

The group then participated in various hands-on activities. Throughout the day, they had the chance to

wear clothes from the era, and explored vintage artefacts. One of the highlights was the opportunity to experience ringing an air raid siren, where students learned about the importance of "safety drills" during wartime. The teachers were impressed by the enthusiasm and engagement of the students, who asked thoughtful questions and gained a deeper understanding of the sacrifices made by children their age during the war.

This trip was a truly immersive learning experience, bringing history to life and allowing students to gain a better understanding of the realities faced by wartime evacuees. The day helped to reinforce our WW2 curriculum in a memorable and meaningful way.

Trip to the Fitzwilliam Museum

In November, our students from Badger class embarked on a fascinating trip to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. As part of their learning about the Ancient Greeks, the students had the chance to explore one of the most renowned museums in the country.

During their visit, the students were guided through a selection of exhibits that showcased everything from ancient Greek sculptures to Renaissance paintings. They explored

galleries filled with stunning works of art, gaining insights into different artistic periods and learning about the stories behind the pieces.

The museum also provided interactive displays and activities that engaged the students and helped them make connections between art, history, and culture. They had the opportunity to learn about ancient civilizations, such as Ancient Greece, through the museum's impressive collection of artefacts, including pottery, jewellery, and sculptures.

This trip was not only a fantastic way to reinforce what the students had been learning in the classroom but also an opportunity to ignite their imaginations and inspire a love for art and history.

The Fitzwilliam Museum proved to be an invaluable resource, offering our students the chance to experience some of the world's greatest treasures in person.

These educational trips are more than just enjoyable outings, they are experiences that bring key areas of our curriculum to life. By immersing our students in such a hands-on way, we foster curiosity, critical thinking, and empathy.



A message from Jonathan Culpin, CEO Anglian Learning

As CEO of Anglian Learning, the multi-academy Trust which supports your child/ren's school, I would like to share some key highlights of the work Anglian Learning has undertaken in the last few months. These activities have benefited our pupils, workforce and communities of our Trust.

As a large school trust, we received £1.8 million in government funding to enhance the condition of our schools. While this does not meet all our needs, it has allowed us to prioritise health and safety improvements, essential repairs and the energy efficiency of our buildings. A major piece of work was the installation of solar panels across all our schools, reducing energy costs and our carbon footprint. The money saved can be allocated to other areas for the education of our young people.

Other important areas we have focused on include:

- Strengthening our IT infrastructure to protect against cyber attacks
- Reviewing safeguarding in all schools
- Introducing a Teaching and Learning Framework that sets out the principles of excellent classroom teaching to be adopted by each school
- Hosting leadership conferences for headteachers and deputy headteachers on creating strong teams, supporting positive relationships with pupils and much more
- Starting our 'Belonging by Design' strategy to improve pupil attendance, SEND support and mental health, supported by the funding we have received from Cambridgeshire and Suffolk Local Authorities.

Finally, in November, we celebrated our secondary school pupils' creativity with the Platform 24 art exhibition at The Michaelhouse Café. The exhibition featured inspiring work from our talented KS3, KS4 pupils and A Level students.

I wish all families a restful break and thank you for your continued support as we work to transform education together.

Jonathan Culpin, CEO
Anglian Learning

Nurturing

Art projects have been continuing to help to develop our pupils' self-esteem, confidence, and critical thinking

At our school, we have been thrilled to see how arts projects have been continuing to help to develop our pupils' self-esteem, confidence, and critical thinking. By exploring dance and creative arts, students are not only learning new skills but also gaining a deeper understanding of themselves and how to express their ideas in innovative ways.

One exciting collaboration was through an arts residency project, organised by the Norwich and Norfolk Festival with Glasshouse Dance Company, who worked with our Year 4 pupils on a project focused on themes of confidence and spatial awareness through dance. Over several sessions, pupils explored how they could express emotions and ideas through movement, developing their confidence as they worked together. Highlights of the project were opportunities for our pupils to dance across our school site, using different spaces creatively. This experience helped students overcome self-doubt, encouraged them to take creative risks, and boosted their self-esteem, all while learning about the power of physical expression.

Another fantastic arts project involved Artting Around, who worked with a group of neurodivergent pupils. This initiative was deeply connected to our Wellbeing curriculum, focusing on how to cultivate the characteristic of success. Through hands-on art activities, students reflected on what it means to succeed. The creative process enabled pupils to develop a strong sense of self, celebrate their unique abilities, and gain confidence in their own talents.

These projects have been invaluable in promoting critical and creative thinking, allowing pupils to reflect on their personal growth while enhancing their skills in collaboration and expression. We are excited to continue integrating the arts into our curriculum and look forward to seeing even more growth in our students' confidence and creativity.



Community



Community involvement in schools enriches students and families

I was keen to share two exciting events that have not only enriched the children's learning but also brought our school community closer together. These events were made possible through partnerships with Theatre Royal, Abbeycroft Leisure, Suffolk County Council, Bury Town Council, and volunteers from the Rotary Club.

A Magical Trip to the Pantomime: Aladdin at the Theatre Royal

One of the highlights of the term for Otter and Fox class was the much-anticipated trip to see the pantomime Aladdin at the Theatre Royal. The theatre, renowned for its spectacular productions, provided a wonderful setting for our students to enjoy the magic of live performance. For many of our pupils, this was their first experience of a traditional pantomime, and it did not disappoint!

The show was a whirlwind of excitement, filled with vibrant costumes, catchy songs, and plenty of audience participation. The students were thrilled to be part of the

action, laughing at the jokes, cheering for the heroes, and even shouting out lines like "He's behind you!" - a true pantomime tradition. The story of Aladdin, with its magical genie, flying carpet, and exciting adventures, was brought to life with dazzling effects that captivated the children's imaginations. It was an experience that allowed them to enjoy the magic of theatre, while also learning about performance and storytelling.

By watching a live performance, our students were able to see how a story can be adapted for the stage and how actors, costumes, and sets all come together to create an unforgettable experience. The pantomime trip was an important opportunity to expand their cultural understanding and give them an appreciation for the arts.

Creating a Legacy: Tree Planting in Healing Woods



The second major event this term was our tree planting project, which allowed all of our students to become a part of something special for our local community. In collaboration with Abbeycroft Leisure, Suffolk County Council, and Bury Town Council, our school took part in a tree planting initiative to create our new community space, Healing Woods. The aim of the project is to enhance the local environment and provide a peaceful area where people can enjoy nature.

Last week, every child in the school had the opportunity to plant a tree. The students were each given a sapling to plant and were guided by local volunteers. It was heart warming to see the enthusiasm and pride on the children's faces as they worked together to contribute to the green space. The pupils carefully placed their trees and made sure they were securely planted. It was a wonderful way for them to learn about the importance of trees in our environment, as well as how small actions can have a big impact on the planet.

The tree planting event wasn't just a school activity; it was a chance for our students to be part of a wider community initiative that will leave a lasting legacy for years to come. Healing Woods will serve as a beautiful space for future generations to enjoy, and our students can take pride in knowing they played an essential role in creating it. The event also tied in with our environmental education, teaching the children about the importance of sustainability, conservation, and how they can help protect the planet.

We are incredibly grateful to all of our partners - Abbeycroft Leisure, Suffolk County Council, Bury Town Council, and the Rotary Club - for their support in making these events possible. We look forward to continuing to provide our students with enriching experiences that will inspire and educate them for years to come.