



JOHN MILTON ACADEMY TRUST

Ambition • Aspiration • Excellence



Bacton
Primary School



Cedars Park
Primary School



Mendlesham
Primary School



Stowupland
High School



The John Milton
Sixth Form
AT STOWUPLAND HIGH SCHOOL



MENDLESHAM



STOWUPLAND

From the Trust

And so, another action-packed year at JMAT schools comes to an end.

Our students and pupils have certainly excelled in 2022, learning more about the world around them. That has brought with it lots of positive attention from the press!

Whether fundraising for charitable causes, putting on packed-out productions, or officially opening our state-of-the-art new centres – we've been delighted to see our learners make the headlines.

There have been many stories shared in school bulletins and newsletters, so we've collated just a few to look back on and enjoy.

Here's to another successful year in 2023 and the launch of our new websites.

All of us wish you and your families a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.



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All schools and the John Milton Academy Trust office will be closed over Christmas, although the central office will reopen on Tuesday 3rd January for any urgent emails.

To contact the Schools or Trust:			
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JMAT (all enquiries)	enquiries@johnmiltonacademytrust.co.uk	01449 742422	https://www.johnmiltonacademytrust.co.uk/

Safeguarding remains of paramount importance, even during holiday periods. If you are worried that a child or young person is at immediate risk of abuse, harm or neglect - call Customer First on 0808 800 4005 (24 hour service free from landlines and most mobiles).



Students paint their favourite Suffolk scenes on hoot trail owl



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Artistic learners across the Trust had their artwork displayed throughout Ipswich as part of the popular Big Hoot Art Trail.

At Stowupland, students were first tasked with designing the artwork for a charity owl statue on the theme “Wonderful Suffolk”.

Students then picked up their paintbrushes and got working, bringing the colourful design to life.

Lesley Blake, Subject Leader for Art at Stowupland High School, said: “This project has really inspired the children and got their creative juices flowing.

“From design to painting, the children have loved every minute working on the owl.

“They should be very proud of what they have achieved.”

The design for Stowupland, created by Year 7 students, featured the pier at Felixstowe, scenes from Suffolk’s beautiful countryside, the high school building with its surrounding fields and images of the county’s everchanging weather.

The owl formed part of the “Little Hoot” section of the trail and raised money for St Elizabeth Hospice.

David Brewster, Head of School, added: “The children have done a wonderful job of painting the owl and their enthusiasm for the project has been infectious.

“They worked hard to come up with the design, reflecting some of their favourite places in the county.

“We can’t wait for the trail to begin so people can see the children’s fantastic work.”



Primary school kicks off Jubilant! mini youth festival



Pupils from Bacton Primary School kicked off the celebrations during a two-week youth festival in Stowmarket.

Pupils from the school performed their own musical at the Regal Theatre in July, having written the show with the help of vocalist and musician Andi Hopgood.

The children's families came along to watch the performance, giving the enthusiastic pupils a big audience to perform to.

Andi said: "We knew it would be based on the Jubilee but all the ideas are completely from the sessions we held with the children.

"We just let their imaginations go."

Children from Mendlesham and Freeman Primary Schools also joined in the festival.

Tessa Sait, Executive Headteacher at Bacton and Mendlesham Primary Schools, said: "This was a wonderful opportunity for the children to perform at some of the town's biggest venues.

"The children had a fantastic time taking part in the festival and they really shone on stage."

Liz Downie, Producer of Jubilant!, added: "We are delighted at how well the very first Jubilant! project has gone.

"Over 200 local children and young people have taken part and the work they have produced has been outstanding."



Cedars Park pupils raise hundreds for Macmillan



Cedars Park
Primary School

Pupils at Cedars Park raised more than £500 for cancer care charity Macmillan during their coffee morning.

Parents were greeted and shown to their seats by pupils for the fundraiser in September, with tables loaded with cakes, biscuits and other sweet treats.

The school has hosted Macmillan coffee mornings with Year 6 pupils before, but this was the first to involve Year 5.

Lisa Chapman, Head of Science and Year 5 teacher, said: “The children really enjoyed the coffee morning and did an excellent job keeping everyone refreshed.

“The pupils were involved in every aspect of the coffee morning, from baking and serving cakes to waiting tables.

“The children created the invitations, the decorations that adorned the hall and even developed some fun games to entertain people.

“The coffee morning was a big success – I hope the parents enjoyed it as much as the children.”

In total, the coffee morning raised £566.67 for the charity.

Aisha Suhail, Headteacher, added: “The coffee morning was wonderful and there was a real buzz in the room while the parents sat and chatted.

“Well done to all the pupils who took part – they did an excellent job and really enjoyed the experience.”



Tearful farewell to primary school's long-serving office manager



Mendlesham
Primary School

We waved a tearful goodbye to beloved Mendlesham Office Manager Ann Cracknell this year as she began her retirement.

Ann had worked at the school for almost 38 years before retiring in April and said she “loved every minute” of her time with us.

Ann said “The school has transformed completely since I started, it’s a very different school now.

“I have worked here with seven incredible headteachers and there are pupils at the school now whose parents I knew as children themselves.

“That’s what really makes the job so special - the children.

“I am really going to miss it. I have had an amazing time here and have worked with some extraordinary people.”

Tessa Sait, Executive Headteacher at Mendlesham Primary School, added: “It has been a pleasure to work with Ann, and we are all very sad to see her go.

“Ann has been a brilliant Office Manager but more importantly, has been a welcoming and friendly face, ready to help with anything the children need.

“We wish her all the best in her retirement.”



Bravo! Stowupland students wow audiences in Matilda production



Stowupland
High School

Stowupland students wowed their audiences this Spring with their marvellous Matilda production.

Children were busy rehearsing from September ahead of the show's premiere in May, performing to a packed-out crowd and to other Trust primary schools.

Katy Pollard, Teacher of Drama, said: "The students were amazing and really rose to the challenge.

"Chiarah Ruby-Budd, who played Matilda, sang beautifully and had such amazing vocal expression.

"And our Miss Trunchbull, Isabella North-Fields, really commanded the stage – her face is so expressive.

"Those performing in the production were brilliant and really enjoyed getting up on stage."

The students' involvement didn't stop at the cast, as everything from lighting, sound to set changes was crewed by students.

"We think it's really important that students who don't want to be up on stage can take part as well." said Ms Pollard.

"When I was at school, although I also loved performing, I was fascinated by the lighting, the sound and the set design first.

"We like to offer students the opportunity to take on those roles too."

"Well done to everyone who took part."



Ceremony marks opening of new 'fabulous' Sixth Form Centre



The John Milton
Sixth Form
AT STOWUPLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Students at Stowupland were celebrating earlier this year when the new Sixth Form Centre officially opened.

A special tree planting ceremony was held ahead of the official opening event in April, which had previously been called off due to Covid-19 restrictions and storms Dudley and Eunice.

Karen Grimes, CEO of the Trust said she was delighted to finally hold the event.

“The new Sixth Form Centre is a superb building, with incredible teaching facilities and has everything a sixth former needs to get the very best education,” she said.

“The school offers a range of A Level and Applied courses, with flexible timetables tailored to each student.

“We look forward to welcoming even more students to the Sixth Form in September.”

Students, teachers, staff and local councillors attended the ceremony.

Ashley Hailstone, Sixth Form Director, said: “Our students absolutely love the new Sixth Form Centre at Stowupland.

“It’s a modern building with plenty of open spaces creating a real sense of community throughout the centre.”

Councillor Rachel Eburne, from Mid Suffolk District Council, added: “The new Sixth Form Centre at Stowupland is a fabulous building with a real community feel to it.

“It’s great that sixth formers have this new centre and its amazing facilities to enhance their education.”



Joy as new SEND units open



MENDLESHAM STOWUPLAND

Two Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) units officially opened their doors at JMAT this year.

The new Mulberry SEND units at Stowupland High School and Mendlesham Primary School started taking pupils in September last year, although their official opening was delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Mr Whear, speaking on behalf of Mulberry Stowupland and Mulberry Mendlesham, said it was “fantastic” to officially open the units.

He said: “It has been great to see the children embed themselves into school life so well since joining us last year.

“These units provide our pupils with the highest quality of education, and I am very proud of the work they are doing. It is a fantastic thing that we can provide SEND children with such great opportunities in our local area.”

The units were funded by Suffolk County Council, with teaching being delivered by specialist SEND provider SENDAT.

Karen Grimes, JMAT Chief Executive, added: “These wonderful units are not just a benefit to our schools, but to our wider community here in mid Suffolk.

“So much hard work has gone into this build and we have been able to create a really supportive environment for our pupils. I am so glad we have finally been able to officially open both units.

“I look forward to watching these learners and many others thrive in the years to come.”



And finally...

Four feathered friends designed and painted by pupils at Bacton, Mendlesham and Cedars Park Primary Schools and Stowupland High School were part of this year's 'Little Hoots' - a big exhibition at this year's Suffolk Show.



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As part of the project, the John Milton Academy Trust was tasked with raising £2,600 for the St Elizabeth Hospice Campaign.

We are very proud to report the total is currently more than £5,000 and we're still counting!

