

## Welcome from Dan Morrow

Trust Leader and Chief Executive Officer

There has been much to celebrate and much to mourn in this half term. As families and communities, we have united in our shared duty and responsibility to support our NHS and the national effort to overcome the worst of this pandemic and find a life together once again. I have been truly humbled to join a community so rooted in, and committed to, supporting each other, from the many donations large and small we have received to aid our digital provision, to the wonderful letters and emails of support, thanks, and encouragement we have received from so many of you. In our family of 17 schools, we have a committed and caring workforce who are doing everything they can to work for and support your children. We have learned so much on this journey and are continuing to improve our offer and provision. I'm proud of what we have been able to achieve together and thank you for your huge contribution as parents and carers to making this better - if not yet the 'Best'.

The time has come to start to look properly beyond and to think about not just a return but a renewal and a reconnection of relationships, of friendships and of the bonds that make us who we are. We will make that return and renewal all that it needs to be, and we will continue to improve the way we serve you - our community- in every way we can. Thank you for everything you do to support the work of our schools for the growth and enrichment of your children.

*Dan Morrow, CEO and Trust Leader, Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust*

## Laptop Scheme



West Devon Borough Council shared £4,000 between Tavistock College and Okehampton College to spend on computers to help children currently struggling to access online learning at home. The £4,000 donation to the schools to buy computers has been funded through the Council's SeaMoor Lotto fund.

The Council agreed to use this fund to give schools money to help those children in the community who are struggling would make a huge difference. The Council has also identified a number of laptops that are no longer in use and will be sharing these with the schools to distribute. *'On behalf of the Trust, I'd like to thank the South Hams and West Devon Councils, as well as the members of the public whose contributions to the community lottery have enabled this scheme to get started. This fantastic community spirit has enabled the Trust to support every child to access their education, something which cannot be undervalued'*, Dan Morrow.



## Fellowship Passports



We have recently launched our Fellowship Passports initiative, which will help to keep students engaged and motivated in their learning. Students attending school and those learning remotely will receive points for accomplishing a variety of tasks

throughout the school day, including attending lessons, completing work, and getting involved with extracurricular activities such as taking part in a community initiative, an environmental project, or being an anti-bullying ambassador. Students have been challenged to achieve 100 points between now and May half-term; doing so will enable them to attend one of a number of events we are planning to host for students of different ages at the end of the summer term, in line with whatever Covid restrictions we may face, to celebrate what will have been an incredible year. We will of course be understanding if students are unable to achieve the total

points required, but these Passports remain a positive incentive to keep students engaged and motivated with their learning.

## Remote Learning

Dan Morrow has kicked things off quickly to support pupils during these difficult times in his first half term with the Trust. Since the beginning of January, we have greatly increased our remote learning provision for all pupils and have been working closely with the Department for Education to provide digital devices to disadvantaged pupils so they can fully access their remote learning. Our Trust has also partnered with Vodafone to provide SIM cards to pupils who do not have broadband access at home. The SIM cards will help pupils get online using their phone or tablet.



## SEN gets a boost!

We are delighted to welcome Jules Ruddick as Strategic Lead for SEND and Inclusion. Jules has joined us to champion Trust-wide continuous improvement and drive positive change, so that pupils and families consistently receive the very best service possible in all our schools. Jules said: *'I am thrilled to have joined the Trust at an extremely exciting time. I feel genuinely blessed and privileged to have worked in the care and education sectors for nearly 20 years and am determined to use this experience to support DMAT's positive vision'*.

## Wanted!

Have you ever considered **becoming a governor or a trustee** within our family of schools? Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust is always looking for new people to join us and we would love to hear from you. We are committed to encouraging new people to become governors from all walks of life, through a variety of routes and with a range of different backgrounds, skills, and experiences, but they are all volunteers who work together for the benefit of the children, their school and are the link between the School and the community it serves. This is an exciting time in our journey and one that you could be a part of! Please contact Melissa Trudgill, Governance Manager [mtrudgill@dartmoormat.org.uk](mailto:mtrudgill@dartmoormat.org.uk) for an informal chat or to find out more information.

### Okehampton Primary School



As part of our Wellbeing Wednesday focus, we have introduced screen-free afternoons every Wednesday for our children both in school and learning from home. So far, we have enjoyed a range of activities, including home-made marble runs, Science investigations, a rainbow walking challenge, collaborative artwork, and painting with mud. We are looking forward to seeing what exciting challenges our teachers come up with next.

### Black Torrington Primary School

Pupils have been enjoying art and design activities which have really supported their mental wellbeing. These include one-point perspective drawings and making mosaics for a new outside area.



### Exbourne C of E Primary School



The children took part in the RSPB big garden birdwatch having made feeders out of recycled materials. We saw lots of different species of birds. All children have been having weekly PE sessions with our PE specialist Miss Scullion with lots of progress in the core PE skills of strength, balance, coordination, and teamwork. Children have been engaging brilliantly with home learning with over 1000 pieces of learning being submitted each week!

### Bradford Primary School



Friends of Bradford School have recently co-ordinated the purchasing of new Red PE Tops which the children are now wearing in their PE lessons as well as a selection of KS1 and KS2 books Reflecting Ethnic Diversity. These books complement our existing curriculum work on diversity, black history and heroes for change.

***Wishing all our students, parents, and carers a lovely half term break from Dan and our whole Trust family of schools.***



### North Tawton Community Primary School



Throughout Children's Mental Health Week the work in PSHE focussed on activities that allowed the children to express themselves and show how they are feeling. The children were given the opportunity to end this week by dressing up for the day. Many children took part at school and at home and it was wonderful to see the many ways in which they did this.

### Bridestowe Primary School



Spring is the time of year for baby animals to be born, and children learning from home have had the privilege of being part of that experience this year. Recently, at Bridestowe we have welcomed lambs, goat kids, puppies, kittens and calves to local farms and homes. Children have been engaging brilliantly with home learning with over 1700 pieces of learning being submitted each week.

### Tavistock College

'Peace Through Service'. Congratulations to Freya Whiting, the district winner of the peace poster this year.



### Holsworthy Community College



Mrs Bloxham's Art students had a menu of tasks to choose to work on. Students could choose to write a letter to summarise their learning from last term, write a poem about an artist or make a poster or a set of 10 questions.