



Odyssey

Collaborative Trust



HELPING PUPILS, COLLEAGUES AND THE COMMUNITY TO THRIVE

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It's the end of another busy term for our schools in Odyssey Collaborative Trust. One area we have focused on is refreshing our vision for what we want to achieve as a group of schools. You can read more about it [here](#), but in a nutshell, our seven schools are all working towards the same goal: We want our children to thrive, our colleagues to thrive and our community to thrive.



The best thing about my job is that I get to visit different schools each day. At the time of writing I have been to our seven schools eighty-six times this term and it has been a joy seeing our vision come to life in the day-to-day work of the schools. You can get a flavour of what we are doing to help people to thrive throughout this newsletter.

At our trust-wide training day in February we gave out the inaugural Thrive Awards which recognised the fantastic work of staff across the Trust. The awards were accompanied by a video (which can be [viewed here](#)) where children thanked staff for their work and talked about what made them special. I spent a lovely day visiting the schools and taking the video.

The experience was summed up when I asked a year 5 pupil in one school if she could think of one thing that the award winner for that school had done to help her. "I can think of a million things!" was her enthusiastic response. The gratitude children had for the work of staff (not just teachers) spoke volumes for what our colleagues for our school communities.

I would like to wish everyone in our school community a peaceful Easter break.

Ian Dewes
Odyssey Collaborative Trust CEO

CHINESE STUDENTS GET A TASTE FOR ENGLISH LIFE

»»» OUR CHILDREN THRIVE

Fish and chip lunches, football and friendships have been enjoyed by a delegation of 25 children from China who have spent the week with pupils at Springfield Primary School in Spondon.

The school in West Road welcomed the children from the Tunxiao Primary School and Wanghu Primary School as part of a city-wide partnership with the Chinese city of Hefei.

And it was the perfect opportunity for Springfield pupils to learn more about diversity – one of the four main pillars of their school curriculum.

“They don’t speak a lot of English and we don’t speak their language so I’ve been talking as clearly as I can and have been smiling lots to make sure they are happy,” said Lula-May, aged nine.

And the language did not prove a barrier when it came to having fun on the football courts.

Pupils from Year 5 and 6 at Springfield Primary took the Chinese visitors to Derby County Football Club where they enjoyed a tour of the stadium, using robots and a game of football at the end.

“The football class I found very interesting, very good and the PE class,” said Xin Yang from Hefei.

Nine-year-old Eliza from Springfield also enjoyed the trip to Pride Park. “It was fun playing with the robots and seeing the football pitch,” she said.

Both the Chinese and English students said they had found each other very friendly.

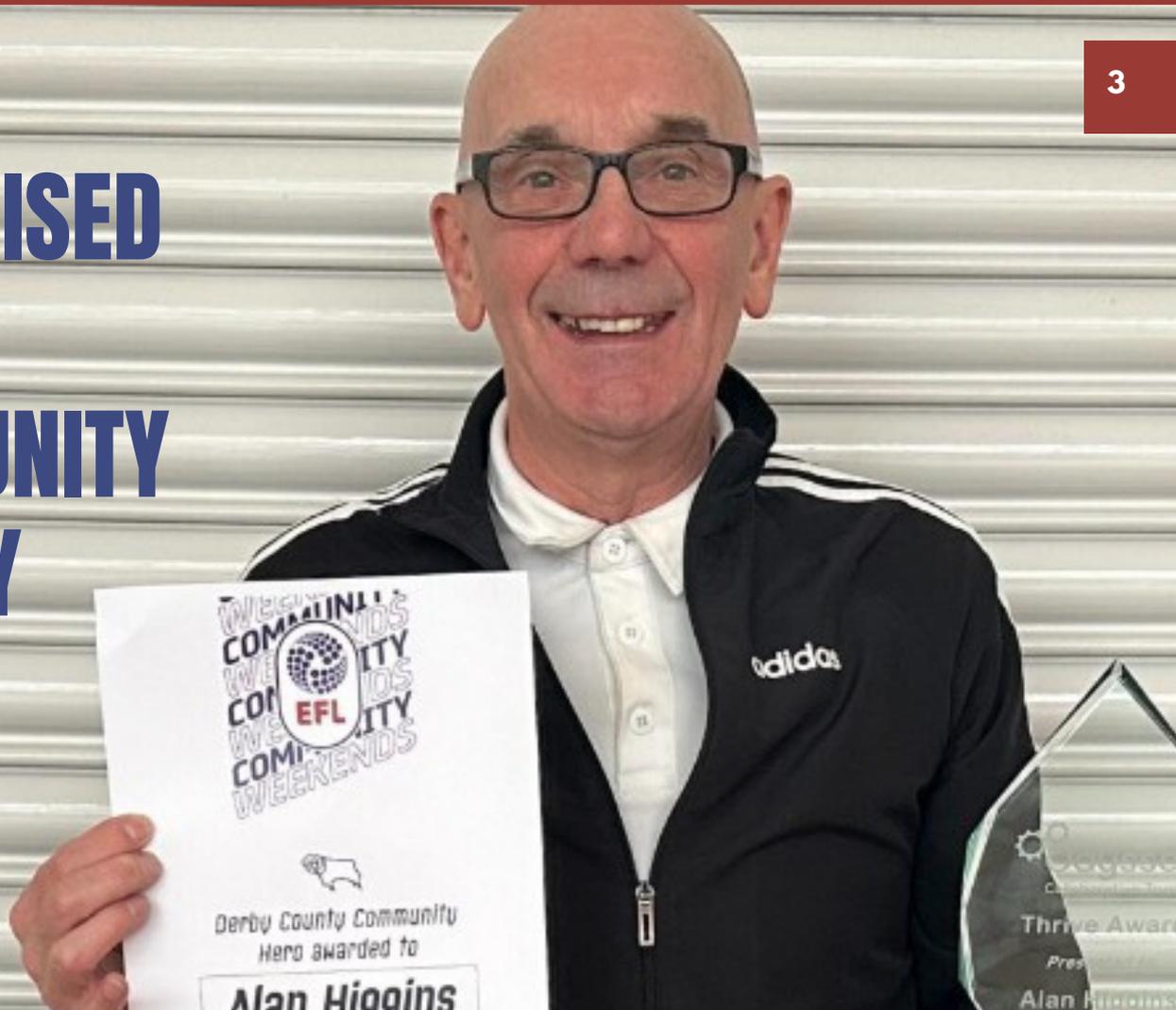
“I have learned a lot about where my buddy lives in China,” said nine-year-old Josh. “They told me it is colourful, pretty and cold and that there are red lanterns everywhere.”

“It is just a wonderful opportunity for our children to experience different cultures and to forge new friendships. I hope those connections will last.”

Headteacher David Blackwell



ALAN RECOGNISED AS A COMMUNITY HERO BY DERBY COUNTY



➤➤➤ OUR COLLEAGUES THRIVE

PE Teacher Alan Higgins has been scooping accolades this year in recognition of his work to widen participation in a variety of sports through his role at Oakwood Junior School.

Alan won an EFL (English Football League) Community Heroes award. It was part of the EFL new Community Weekends which see Clubs, managers and players mark the incredible work that community staff and volunteers deliver 365 days per year.

Alan was recognised by Derby County Football Club for his work on the Derby Primary PE Steering Group, helping to shape and direct the Super Schools programme at Derby County Community Trust. He regularly takes part in meetings and gives feedback about how to improve school sport across the city. As a Derby County Football Club season ticket holder, it was a dream come true for Alan to walk through the tunnel with players as part of his prize.

“I’ve been watching Derby County since 1964 so to walk through the tunnel with the players was amazing,” said Alan. “I sit in the South Stand with my season ticket so to be able to stand on the pitch with the players and look up to the South Stand and give them a wave was just unbelievable.”

It was made even more special for Alan because one of the other award winners was Alex Owens who plays for the Derby County Under 20s who play in the FA Women’s National League (Reverse Midland Division). Alex has played football with Derby County Community Trust since she was 10, where she was part of the Regional Talent Centre set up and Alan coached her when she played football at Oakwood Junior School.

“To be standing next to Alex picking up her award for work with women’s football knowing she started her journey with football when at Oakwood Junior School was a great moment,” said Alan.

Alan has driven sport forward at the school since he joined more than 10 years ago, initially as a teaching assistant. He enters sporting events run by Derby County Community Trust, Derby Trailblazers and more through his role as PE teacher, and coaches a number of after school sports clubs too.

“I’ve been watching Derby County since 1964 so to walk through the tunnel with the players was amazing.”

Alan Higgins

HAIR-RAISING EFFORTS RAISE CASH FOR THE COMMUNITY

»»» OUR COMMUNITY THRIVES

Following a successful World Book Day, many Odyssey Collaborative Trust schools also got into the community spirit for Comic Relief. It was a hair-raising experience at Asterdale Primary School, in Spondon. Here, members of the School Council had voted to make it Crazy Hair day, with pupils paying a pound to create crazy creations with their hair. By midday, council members Mark and Evelyn had already collected more than £100 in donations to send to Comic Relief.

There were hair buns made to look like doughnuts and cupcakes, colourful sprays and lots of accessories. School council member Jaxon even let his older sister decorate his hair - which resulted in a lot of pink bows! The school also held a cake sale for parents at the end of the day.



At Beaufort Primary School in Chaddesden, pupils brought in donations for Derby Food 4 Thought charity instead. And when the charity came to collect the packages of pasta and tins of food, they were stunned by the volume. More than 10 bags and 10 crates were filled and crammed into the collection van.

Head teacher Kate Beecroft said: "It has been an amazing response. The message of Comic Relief was to fight poverty and I think families really responded to that."

And across both schools, and others in the Odyssey Collaborative Trust, British Science Week was celebrated with visits from farm animals, creating active volcanos, keeping ice cubes insulated for as long as possible and other scientific experiments with got pupils enthused about the subject.



WELCOME TO NEW HEADTEACHER

➤➤➤ BEAUFORT PRIMARY SCHOOL

This term we welcomed a new headteacher to Beaufort Primary School, in Chaddesden. Kate Beecroft joined us after setting up a primary department at The Bemrose School – taking it from a building site to a fully-functioning school with 400 pupils.

She began the role in January and has already set out her areas of focus.

“The Foundation Stage is a huge priority for me and supporting our children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities),” explained Kate. “I would also love to drive up the sense of community here. Parents and carers clearly love the school, many of them came here themselves and have now sent their children here. They live and breathe this community and are very loyal to it and I want to bring that community back in to Beaufort.” Kate already has activities and visits planned for the children this year, as well as organising events which welcome the parents into the school, including coffee mornings to chat to them about what they want to see improve.



BACK TO SCHOOL

➤➤➤ BORROW WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Two former Borrow Wood Primary School pupils returned to the school in Spondon, nearly 10 years after they left, to inspire pupils about engineering.

Bradley Vickery and Evan Barnett are both now apprentices at Rolls-Royce. They delivered sessions, alongside other apprentices from Rolls-Royce, which were designed to excite pupils about engineering through interactive activities.

Bradley, 20, is an Engineering Technician at Rolls-Royce and works to maintain machinery at the company. Evan, now 18, is a Nuclear Engineering Technician Apprentice. He said: “It felt a bit strange being back at first as it looked the same as when I was there a long time ago.”

PUPILS ON SONG AT TALENT SHOW



➤➤➤ CHERRY TREE HILL PRIMARY

Children at Cherry Tree Hill Primary School are a talented bunch - and they took to the stage to show us all just how gifted they are. And Mr Taylor certainly enjoyed being a judge! It's a yes from us!



➤➤➤ ASTERDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Many of our schools took part in World Book Day this year and the children at Asterdale Primary School went one step further - they wrote their own stories in less than 50 words. Pictured above are some of the winners with their certificates - well done everyone!

DRESSING UP FOR WORLD BOOK DAY

➤➤➤ PORTWAY JUNIOR SCHOOL

At Portway Junior School in Allestree, pupils dressed up as their favourite words from nocturnal, prosperity, uniform, incognito, vibrant, noble, onomatopoeia, conservation, equality, elegant, craft and crazy - they had the dictionary covered!

We are full of admiration for their brilliant ideas - and would like to thank parents for getting into the spirit of the event too!



AWARDS FOR ART & INCLUSION

▶▶▶ OAKWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Oakwood Junior School's commitment to the arts and to inclusion has been recognised with two separate awards.

The school in Alvaston has earned its Arts Mark Gold Award and the Inclusive School Award with Centre of Excellence status.

The Arts Mark Gold Award follows a lengthy submission process which had to show how art was incorporated across all areas of the school's curriculum.

Tiegan Carter, Arts Lead at the school, part of the Odyssey Collaborative Trust, has dedicated her time to improving art at the school and putting together the submission for the Arts Mark award. She identified opportunities to enter children's work into competitions and 84 children were successful in getting their work published in a book.

Meanwhile, staff and pupils are also celebrating another achievement in being awarded the Inclusive School Award with Centre of Excellence status through the IQM (Inclusion Quality Mark).

Oakwood Junior School is now working to become a Flagship School, which involves being assessed every year for the next three years.

Ian Dewes, chief executive officer of Odyssey Collaborative Trust, said:

"These awards are testament to the genuine commitment of Oakwood Junior School to the arts and to inclusion. These are not awards you can earn from pockets of work, they are a symbol of embedded policies and practices which are part of the fabric of the school."

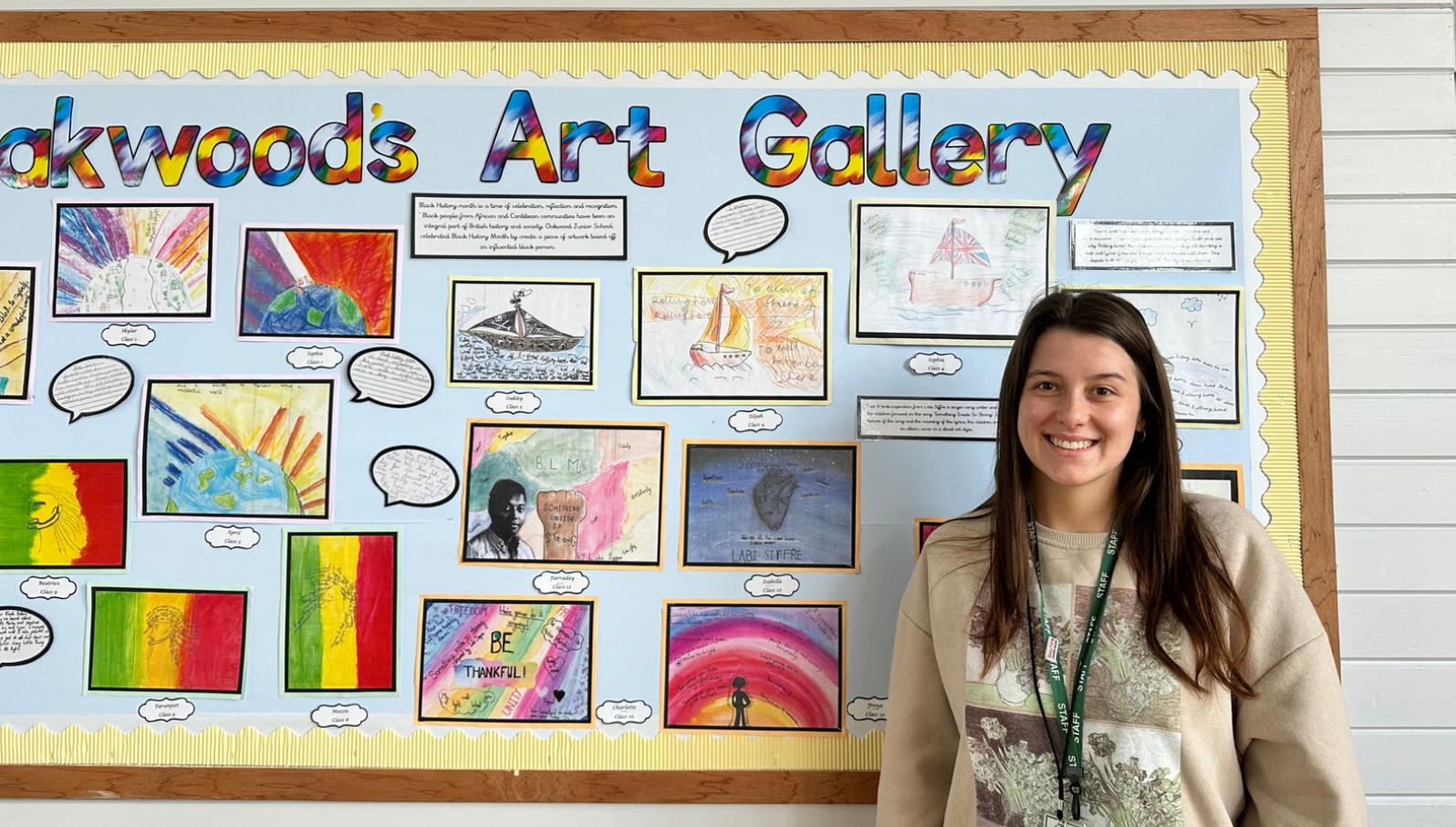
SCIENCE WEEK SUCCESS



SPRINGFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

National Science Week was celebrated at many of our schools this month.

Children at Springfield Primary School, in Spondon, learned about body parts and spent a lesson identifying them - as brilliantly illustrated in this photograph!



Above: Tiegan Carter, arts lead at Oakwood Junior School.