



JOHN MILTON ACADEMY TRUST

Spring Term Newsletter



Bacton
Primary School



Cedars Park
Primary School



Mendlesham
Primary School



Stowupland
High School



The John Milton
Sixth Form



MENDLESHAM



STOWUPLAND

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01 A message from the Trust

Welcome to the John Milton Academy Trust's spring term newsletter.

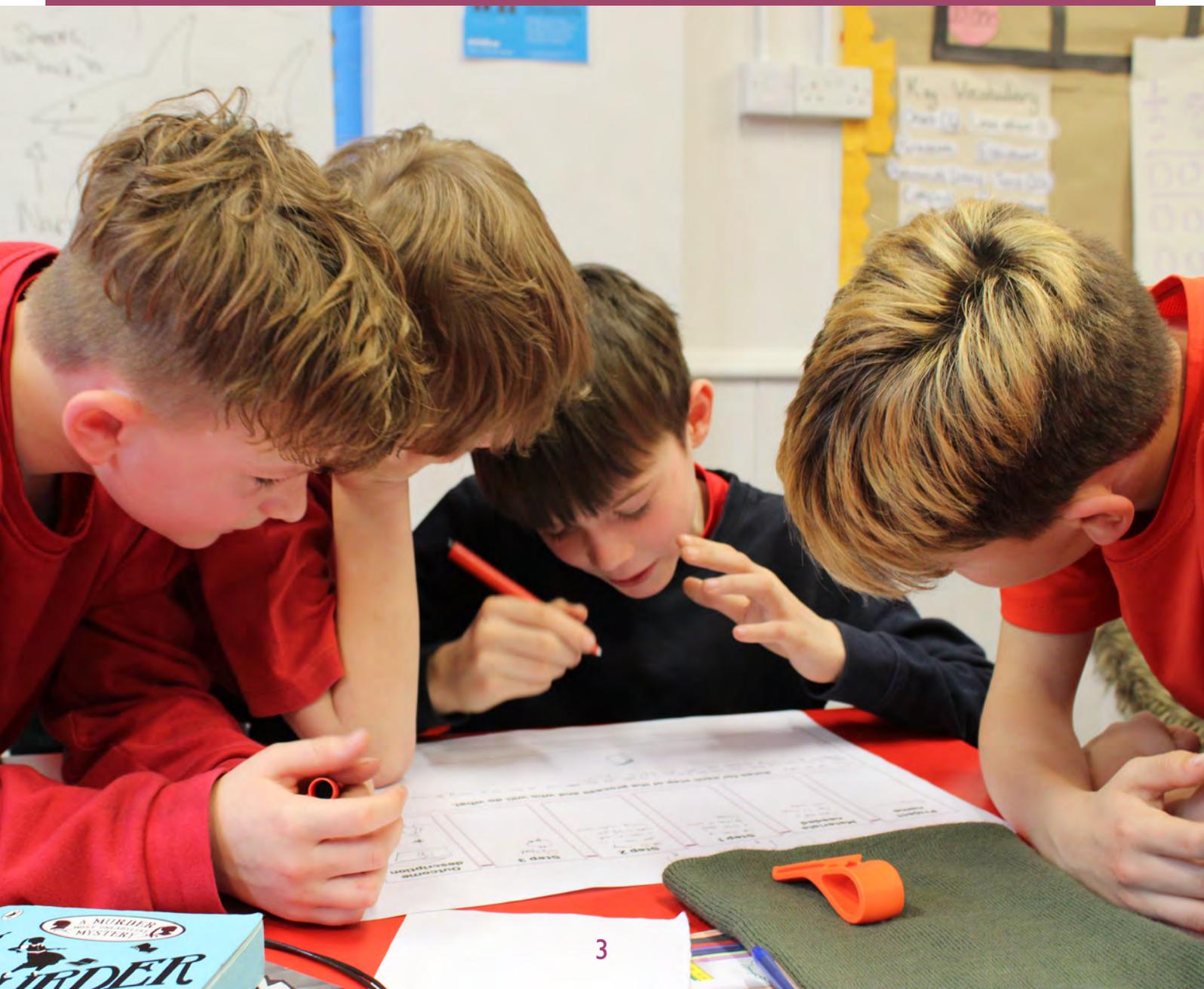
It has been a fun-filled term with lots going on at each of the Trust's schools including day trips out, non-uniform days and visits from some very special guests.

In this term's newsletter, we highlight some of the fantastic visitors we have had in our schools, including an Olympic gymnast, and we shine a light on some inspiring pupils who have taken the initiative to do some remarkable things outside of school too.

We also had a great World Book Day with some outstanding costumes showcased across our primary schools – you can see some photos within the newsletter!

Thank you to all pupils, students and staff for their efforts and enthusiasm this term and to our parents and carers for the support we have received.

We hope you all have a fab Easter and we will see you for the summer term!



02 Spotlight on inspiring pupils

This term, two pupils from Cedars Park have taken the initiative to do some remarkable things outside of school.

Emma in year 4 made some beautiful bird houses after being inspired by Miss Suhail's assembly.

Miss Suhail, Headteacher at Cedars Park Primary School, led an assembly where she told the children about the Big Schools' Birdwatch 2024 and how the school is trying to find out which birds visit the school grounds.

Following the assembly, Emma took it upon herself to build and paint brightly coloured bird houses to be placed on the school grounds in order to encourage visits from birds.

Adam in year 3 has been on a mission to pick up as much litter as possible.

While he was out looking for rocks as part of his homework, Adam was very sad about the amount of litter he saw.

Armed with a litter picker and with help from his mum, Adam went out for a walk the next day to pick up as much litter as he could.

Meanwhile, three former Stowupland High School pupils have won an award in The Stars of Suffolk 2024.

Oliver O'Neill, Charley Bridges, and Alfie Hunt rescued a 71-year-old man who had broken his leg after a fall in Needham Market in March 2023.

The three students rushed to the man's aid, carrying him to his car so he could be transported to the hospital. Due to their heroic actions, they were crowned winners of the Young Person of the Year category at the awards on 21 March 2024.

What fantastic role models all five pupils are!



03 New Principal for Stowupland High School

After the Easter break, we welcome a new principal, Mr Walker, to Stowupland High School.

Mr Walker said he has huge, long-term ambitions for the school: "I am really excited about the opportunity and what we can achieve here at Stowupland High School.

"I am passionate about the opportunities academic success brings to young people and want the school to be focused on academic attainment.

"I will also develop an enviable range of extracurricular opportunities.

"Most of all, I am committed to ensuring that students enjoy their educational journey, and have a genuine thirst for learning when they move on."

Mr Walker added: "I'm really excited to take on the role as principal and have already had a very warm welcome.

"I want students to be aiming for the highest academic attainment they can.

"With the necessary support and encouragement, all our students are capable of fulfilling their potential. As Principal I can make a real difference to young people's lives.

"I am looking forward to working with the staff at Stowupland to make this a reality."

We would like to offer Mr Walker a warm welcome to the John Milton Academy Trust.



04 A successful World Book Day

On World Book Day in March, pupils across Bacton, Cedars Park and Mendlesham Primary Schools all took part in the celebrations.

Students and staff came to school dressed as a character from their favourite book and brought in books from home to share with their peers.

Pupils at Cedars Park Primary School also had a special assembly with award-winning author Nirzana Farook.

The author's books include *The Girl Who Stole an Elephant* and *The Boy Who Saved a Bear*.

Nirzana spoke to children about growing up in Sri Lanka and how the animals from her home country inspired the stories she tells.

She said: "It has been really lovely to come to the school. There's a real buzz around World Book Day and it's great to see the children so enthusiastic about books and reading.

"Even children that don't usually read a lot get into it as the enthusiasm of the day is infectious.

"I think it's very important for children to get into books early on because research has shown children who read for pleasure generally have better outcomes.

"But much more than that, it opens them up to the enjoyment of reading, which can last a lifetime."

We hope celebrating this day together has helped develop a love of reading for all children and inspired them to pick up a book and lose themselves in a story.





05 A visit from an Olympic gymnast

In February, children at Bacton Primary School were treated to a visit from six-time Olympic medal winning gymnast Max Whitlock, thanks to parent Siobhan Smith who won a competition on the sportsman's website.

Max hosted a gymnastics class with year 4 pupils before presenting an assembly for the whole school, which he entered walking on his hands much to the delight of the children.

Head of School Mrs King said: "The children were jumping for joy about Max coming to the school – the excitement among the pupils had been building up to his visit all week.

"When Max entered the school hall for the assembly doing a handstand the children couldn't stop cheering.

"They asked some really interesting questions about his career and how he got into gymnastics. I think he has definitely inspired some budding gymnasts at the school."

In the assembly, pupils got to ask questions of the Olympic champion before he performed some cartwheels and backflips.

Max then passed around his three Olympic gold medals for pupils to see close-up.

He said: "It has been amazing to come to Bacton to meet all the pupils and staff. They've been so nice and welcoming here – and are really passionate about sport.

"Meeting pupils like this might inspire the next great British athlete, but that is not the priority. It's more about inspiring the children to become more healthy, active and interested in sports.

"It is also about showing some of the boys they can do gymnastics too, that boy's sport is not all about football."

A big thank you to Max for coming to visit and inspiring our pupils.





06 Chinese New Year Lunar Dance workshop

To celebrate Chinese New Year, Mendlesham and Bacton Primary Schools held Lunar New Year dance workshops.

The children had a great time dancing and learning about Chinese traditions. Pupils learnt all about the country, the Year of the Wood Dragon and took part in traditional dancing with paper fans.

They then took part in their own colourful parade with a dragon costume and parasols.

The workshops really captured the children's imaginations and allowed them to learn about different countries and cultures across the world.



07 Tractor visit enthral pupils

Excited pupils at Bacton Primary School were treated to a visit from a tractor this term.

Westhorpe farmer Patrick Barker brought his trusty green machine to the school as part of Suffolk Agricultural Association's Tractors in Schools programme.

The children got the opportunity to see the tractor close-up, learn about what it is used for and even got a chance to sit in the cab.

Mr Barker said: "With a rural school like Bacton, it's great for the children to be able to learn about farming and how the machinery is used, as well as how their food is produced.

"It was lovely visiting the school and seeing the pupil's faces light up when they got in the cab."

Head of School Sarah King said: "The children were so excited to see the tractor – it was the talk of the school all day.

"We would like to say a huge thank you to Patrick for coming down, the children had an amazing time and were really inspired by his visit."

Mr Barker said he also really enjoyed visiting the school and talking to the children. We really appreciate his visit!





08 Contact details

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Safeguarding remains of paramount importance, even during holiday periods. If you are worried that a child or young person is at immediate risk of abuse, harm or neglect - call Customer First on 0808 800 4005 (24-hour service free from landlines and most mobiles).

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