



SIGMA NEWS

For Students, Parents and Carers of The Sigma Trust

Greater than the sum of its parts



INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

- Two primaries join Trust
- New headteachers appointed
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Welcome...

When The Sigma Trust was set up in 2016, we consisted of six schools; four secondary and two primary. By the end of this year, we will have doubled in size, with eight secondary schools and soon, four primary schools. We are now the largest

multi-academy trust in Essex.

As someone who has worked in Clacton for the past 25 years, I am really pleased that we will be joined by pupils, staff and parents from Alton Park Junior School and Holland Park Primary School. Our aim has always been to build a local family of academies that can provide really effective school to school support.

The other big story of this edition is the opening of Paxman

Academy. The first 180 students will have attended their induction day on July 4 and their parents would have had the chance to look around this fantastic new building.

As we are going to press, I am sure you will have read about a student from Clacton County High School. John, in Year 9, suffered a suspected cardiac arrest while at school. Staff were quickly able to revive him using the school's defibrillator before he was rushed to hospital. We wish John a speedy recovery and congratulate the staff who responded so effectively to help to save his life. All schools within The Sigma Trust will now be fitted with defibrillators by the start of next term.

Once again, I hope you enjoy reading about the wide range of events and achievements across all of the schools within The Sigma Trust over the last few weeks.

I wish everyone a great summer break.

Jeff Brindle, CEO, The Sigma Trust

Primary schools join The Sigma Trust

Alton Park Junior School and Holland Park Primary School have joined The Sigma Trust, bringing the number of schools up to 12.

The Trust began providing support to the schools in June, with the legal transfer due to be completed once all checks and consultations have been carried out.

The two schools, both based in Clacton, have been transferred from Premier Learning Trust. Sigma will work in partnership with Learning Pathways Academy Trust (LPAT).

Jeff Brindle, The Sigma Trust CEO, said: "We are delighted that Alton Park Junior School and Holland Park Primary School will be joining The Sigma Trust.

"Both schools will retain their own individual identities and ethos, but will benefit from the extensive support and collaboration that can be achieved across all of our academies. This will enable us to obtain the best possible outcomes for all pupils.

"We are pleased to be working with LPAT who bring a wealth of experience in primary education to the partnership."



WE ARE THE SIGMA FAMILY...



New leadership appointments made

The leadership of two secondary schools has been strengthened with permanent appointments made.

Neil Gallagher was confirmed earlier this year as executive headteacher of both Clacton County High School – where he was previously principal - and The Colne Community School and College.

As a result, Chris Taylor has been appointed as the new head of school at Clacton County High.

The former vice principal, responsible for the day to day running of the school with Mr Gallagher steering the strategic direction, said: "Mr Gallagher

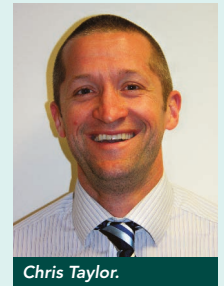
and I have the same vision and ethos for all our students and are determined that the school remains focussed on moving forwards and improving the outcomes for the young people in our community."

At The Colne, Steve Crane has taken on the role as head of school. He said: "I am very much looking forward to the challenge of driving the The Colne forward and developing a school that will provide the best education for its students and one of which the local community will be proud.

"Over the past year, we have improved behaviour, both in lessons and during



Steven Crane.



Chris Taylor.

social times. We have improved student attitudes to learning, SEND provision, developed the curriculum, as well as worked hard on parental engagement and our reputation within the community."

Community gets behind GCSE students



Teachers, parents and members of the community showed their support for students as they prepared for the GCSE exams.

Year 11 students at Harwich and Dovercourt High School took part in whole day, after school and weekend revision sessions ahead of the summer's tests.

To show their backing, local businesses supplied students with breakfast and messages of support, teachers wrote individual messages and encouraged students to attend the extra sessions, and families accommodated at-home study.

Headteacher Kate Finch said: "The mature attitudes towards their studies and the way they approached these exams was something to be celebrated. They knew how important these steps were for securing their future careers of choice and university places.

"Parents and carers championed their children along and I wished them great success every day."

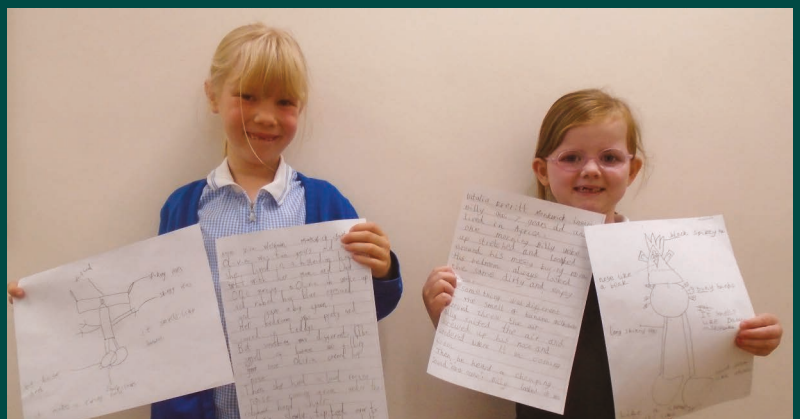
Fun-filled day for able writers

Two pupils from Monkwick Infant School were invited along to an able writer day.

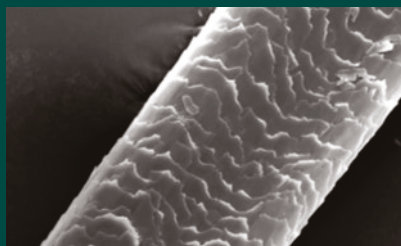
Natalia Everitt and Rose Welham, from Year 1, took part in the event with Authors Abroad at Kings Ford Infant School & Nursery.

Author and former teacher Stephen Davies ran the event and shared his passion for stories in the classroom.

Headteacher Claire Holmes said: "Stephen made the day fun-filled and educational in order for the children to realise that reading and writing are positive experiences which should be enjoyed by all."



Promoting science in primary schools



Science teachers from The Colne Community School and College delivered lessons to primary schools.

Carman Joyce and Kathryn Mason visited three primary schools during Science Week to engage younger pupils in science and to promote the subject.

Year 3 to 6 pupils worked in groups to construct the tallest free-standing marshmallow and spaghetti structures.

At The Colne, students in Year 7 and 8 took part in four CSI based lessons, conducting crime scene investigations based around the murder of a mystery person and tested hair and food crumbs, chromatography – ink analysis - and fingerprint analysis.

A facelift for infant school

Monkwick Infant School has been given a facelift.

The school's Owls enhanced provision has been redecorated and had new flooring and the outside area has been given new soft play flooring, a wet play picnic table, sand pit, new seating, large planters and a pagoda.

The school reception area has also had new flooring, improvements to the desk area and the addition of a new door meaning entering and exiting the school is more secure for parents/carers, staff and pupils.

Staff now access the gates and building via a new Paxton card system.



Mathematicians rock out!

A whole school event saw pupils have fun while learning their times tables.

Pupils at Monkwick Junior School came together to compete in the school-wide Battle of the Bands to launch Times Tables Rockstars.

Classes competed to see who could

answer the most multiplication and division questions correctly in a day.

Children and staff dressed as rockstars to celebrate the launch of the new system, which will be used to develop the speed at which children are able to answer multiplication and division questions.

Thomas Hewitt, maths co-ordinator, said: "The children and staff enjoyed the competitive nature of the day and loved being able to dress up as rockstars.

"We're certainly going to be running more Battles of the Bands to see how high our scores and low our times to answer can go!"

Paxman Academy prepares for opening

The teachers have been recruited, the curriculum has been drawn up and the brand-new building is being kitted out... Paxman Academy is preparing to welcome its first students.



Paxman
ACADEMY

The school, in Colchester, has been built for The Sigma Trust, on the site of the former Alderman Blaxill School.

The 900-place school opens in September 2019 - with 180 Year 7 students from 27 primary schools - to cope with the anticipated increase in demand for secondary school places. It is already oversubscribed with a waiting list of children keen to enrol.

Headteacher Carol Anne Moffat has been joined by deputy Nick Mussett and two assistant heads to form a strong and experienced leadership team.

Mrs Moffat said: "The building takes my breath away; it's stunning.

"We are getting really excited about next year. We have developed a STEM curriculum which embraces innovation. We have put in place state-of-the-art technology to enhance teaching and learning. People in industry have started to contact us to form partnerships.

"We have a very strong leadership team, as well as our core teaching staff. I am really delighted we have a team of staff who are talented in lots of different areas, which will be great for our extra-curricular provision. The staff we have coming in are fantastic and are keen to embrace our ethos, vision and values. Just being able to sit down together to create that vision has been inspirational.

"We are already thinking about the children joining us and the skills and values we want them to have developed by the time they are 16. We also want them to enjoy coming to school and to remember their experience."

During a tour of the site, Mr Mussett spoke about the excitement of creating a brand-new community.

He said: "We want Paxman Academy to be at the heart of the community and are looking at various opportunities for our neighbours to come in to school and be a part of it.

"Having a look around the building enables us to visualise the day to day running of the school. We have so many ideas about giving our students plenty of exciting opportunities; there will be lots of enrichment, clubs and fixtures for our students to give them a wide range of experiences. We have the capacity and the experts among our staff to provide such variety. We want children to enjoy school, to engage and progress; they are going to have a great experience with us at Paxman.

"It is all becoming real now and is very exciting. How lucky are we to be at the very start of this journey. It is fantastic."



STEM students crowned east of England champions

Bright ideas earned students a regional title.

Year 9 students - Nathan User, Abigail White and Benjamin Helsden - from Philip Morant School took part in the Shell Bright Ideas Challenge.

They won £1,500 after being crowned East of England Regional Winner and went forward to play five teams from the rest of England at the VIP STEM Experience in London.

The challenge is designed to spark young people's curiosity in science and engineering. The competition invites 11 to 14-year-olds to use their creativity, problem-solving, teamwork and STEM skills to devise innovative solutions which could power cities of the future.

The Philip Morant team came up with the idea of self-sustaining apartment buildings with allotment space, solar powered bioreactors and rain water filtration to maximise the use for household waste and naturally occurring resources.



Making friends and learning in America



The long-running American Exchange Programme has formed another batch of firm friendships.

A group of 16 students from The Colne Community School and College took part in the first leg of this year's programme.

Having spent three months getting to know their American partners online, students met their overseas friends from Valdosta Middle School, in South Georgia, face to face.

Students looked at industry with visits to a honey factory and Mustang car factory and focused on literacy while reading to primary school children.

Michael Pulford, Assistant Head, said: "For many of our students, it was the first time they had stayed away from home in another country.

"The trip was a fantastic success."

American students returned the visit to The Colne in June.

School council's community spring clean

In an effort to raise awareness of the environment, a school council took part in a litter pick.

The 22 pupils from Monkwick Junior School donned their high visibility jackets and collected two bags of rubbish from the local park.

The project coincided with the Great British Spring Clean and is just one idea the team has come up with, including recycling crisp packets and a walk or cycle to school week.

Naomi Jonas, Year 6 school council member, said: "We need to clean up our mess!"



Taking lessons overseas to France

Students studying French at The Stanway School spent four days exploring Paris.

During their stay, the 90 students went up the Montparnasse Tower to see the night-time views over the city, including the hourly Eiffel Tower light show.

They also visited the Louvre Museum where they saw the famous Mona Lisa painting and took a cruise along the River Seine.

They enjoyed a picnic by the Sacré Coeur and shopping on the Champs Élysées and the cobbled streets in Montmartre.



Staff get dressed up for World Book Day

A love of reading was celebrated when staff in Clacton dressed as their favourite book characters.

World Book Day at Clacton County High School is marked each year with teachers donning their fancy dress to inspire students.

Head of school Chris Taylor said: "We helped to celebrate a love of reading through World Book Day. The annual focus helps to highlight the importance of authors, illustrators, books in general; fact or fiction. Most importantly, it is a celebration of just reading."



Children's literature celebrated during special week

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland was the theme for a whole week dedicated to books.

Monkwick Junior School extended World Book Day with each year group focusing on a different part of Alice's journey.

Year 3 created detailed descriptions of Alice as well as the Mad Hatter's Tea Party setting using their knowledge of adverbials and adjectives.

Year 4 came up with their own narrative where they imagined Alice in an alternative Wonderland location.

Year 5 discussed the reasons for and against Alice drinking the potion, while

Year 6 looked at the unusual vocabulary in the Jabberwocky poem.

Ashleigh Pool, assistant head and English leader, said: "Pupils had great fun celebrating book week and many children borrowed copies of the text out of their class libraries."

The week ended with a dress-up day where pupils came as characters from Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, as well as other favourite books.



It was a staff take-over at St Helena School as teachers dressed as their favourite story characters for World Book Day.

Teaching awards success for Sigma

Colleagues from across The Sigma Trust schools have once again been successful in the Essex Teaching Awards. The winners and runners-up were -

Secondary School Headteacher of the Year Award

Highly Commended: **Neil Gallagher** - Clacton County High School

Lifetime Achievement Award

Highly Commended: **Ann Bryant** - Thomas Lord Audley School

New Teacher of the Year Award

Winner: **Dr Dan Brown** - The Stanway School

Secondary School Teacher of the Year Award

Winner: **Rebecca Reilly** - The Stanway School

Governing Body

Highly Commended: **The Stanway School** and **Thomas Lord Audley School Federation**

Student Choice Award

Highly Commended: **Kerry Rowland** - Thomas Lord Audley School

Highly Commended: **Andrew Chitsakamile** - Clacton County High School

Brutal killing highlights online dangers

Students at The Philip Morant School and College were among the first in the country to watch a reconstruction of how a teenager fell victim to an online predator.

The short film, since launched nationally, raised awareness of the murder of Breck, who was killed by a man he met online.

Breck's Last Game was shown as part of a collaborative event at Western Homes Stadium hosted by organisations including Essex Police, The Youth Service and The Breck Foundation.

Students took part in workshops to gain awareness of the grooming process, staying safe online, identifying grooming and where to go for help.

Sarah Corrigan, house manager - Faraday, said: "The vulnerability of young people using online forums remains the forefront of our concern at Philip Morant. We take an active approach in educating students in safe practices.

"We welcomed the opportunity to be part of Breck's Last Game and will ensure a continued proactive response to support our students exposed to danger online."

Giving to others for Lent



The tradition of giving something up for lent was taken one stage further when students donated their items to those less fortunate.

Instead of simply giving something up at Easter, students at Harwich and Dovercourt High School picked an item per day to go without and donate to Harwich Food Bank.

Headteacher Kate Finch said: "I was overwhelmed with the response we received for this worthy cause and proud of the Harwich and Dovercourt High School students and their empathy for those less fortunate than themselves."

Learning on location in Spain



A long weekend in Madrid gave students an opportunity to practise their Spanish.

The fifth annual Learn on Location trip saw 34 Year 9 students from Clacton County High School explore Madrid's key sites, including the Royal Palace, Retiro Park, the Plaza Mayor and Real Madrid's Bernabeu Stadium. A group of students got to watch Real Madrid play Spanish side Sociedad Deportiva Huesca at the Bernabeu

Students also visited flea market, El Rastro, with an opportunity to barter for their purchases in Spanish, as well as visiting a traditional Churrería to try out churros con chocolate.

Trip leader Georgina Rubio-Weston said: "The trip was a huge linguistic and cultural experience for students, with some unforgettable memories created that will last a lifetime."

School comes into bloom

Green-fingered children rolled up their sleeves to create a blooming entry for Colchester Schools in Bloom competition.

Pupils at Monkwick Infant School nurtured an outdoor space of flowers, put up bunting and decorated the fences ahead of the judges' visit.



Mental health ambassadors raise awareness

How to tackle stress and anxiety is one of the messages mental health ambassadors are sharing at The Colne Community School and College.

The six Year 10 students spent a day at Chelmsford City Racecourse with other schools as part of their work to raise awareness about mental health.

The group, selected for their personal experiences with mental health and charities, have been in action this academic year.

A cake sale they organised raised £300 for Mind, the mental health charity. They also offer a lunchtime service where peers can relax and discuss any issues they have.



Exam preparation with renowned poets

What better way to prepare for a literature exam than to work with the poets featuring in the course.

A group of 46 Year 11 students from Thomas Lord Audley School attended Poetry Live! At the Cambridge Corn Exchange.

Students were joined by renowned poets they had studied as part of their GCSE English literature course.

Gillian Clarke and Carol Ann Duffy, Britain's Poet Laureate since May 2009, opened the event by performing poems such as Catrin and War Photographer.

Owen Sheers (Mametz Woods), Simon Armitage (Remains), Imtiaz Dharker (Tissue) and Daljit Nagra (Singh Song) also gave readings of their poetry and explained the stories behind their works. Students had an opportunity to ask poets questions about their work and intentions, a useful exercise ahead of their GCSE exams.

They also heard from AQA chief examiner for literature, Tony Childs, who shared useful exam tips.

John Agard (Checking Out Me History and Half-Caste) closed the event, with his performance poetry and advice for students.

Q Theatre goes from strength to strength

The Q Theatre at The Philip Morant School and College has hosted a range of performances since it opened a year ago.

The inaugural school production of Fame was performed by students from Year 7 to 13 and work has already begun on next year's production of We Will Rock You.

Visiting theatre companies have also benefitted from the new space, with Protocol - set up by ex-student Richard Bland - performing Macbeth to Year 9 English and GCSE students.



National finals for team's racing car



A racing car made from a block of foam earned students a place in the national finals of a competition.

Year 7 students from The Stanway School took part in Race for the Line during British Science Week.

Working in groups of four, students designed and made their small race cars, fitted with rocket motors and using microbits as timers. The fastest three teams went on to the regional heats at The Royal Hospital School, at Holbrook, where they were given just 90 minutes to build another car.

One Stanway team came first, qualifying for the national finals at Duxford.

Inspired by Cambridge University

A taste of higher education inspired students to consider studying at top universities.

Year 10 students from Harwich and Dovercourt High School took part in a one-day event organised by the Cavendish Laboratory in collaboration with several University of Cambridge Colleges.

The programme included a tour of Magdalene College, information about studying at Cambridge and advice on higher education and applying to Cambridge.

Students also joined a physics activity at the Cavendish Laboratory, where they took part in a practical session and were given presentations on curriculum physics and research topics.

Lexie Gill, science teacher, said: "These events have several aims, including increasing participation in physics and changing perceptions and stereotypes of physics and Cambridge University."



Talented actors wow audience

From the West End to Clacton – Les Misérables attracted standing ovations from its latest audiences. Students at Clacton County High School put on four performances of the longest running West End musical.

Head of school Chris Taylor said: "It is

difficult to put into words how proud we are of all those who were involved; a tremendous number of hours and dedication went in to making the production what it was.

"The standing ovation after every performance was thoroughly deserved

by the whole cast, technical team and all the staff who gave up their weekends, and numerous additional hours, to help ensure the production was the masterpiece it became.

"We have amazingly talented young people."



One-handed pianist inspires success

A disabled musician helped students to identify barriers they need to overcome to achieve success.

Year 10 students at St Helena School welcomed Nicholas McCarthy in to school to talk about his successful career, despite having been born without a right hand.

Having once been told he would never succeed as a concert pianist, Nicholas went on to study at the Royal College of Music in London.

His graduation drew press headlines around the world, being the only one-handed pianist to graduate from the college in its 130-year history.

The musician visited St Helena School as part of the Creating Success event, answering questions and playing the piano.

Students also took part in a success mapping workshop, identifying barriers Nicholas had to overcome to achieve success and comparing and contrasting them to their own.

Using maths in unusual ways

An enrichment day opened students' eyes to the ways maths can be used in real life.

A group of 29 Year 10 students visited University of Essex for an enrichment day run by The Advanced Mathematics Support Programme.

The government funded initiative aims to increase participation in core maths, AS/A-level maths and further maths at A-level. The day was aimed at high achieving students to see maths used in an unusual way out of the

classroom set-up to encourage them to consider taking the subject as an option in further education.

Students looked for patterns in Pascals triangle, discovered the maths behind braiding, found a formula for the number of moves it takes to complete the game of Towers of Hanoi and competed to build the highest tower of origami Columbus cubes they made out of paper.

Lisa Brown, head of maths, said: "It was a great day that saw students experience the awe and wonder of maths."

A unique insight into NHS careers

Students had their eyes opened to career opportunities available in healthcare during a series of unique classes.

A group of 24 Year 9 students from The Stanway School took part in Medical Master Classes at the Icen Centre, Colchester Hospital.

The objective of the classes was to open students' eyes to the career opportunities available in healthcare and explain the routes and requirements for those careers.

Students experienced the role of a surgeon, learnt what happens in an operating theatre, about the responsibilities of staff and the number of people involved in an operation. They also looked at the role of



anaesthetists, theatre support workers, diagnostic radiographers and recovery nurses. They were taught how to suture, introduced to the equipment used by orthopaedic surgeons, used



sonographic equipment and were taught how to properly wash their hands and how to put on the gowns, gloves and masks ready to carry out surgery.

Dressing to impress in the world of work

Forty business mentors gave up their time to guide students as they begin planning their futures.

Two careers days at The Stanway School gave all Year 10 students an opportunity to meet with representatives from industries including construction, engineering, hospitality, health, finance, media, public services, voluntary organisations, training, further education, apprenticeships, communication and logistics.

Paula Deighton, careers leader, said: "The events involved

students having an opportunity to talk to the employers about their careers so far and how they got to where they are now, as well as finding out the skills, qualities and qualifications the students may require now if they were to follow a similar path."

The event also included learning how to present yourself at an interview, handshaking, body language, CV writing, letters of application, and skills and qualities for employment.

Wellies on for farm visits

Children donned their boots for a trip to Wellies-On Farm in Abberton, Colchester.

The visits included a two-hour tour where Reception and Year 2 pupils from Monkwick Infant School could meet and feed

goats, learn about the dairy herd and how the milk on the farm is used, handle chickens, meet pygmy goats and ponies and feed the farm pigs. Pupils also made bird feeders using chopped apples and seeds.



New band has prestigious gig



A student band which formed just a few months ago kicked off a whole event with six songs.

Year 7 and 10 students from Thomas Lord Audley School - Effie Lawrence on vocals and keyboard, Oscar Ryland on guitar, Luca Ryland on drums and Eleanor Helliwell on bass guitar - make up Anorak Patch.

They were asked to be the opening act at the Albion Music Day, an annual event which takes place in Rowhedge.

Tracy Curd, music department, said: "The students have only been practising as a band for a few months. Their set featured a selection of covers and their own songs.

"I felt so incredibly proud of them. Their performance was brilliant and they drew a huge crowd! I am looking forward to seeing them again at one of their next gigs!"

NEWSBITE

How did the universe begin?

Curious students took a trip to Switzerland to find out the answers to fundamental questions.

The St Helena School science students visited CERN, one of the world's largest and most respected centres for scientific research.

Students gained an appreciation of the technical and engineering challenges the multinational experimental collaborations at CERN face.

The visit was led by a member of the CERN community who talked from personal experience about their contribution to CERN's research programme.

Head students start work



A new team of head students have already started work to transform Harwich and Dovercourt High School. The Year 10 students, appointed after an application and interview process, will now meet each month and report back to the senior leadership team and governors each half term. They have already started work on

projects around Year 6 to 7 transition, reducing litter and improving facilities.

Paul Day, head of Windsor Learning Community, said: "Being a head student is a real privilege and a responsibility. The competition for places was very competitive and it took the panel a considerable time to make a final decision. Students

selected gave a fantastic account of themselves and all showed the qualities needed to make a success of this vital whole school role.

"Many of the students gave examples where they had assumed the role of leader in or outside of school with them all sharing excellent ideas for the coming year."

Where does food come from?



A trip to the farm helped pupils to understand how food is grown and sourced.

Year 3 pupils from Monkwick Junior School visited Abbots Hall Farm, part of the Essex Wildlife Trust in Great Wigborough, as part of their topic on food and where it comes from.

Eleyse Barnes, Year 3 teacher, said: "The children thoroughly enjoyed the trip as they looked at how wheat was grown and later used the wheat

to make bread from scratch within the forest. Once the dough was made, the children then cooked their bread on a fire.

"The children gained a lot from this trip as they were able to experience all stages of bread-making, therefore gaining a better understanding of food processes. This brought our topic to life and gripped the children's interests. We shall definitely be returning next year."

Bringing drama lessons to life

Drama students took a trip to London's West End to see the subject in action.

The 75 Year 9 and 10 students from The Stanway School watched *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* at Piccadilly Theatre.

The play is based on the novel by Mark Haddon about a 15-year-old boy with an autism spectrum condition.

James Halford-Pollard, head of drama, said: "The students absolutely loved the play which was perfect to inspire them to create their own practical and written responses.

They were particularly impressed with director Marianne Elliot's creative use of technology and by the innovative choreography of theatre company Frantic Assembly. The students were a real credit to the school in both their conduct and appreciation of the experience."

"Astounding" improvements on ski slopes



Students travelled 1,000 miles, 27 hours and six countries to reach their ski holiday destination in Ponte di Legno, Italy.

The 54 Year 8 to 11 students from Clacton County High School spent a week learning to ski or brushing up their skills.

Once everyone had mastered the nursery slopes, the group took the cable car ride from Ponte village to the main slopes, 600m higher in Tonale.

Trip leader Laura Townsend said: "As the week progressed, the improvement made from the students' first trepid slips and slides on the first day, was astounding.

"Many faced their fears, pushed their boundaries and jumped right out of their comfort zone – all of which were rewarded through their accomplishments and the praise and encouragement from the instructors, teachers and, more importantly, their peers."

Wembley dream comes true for students

Cup final day was an opportunity for students to attend their first big game. The PE department of Harwich and Dovercourt High School took 48 Year 7 to 10 students to Wembley Stadium for the Women's SSE FA Cup Final.

Students watched Manchester City take on West Ham United

in a battle for the trophy. They sat among 43,264 fans, making it one of the largest matches for a club-level women's game in Europe.

Lucy Brown, PE technician, said: "What a great experience to have witnessed women's football at such a high level!"

Foundations laid for rugby season

A number of successes for The Colne College Rugby Academy have set them up for the next season.

In rugby union, the team finished third in the Association of Colleges League and were semi-finalists in the Essex

Colleges Cup. In the Rugby League National Cup, they beat Leeds College before losing in a close game against Wyke College.

PE teacher Phillip Coleman said: "All players have made great progress, with

many now playing club rugby. Kev Tavainavesi scored on his debut for Colchester Rugby Club first team and Jonah Varela secured a professional contract at Rugby Super League giants London Broncos."

Infants excel at Olympic event

Sporty youngsters from Monkwick Infant School rose to the challenge of the Ocean Olympics.

The 30 Year 2 pupils took part in the event at the Garrison Track, in

Colchester, along with 11 primary schools.

Headteacher Claire Holmes said: "Our pupils excelled in the basketball shoot-out, long jump and a target game. We

are really proud of the children's achievements."

Pupils were given medals and certificates in the school's celebration assembly.

First points for improving football team

The Monkwick Junior School football team has scored its first points in a league campaign for many years.

The team have managed to achieve three wins, three draws and just one loss this season – an improvement on previous years.

Aaron Lee, sports coach, said: "I am extremely proud of the football team's achievements this year. We have raised the

profile of football across the school, inspiring more people to participate in the sport and gaining recognition from the entire school.

"The football team have embodied all of The Sigma Trust's core values and have exceeded their own expectations while also thoroughly enjoying themselves."

Young footballers score second place

The girls football team from St Helena School came second in a football tournament.

The Year 7 students won all but one of their games, giving them the runner-up spot.

Rebecca Leppard said: "The team were a real credit to the school."



School's four teams finish second

The challenge has been set after four basketball teams from Thomas Lord Audley School finished second in their championships.

Following a successful season of basketball, the school had three male teams and one female team in the final.

Year 9 girls came second to St Mary's School, while Year 9, 10 and 11 boys all missed out on the top spot at the hands of St Benedict's School.

Matt Julier said: "All those involved have showed an excellent level of determination throughout the year, attending numerous training sessions in order to improve.

"With four teams finishing second in the partnership, we are all determined to improve next year, aiming for first position."



Year 9.



Year 9.



Year 10.



Year 11.

Have you thought about a career in teaching at a primary, secondary school or special school?

We are now recruiting for **September 2019**

Alternatively, consider the Internship
programme to gain experience of working
in a school before training.

For further information on a career in teaching or the
Internship programme contact:

Jane Adamson/John Morgan/Sarah Alix
Programme Directors

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