



# Celebrating Culture at Hugh Sexey's

Students at Hugh Sexey Middle school have this term had many wonderful opportunities to learn about and engage with cultures other than their own. In January, Year 6 pupils travelled to the Bristol and West Progressive Jewish Synagogue as part of their RE studies on Judaism. There, students were told about what it is like to live as part of a Jewish family in Britain, and what significance the Synagogue has to the Jewish faith. Students demonstrated lots of great knowledge from their lessons and asked many brilliant questions ... they even got to try some Challah bread!

Further to this, Year 7 pupils took part in an incredible Japanese 'Taiko' drumming workshop as part of their World Music project. The workshop saw pupils learn all about origins of the tradition and the context which surrounds the pieces they were taught to play. An incredibly insightful time was certainly had by all, and has no doubt enriched what children have been learning in the classroom.



## STEM Across the Trust

This term saw both Lympsham and East Brent schools celebrating STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) week, with students participating in a range of activities which showcased the wonders of these subjects.

At East Brent there were visits from students of the Kings of Wessex to teach children about 2D and 3D shapes, and later in the week children built their own rockets which were launched in the playground ... providing somewhat of a shock to the local bird population!

At Lympsham, children focused on creating a sustainable world and how – in light of the climate emergency – our energy is made, and how it could be made cleaner. Each class took an area to explore during the week: Unicorns looked at the wind power, Elves carried out a survey of the traffic and how cars could be powered by wind, Griffins thought about insulation and Phoenix about the sources of power in the village and water power.

Its safe to say that students in both schools gained an incredible understanding of STEM and how it impacts our lives, and we wish to extend thanks to all the external visitors who made the week possible!

### Key Dates

14/2/20	Last Day of Term
15/02/20 - 23/02/20	Half Term
24/02/20	First Day of Term
05/03/20	World Book Day
12/03/20	Y3/4 Netball at HSMS
19/03/20	Y3 Multi-skills at HSMS

If you haven't already, be sure to check out our new Trust website. We hope this will serve as a hub of information from all our schools!

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## Chief Executive's Message

There's been so much going on in the Wessex Learning Trust in the run up to this Spring Half Term - from Regional School Commissioner Trust review meetings to Head Teachers conferences, to name but a few.

Across the Trust, Axbridge hosted their first ever Pre-School Blink which saw leaders from across the Trust coming together to work collaboratively in our Pre-School settings, whilst Kings held a Careers Fair overflowing with contributors from local businesses who provided information to students across a variety of careers to inform, inspire and motivate! Lympsham announced an amazing £536 final tally for their Christmas fundraising for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust and Brainwaves Charity.

The Trust continues to work diligently to cement the 'One School' 2-19 ethos to build effective systems which accelerate progress and personal success within our Cheddar community. With that in mind, we look forward to officially welcoming the Mendip Edge Federation into our family, in the coming months.

I would like to thank you for all your continued support this term and to our committed team of staff across the Trust. I understand school, especially in the lead up to exams can be a pressured time for our young people, so please be reassured that we are supporting them to do their best and feel a sense of achievement and positivity every day in their lessons and enrichment activities.

I wish everyone a restful and enjoyable break with loved ones - and let's hope for some early spring sunshine!

## Environmentalism at Axbridge

Inspired by Greta Thunberg, children at Axbridge have begun work towards the Eco-School accreditation with a new Eco-Team. The of children from all years and meet regularly to come up with ideas about how the school can better help the environment.

The children have started a food composting campaign, giving each class with a bowl to collect their food waste in at snack time so it can be composted. The children even go into the staff room to collect staff tea bags!

The school has also become a local drop off point for products that are currently not recycled by the council. These include baby food pouches and other baby food packaging, as well as soon old batteries.

Students, staff and parents have also been out in the school field planting PTA funded trees to help create an outside learning area and some shade for the summer. We hope all of this will go a long way in reducing our impact on the planet!

## Brent Knoll Comes A-Wassailing

Students of Brent Knoll School this term kept the Somerset tradition of wassailing alive, taking part in the procession at West Croft Farm. The evening of celebration was exciting and taught students all about the rich heritage which exists in their local area. Brent Knoll School was also lucky enough to receive some of the proceeds from the evening, which the school is very grateful for!

## Broadway comes to Kings!

Final rehearsals are underway at the Kings of Wessex as students in Years 9-13 prepare for their performance of hit Broadway musical '42nd Street' - a dazzling, tap-dancing spectacular, featuring catchy songs and a whole lot of glitz and glam!

When revered Broadway director Julian Marsh falls on hard times with both his health and his finances, he helms an ambitious musical as a final production before his retirement. His lead actress, Dorothy Brock, is torn between two loves - the show's wealthy backer, Abner Dillon, and the earnest but penniless actor Pat Denning - while aspiring young performer Peggy Sawyer waits in the wings, hoping for her big break.

A brilliant time is sure to be had by all, with the performance serving as testament to all the hard work of students and staff over the last few months.

Performances start at 7PM on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> in the Kings Theatre, with tickets available to purchase from: [thelittleboxoffice.com/cheddararts](http://thelittleboxoffice.com/cheddararts) or on the door.



**Above:** Axbridge's Eco Team  
**Left:** 42<sup>nd</sup> Street in rehearsal