



2024

# WEST END SCHOOLS' TRUST

Building a strong learning community

Contact Us



[www.westendschoolstrust.co.uk](http://www.westendschoolstrust.co.uk)



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# WEST

## West End Schools' Trust 2023 - 2024



The West End Schools' Trust (WEST) is a foundation trust of nine primary schools located in the west of the city of Newcastle upon Tyne. We are responsible for the education of around two thousand nine hundred pupils between the ages of 3 months and 11 years. We are a strong learning community where our pupils have highly positive experiences and attain good standards.



### Contact Us



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## OUR TRUST YEAR

And then we were Nine! Welcome to Lemington Riverside who joined WEST this year as evidence that the foundation trust remains vigorous as a concept and vehicle for educational co-operation and development. For another year we had another 'fantastic STEMtastic', the energy and effort expended in organising which is never taken for granted. Many congratulations are due to the pupils whose wide range of artistic output so impressed so many at the John Marley Centre. We welcome closer links with The Theatre Royal, where many of the pupils who attended stage versions of a text read in class had the chance to experience the magic and truth of drama. Not least, tribute to all Heads and staff in all WEST schools for steering their ships through what must sometimes feel like a sea stormy in its political and financial uncertainty.

- John Anderson, Chair

# THEATRE ROYAL



This year, WEST collaborated with Theatre Royal to take part in workshops based on the novel 'Boy at the Back of the Class'. Laura from Theatre Royal visited our schools for five weeks and the children participated in a variety of activities. All of the activities were aimed at deepening their understanding of the book, and developing empathy for the different characters we met in the novel. Each week had a different focus; we were character detectives finding out about the characters, we used extracts from the text to create freeze frames and even created our own versions of the story.

As part of the collaboration, we were lucky enough to visit Theatre Royal to watch the stage show of the novel. After working closely with Laura and Kim from the theatre, we managed to have a special treat on the day of the show. We arrived early and entered the theatre through the Stage Door. From here, we entered the 'Green Room' where we were able to meet some of the cast informally. We then got a tour of the theatre, learning all about its history and visiting many of the different rehearsal spaces, offices and special rooms. Then we got to watch the performance! And we loved it!



# THEATRE ROYAL



Afterwards, we had further sessions with Laura where we were able to discuss what we had seen.

We loved talking about our favourite parts. We found it interesting understanding why they had missed bits out when translating the book to stage and how they used the stage and props to create the show.

It was an amazing experience for all of our children, and one which they thoroughly enjoyed!





Our children have enjoyed numerous excellent trips this year, but without question, one of the highlights for some was sailing up and down the River Tyne with the Ocean Youth Trust. Children from different WEST schools paired together, we had an amazing time learning about life aboard a working sailing ship. We learned how to unfurl the sails, steer the ship, tie knots, take care of the fenders, and most importantly, work as a team and make new friends. We are grateful to Simon and his crew for welcoming us onto the James Cook for a once-in-a-lifetime trip.





Yousuf shared that he thought the ship was really big and cool and wants to thank Nick personally for helping him with his nosebleed during the night. All the children loved Nick's humour when he pulled faces, sang songs, and made funny noises. They also enjoyed Ben's delicious cooking (except for the mash, according to Cory), appreciated Oscar's lessons and morning music, and most of all, a big thank you goes to Simon. Hiba made good friends that she will remember for life.

This memorable experience will stay with us for years to come. Thank you to everyone who made this trip possible.



# STEMTASTIC

## STEMtastic Week Inspires Across WEST!

In February 2024, our Trust's nine primary schools came alive with curiosity and creativity during STEMtastic Week!

Children across all schools engaged in a variety of interactive activities, each designed to ignite a passion for discovery and innovation.



Our children were involved in many fascinating activities, including, investigating how light travels by creating camera obscuras inspired by Joseph Swan's pioneering work. They built and tested simple machines using Lego and K'Nex, explored circuits through human circuit challenges and snap circuit building. They participated in team shipbuilding challenges where they designed boats to carry the most cargo.



# STEMTASTIC

At the Centre for Life, children explored the science of sound with APEX Acoustics and learned about the theory of flight with the Royal Air Force, building gliders to understand aerodynamics.

Our collaboration with experts from the Centre for Life, the Discovery Museum, NU Foundation, the RAF, and APEX Acoustics brought real-world expertise and excitement to our classrooms, enriching STEMtastic Week across our Trust.

As the crescendo to our exciting STEM week, children were treated to an interactive science show with the extraordinary Professor Pumpnickel! His electrifying demonstrations and captivating experiments left everyone in awe, making science come alive in the most memorable way.

These partnerships provided unique, hands-on experiences that captivated our children's imaginations and deepened their understanding of STEM



# THE W CLUB



There are many opportunities across our schools to get involved in the school community.

Notably there is The W Club who are a proactive group of parents from St John's Primary School, Hawthorn Primary School, and Bridgewater.

This year they worked with children and families exploring their vision for the area.

Thanks to funding from UKSPF through the Connected Voice Social Action theme they worked with Junction Point CIC and artist Hannah Thorpe to produce a piece of artwork demonstrating their vision for the area which they would like to see become reality.

# ORACY

Schools in our West End Schools' Trust believe every child's voice should be heard and valued and that all children have the essential Oracy skills to be highly successful in life.

Therefore, schools in WEST are currently participating in 'Voice 21', a programme that delivers high quality training to our school staff to ensure we prioritise Oracy and teach children to use their voices effectively.

We have had a range of fantastic trustwide training throughout this year which will continue next year.

The impact is amazing, and it is wonderful to witness our children listening and talking with greater confidence and articulation.



# DEBATING COMPETITION



We held our annual debating competition. Congratulations to Wingrove Primary School who were the overall winners. We had a great day at Newcastle Civic Centre Council Chambers. Topics for debate included:

- Should the summer holidays be shorter?
- Should parents be prosecuted for letting their underage children use social media?
- Is it fair for professional athletes to earn more than doctors?



# DEBATING COMPETITION



# TRUST COUNCIL



Our Trust council has had a cracking year. They discussed how small acts of kindness can spread peace in our community. They decided to produce a peace chain which reached 132 metres!

They have been supporting the environment by collecting pens to recycle and getting out into the community collecting rubbish. They collected cash and donations for our local food bank and delivered the items.



# NEWCASTLE UNITED

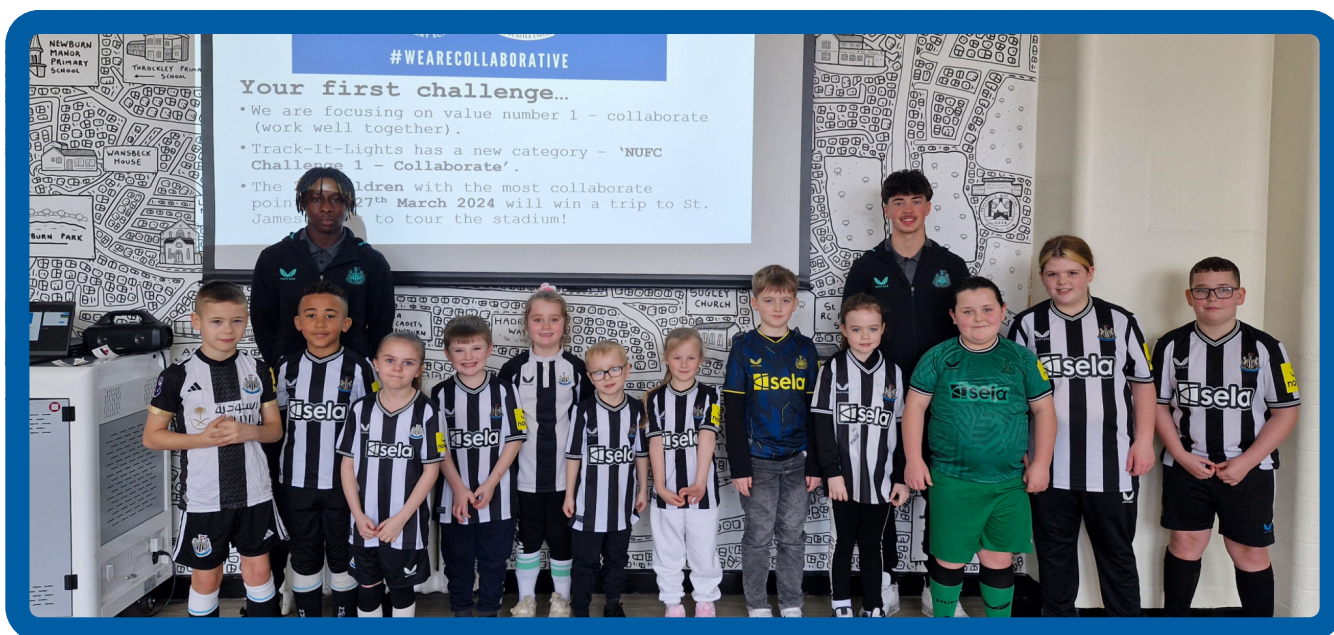


Our Trust has been so privileged to work with Newcastle United.

Working collaboratively with Julie Smith, the Safeguarding and Wellbeing Coordinator at Newcastle United, we designed a project focused on raising aspirations and attainment through focusing on Newcastle United's four Values.

- Collaborative
- Disciplined
- Passionate
- Hardworking

We launched the project with a visit from two of the youth team players.



# NEWCASTLE UNITED



To help our children engage with the project, we designed simple challenges linked to each value.

Newcastle United kindly provided a selection of prizes ranging from tours of St James' Park for the Collaborative focus, goodie bags for the Disciplined focus and match day tickets for the Hardworking project!





# SCIENCE CLUB

Each Tuesday, 54 pupils from our schools travel to the Centre for Life to investigate and learn about science from real scientists.

The children are thoroughly engaged and are given the opportunity to experience using equipment we do not have access to within a school environment.

It is also wonderful for the sessions to be led by real scientists who are able to explain the specialisms within this subject.



# SCIENCE CLUB

Each half term is designed for a different year group and the lessons are created to support the children become more confident and have a deeper and richer vocabulary and scientific understanding.



# HEALTH & WELLBEING WEEK

Every year we have a health and wellbeing week for all our Year 6 pupils. This is an opportunity for our children to think about growing up and moving on to secondary school.

Activities take place at the Newcastle United Foundation community hub, NUCASTLE as well as in the school grounds. Children have the opportunity to mix with children from different WEST schools and this year we invited Excelsior Primary Academy and Atkinson Road Primary Academy to join us.

The children really enjoyed the different activities throughout the week which included exploring healthy friendships, learning emergency first aid, developing memory skills and team-building opportunities.

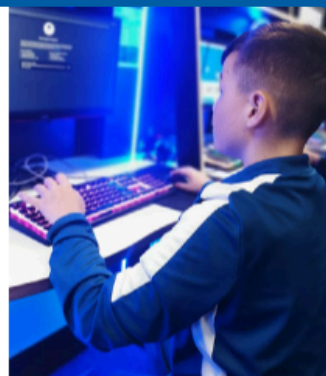
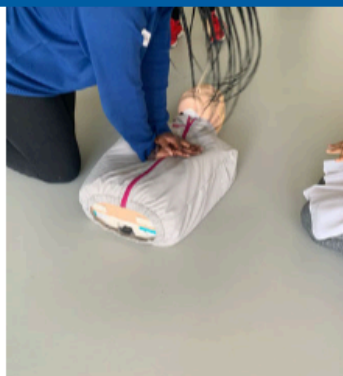
Healthworks, the community health charity, visited some of the schools with their smoothie bike and the children enjoyed making fruit smoothies while discussing important topics around food and nutrition.

"I think the day was fantastic because we got to meet the people we will see in high school. It made me feel more relaxed and less stressed about moving to a new school."  
Year 6 child, Hawthorn

# HEALTH & WELLBEING WEEK



# HEALTH & WELLBEING WEEK



# MUSIC SUMMER CARNIVAL

Our children came together for a fabulous music summer carnival. Thanks to the support of Tom Elwick, Learning Officer at Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums, this event was held in the Great Hall at the Discovery Museum. Susan Sinclair and Georgina Biddle from Newcastle Music Service were the compares and In Harmony and The Glasshouse International Centre for Music supported the event.

The morning was full of an eclectic mix of music showcasing everything from Walking on Sunshine by Katrina and the Waves to Rocking all over the world by Status Quo to The Parsons Farewell & The Wellermen. This annual event is a brilliant opportunity for our schools to come together, listen to each other and share a love of music.



# MUSIC SUMMER CARNIVAL



# BRIGHT FUTURES ART EXHIBITION

Some of our schools took part in an art project exploring the regeneration of Benwell and Scotswood as part of the Newcastle City Council Make Your Mark Fund. The children worked with local artists, using different materials and displayed their artwork at the magnificent John Marley Centre on Muscott Grove. The artwork featured key local landmarks and demonstrated the things that children enjoy doing in their spare time. The Newcastle West End Children's Community (WECC) supported the project bringing the artwork together to celebrate our community. You can find out more about WECC here: [www.newcastlewecc.org.uk](http://www.newcastlewecc.org.uk)





# BRIGHT FUTURES ART EXHIBITION

