



## Mowbray

**CEO Round-up  
& Trust Updates**

**Sports News**

**School Stories &  
Events**

**Hi everyone.**

**Given the length of the Autumn term, I have found myself quite surprised to stumble upon half term already!**

**I hope it has been a good one.**

**It's certainly been a very focussed and purposeful few weeks. We are at such a very exciting point and working hard to build our capacity centrally to serve schools and prepare for future growth.**

**There will be some exciting announcements about this very shortly after half term!**

**We are also really excited about Buckminster Primary School joining our Trust. We have been working as one team for much of this year – with the Buckminster team working really closely alongside our existing schools and contributing regularly to our**

**school improvement plans. Very regularly, I talk about the collaboration that underpins everything that we do and this completely exemplifies this.**

**We have come such a long way and the future appears to be getting brighter all the time: so important in what is clearly going to be a very challenging time in Education.**

**Thank you all for everything that you do and for the part you play to achieve our vision, that children come first.**

**I hope you have a very lovely week off.**

**Christine Stansfield  
Chief Executive Officer  
Mowbray Education Trust**



# Sector Leadership Input



**SPEAKERS**  
for schools

January 29, 2024

[speakersforschools.org](https://speakersforschools.org)

## Why it is essential to help students 'belong' to their school community



As all of us across the education sector are acutely aware, [the country is facing a peak in school absenteeism](#), creating challenges for educators as we try to reach and support students who struggle to consistently attend school due to anxiety, stress or other barriers. This risks their ability to reach their full potential as less time in the classroom can lead to a decrease in attainment. These challenges were also exacerbated by periods of isolation during the Covid-19 pandemic. Now as school and trust leaders, we must come together to restore students' sense of belonging and connection to their school community in order to improve attendance and ultimately ensure they receive an excellent education to secure their bright futures.

It was fantastic to see this blog from our CEO, Christine Stansfield, in Speakers for Schools earlier this term!

The blog considers the role of schools and Trust leaders in restoring students' sense of belonging and connection to their community, and why this is important.

You can view the full article [here](#).



I am speaking at



**THE MAT SHOW**

27 – 28 February 2024

London

[www.mat-show.co.uk](https://www.mat-show.co.uk)

Delivered by

 **OPTIMUS EDUCATION**  
part of **shaw trust**

After Half Term, Christine Stansfield will be delivering a seminar session at The MAT Show on the importance of creating an open culture when onboarding new schools!

Find out more about the event and the speakers [here:](https://mat-show.co.uk/)  
<https://mat-show.co.uk/>.

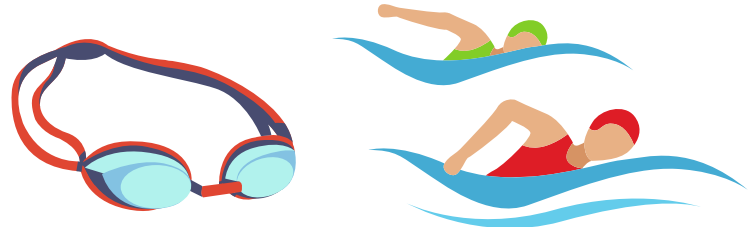


# Sports News



**120 children from across 16 borough schools, including Sherard, The Grove, Ab Kettleby and Brownlow Primary Schools, participated in the Year 5/6 Swimming Gala at the Waterfield Leisure Centre in Melton Mowbray!**

**Well done to our swimmers at Brownlow Primary School who placed first! They took part in a variety of individual and relay races to give them an overall team score, and we witnessed some fantastic swimming, effort and sportsmanship – well done to all involved.**



**Our Year 4 children from Somerby Primary School and Ab Kettleby Primary School took part in the Futsal Festival at SMB College Group on February 14th! They all played really well and enjoyed learning a new sport.**



**Well done to William who won an individual award for being a fast runner, he never stopped running!**





# School Stories



Some of our Year 6 pupils from Sherard Primary School, accompanied by Miss Gyorvari and Mrs Blumfield, were among the volunteers who helped plant 500 trees for a new community woodland in Melton Mowbray earlier this term!

The initiative is part of a programme of features aimed at making Melton a greener place to live in. Our pupils were proud to represent the school and the Trust and contribute towards the local community, and they did a wonderful job despite the cold! You can read the full story in the Melton Times [here](#).



Thanks to a grant from the Bernard Thorpe Trust, all of our Year 7 and 8 students at Iveshead School (over 400 over them!) are learning to play the ukulele!



During the last week of this term, some of our Year 10 maths students from Iveshead also had a great time participating in the AMSP East Midlands Maths Feast! They did a brilliant job and represented the school and the Trust with pride.





# Careers and Apprenticeships

**Representatives from The National Citizen Services and De Montfort University Leicester visited our Year 11 students at Iveshead School. They spoke to our students about the opportunities available to them and how important GCSE grades will be for a University pathway.**



**John Ferneley College welcomed some MARS representatives into their Year 10 and Year 11 assemblies to talk about their apprenticeship offers. The application process is open now and closes on February 29th!**

**Thank you MARS for continuing to work with our schools and provide amazing opportunities for our students.**



**JFC also hosted a Year 10 Speed Networking event for National Apprenticeship Week!**

**Our Year 10 students got to speak to lots of professionals from local industry. This is always such a fantastic opportunity for our young people to start thinking about their futures and what pathways they may choose to take when they leave school.**

**Thank you to everyone who visited and spoke to our students about possible future career opportunities, and thank you to the staff members who organised and supervised the event!**

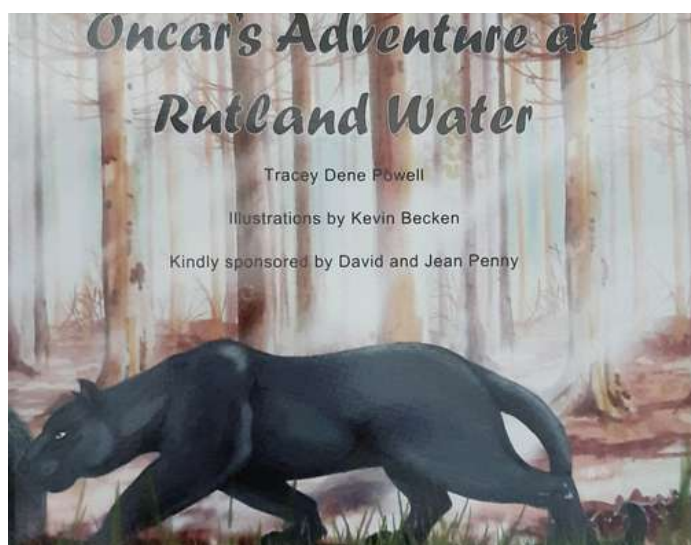






# Special Visitors

Pupils from The Grove Primary School enjoyed an assembly delivered by the author, Tracey Dene Powell. The children had a great time listening to the story about Oncar, a black panther living near Rutland Water! Tracey kindly donated some of her lovely books to the children, who will enjoy reading about the story of Oncar.



Ab Kettleby and Somerby Primary Schools were delighted to welcome Matt Goodfellow, author of 'The Final Year', into their schools recently!



They had an amazing day about learning and what poetry and what inspired him to write some of his funniest pieces! He also inspired our children to write their own poetry and explained how it can be used to tell stories of whatever is going on in our minds.





# 2024

## Oasis Preschool & Retreat

Children from Oasis Preschool & Retreat learnt all about Chinese New Year in the week leading up to the event! They listened to some music and danced with their homemade dragon, and enjoyed some sweet and sour noodles with prawn crackers! They also found Chinese lettering in the playground and did very well at copying it.

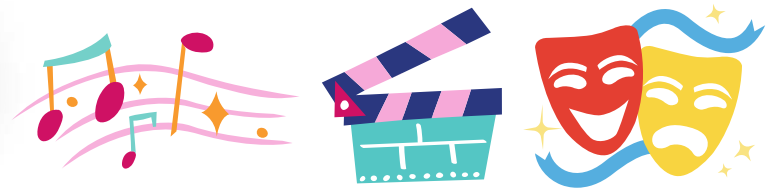


HAPPY  
Chinese  
new year



# PERFORMING ARTS

**Our primary settings, along with other local primaries, enjoyed visiting John Ferneley College this term to watch the showcase performance of FAME! Our pupils had an amazing time and felt inspired looking towards their own futures at secondary school.**



**Well done to our performers who put on an amazing show and performed brilliantly throughout the week! Thank you to Mrs Mitcham, Mrs Richards and everyone who helped setup and organise the show!**





# Celebrating Music!

In January, some of our children from The Grove, Sherard and Brownlow Primary School attended the Young Voices Concert in Birmingham!

Our children really enjoyed the experience and felt inspired to discover their love for music. We are already looking forward to them being part of this again next year!

Thank you to our staff and families for supporting the children and making the day possible.



Honey Bee class at Ab Kettleby visited Melton Library to learn all about 'Project Donkilloo Laa.' They had lots of fun playing the drums and learning the songs from Gambia!



# HAPPY HALF TERM