# Autumn Term 2022

Read the latest news & updates from across **Summit Learning Trust** 



Our primaries, secondaries & college have been busy!

















**#ScalingNewHeights** 

### **CONTENTS**



CLICK to see what activities our academies have been involved in this term

#### OUR TRUST ROUND UP AUTUMN TERM

### CEO WELCOME

#### **#ScalingNewHeights**

A huge thank you to our parents, carers, families and communities for supporting our academies to achieve so much with our learners this term. Our schools and college have been hives of activity during the final week of the Autumn term, with learning time maximised and brilliant performances by our children and young people taking place most evenings. In the true spirit of Christmas, we can all be proud of the efforts made by our learners in supporting charitable initiatives which will help those with the greatest need in our communities. Thank you



to those learners who sang at our local hospitals to bring some cheer to patients, their families and our amazing NHS colleagues as well as raising some much-needed funds for University Hospital Birmingham Charity, our Trust's chosen charity for this year.

This year, our Trust achieved improved examination results across our schools and college and this remains a key priority for us in 2023 and beyond. We are all acutely aware of the importance of these results to each of our children and young people in terms of giving them opportunities in later life.

We have formally launched our Summit Base Camp programme. This is to ensure that we provide a consistent level of support for our children and young people across our schools and college to enable them to make strong levels of academic progress. Further details will be shared in the New Year.

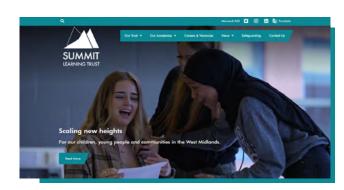
Despite the ongoing teacher shortage in our country, our Trust have made some very strong staffing appointments during this Autumn term. These individuals will add huge value to our current offer and will enhance the quality of teaching and support that many of our children and young people receive.

A key focus for our academies in 2023 will be to enhance the independent study that our children and young people complete beyond timetabled lessons, whether this be in their college or school after hours or at home. Despite significant improvement in many areas, there is still much to do to enable Summit learners to compete with the highest performing learners nationally and internationally. This work is in line with one of our values, Success through Endeavour, and we thank parents and carers with their support here. By working collectively, we can ensure that all our children and young people are fully prepared to be highly successful now and in their working lives.

We have launched our beautiful, new Trust website. The next half term will see a rolling programme of new websites being launched for our primary and then secondary schools, with our college to follow later in the year.

Thank you all for your ongoing support for your child's school or college.

Have a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.



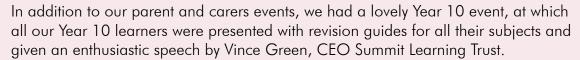
Vince Green - CEO

### Summit



#### Welcome

Following our successful Open Evening and some further Open Mornings held in September, we have had lots of events going on at Cockshut Hill.





Our PE Department have been extremely competitive this term, with many learners from all year groups competing in local tournaments for athletics, football, netball, basketball and tchoukball. These events have been both locally, and as far afield as St Albans!

We have been pleased to offer a variety of extra-curricular activities this term, which has something for everyone, from digital coding clubs, to sports, knitting, music, cookery, bullet journalling and Duke of Edinburgh, and we are pleased to report that our seven of our Year 11 learners completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition award in October. Thanks to Mr Mosedale, Mr Saeed, Mrs Kelly, and Mrs Croydon for their work in making this happen!



#### Remembrance

On November 11th, we held our annual whole school and community remembrance event, where we had representatives from Yardley Boys Brigade, Sheldon RAFA and St Thomas' Church as well as a class from our nearest primary school Blakenhale. We were also thrilled to host Jack Browning, an 87-year-old gentleman who came to Cockshut Hill in the 1940s! We are hoping to invite Jack to Cockshut Hill again, so that he can reminisce about his time here, with some of our current learners.

Our Principal, Jason Bridges and two other colleagues along with our head students Alayna and Luca attended the community remembrance parade in Yardley on Sunday 13th November.

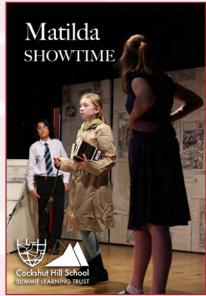


#### **Seasonal Activities**

We are anticipating some other exciting events at the end of this term, namely the production of Matilda the Musical on 13th and 14th December. Rehearsals are underway and this promises to be an event not to be missed. We are also looking forward to inviting local primary schools to a dress rehearsal to watch our fabulous music and drama departments in action.

We also eagerly anticipating the community Christmas lunch on Thursday 8th December, where our hospitality and catering students served members of the local community with a delicious lunch.

We wish you all a Merry and peaceful Christmas!



### Cockshut Hill



Workshops

We know that parents and carers are the first teachers for our learners. We can learn so much from our school family, which enables us to go a long way in supporting learners and families alike. This term, we have focused on workshops for our learners across the school. This has been from Year 1 to Year 6. Parents and carers have enjoyed taking part in the workshops, which have mainly focused on Maths.



In each workshop, there were games and activities that the children could complete with their parents and carers. It has been brilliant to be able to open our doors to our families and we are planning to hold more workshops throughout the year. These will include Nursery and Reception. One of the most important things for us to at Erdington Hall is to build successful relationships with our families, so that they feel confident in what we do and that they feel welcome to approach us with questions and to share ideas with other parents and carers too. There is great community spirit at Erdington Hall and we plan to go from strength to strength in supporting and celebrating the work that everyone does. We are extremely proud of our learners and our families and our colleagues who have worked hard to make these workshops run so well.



#### **Carol Service**

What a wonderful time we had singing at Good Hope Hospital! The children brightened up the waiting room and sang beautifully on Friday 9th December. It was our Year 5 learners that took part, they sang in rounds, in German and French and even did some sign language for some of the carols. One of the visitors to the hospital who came over to greet the children told us that she attended Erdington Hall over 30 years ago. She was extremely proud of our school and still felt a part of Erdington Hall. What is wonderful is that when you become part of the Erdington Hall school family, you become part of something much bigger!

Our learners really enjoyed themselves and were able to show our community that it is good to give as well as receive. Donations were made by patients and visitors to the hospital, which were given to a very worthy cause, the University Hospitals Birmingham Charity. This is a charity which goes 'over and above' for the patients, staff and families across the city, funding facilities equipment, research and more. It was great that our learners could be part of this, helping them to be outward facing citizens who are supportive of their community. We are very proud of our learners; their behaviour and manners were impeccable. Also, well done to Mr Horn, who led the singers, and to Mrs Bi and Miss Sangera who supported our learners being excellent ambassadors for our academy.



## **Erdington Hall**



#### Visitors here and visiting there

We love inviting members of our community into school, and this term has been no exception. The Birmingham City Gospel Choir came in and inspired us to use our vocal chords with soul. Some of our everyday local heroes came in to meet us including our PCSO and fire service.

Similarly, we ventured to exciting locations including a chocolatey day at Cadbury World, a Science extravaganza at the ThinkTank, and discovering through play at Newarke Houses Toy Museum. Some of our mathematicians headed off to King Edward's School in Edgbaston for a Maths competition against six other schools. The children were a credit to Erdington Hall and managed to come third overall!





#### **Celebrations and fundraising**

This term, we've made each other laugh with our own jokes contributing to Children in Need. We made sure you couldn't miss our odd socks, in order to raise awareness around Anti-Bullying week. Most recently, teachers and learners donned their most fabulous jumper or string of tinsel to raise money for Save the Children on our Christmas Jumper Day.

Amongst all of these special events, we've continued to celebrate our learners each week. The attendance trophies are moving across classes and there are more Stars of the Week shining brightly.



### **Erdington Hall**



#### Remembrance

On Friday 11th November 2022 our learners marked the 11.00am silence and planted poppies in our Remembrance Garden. Remembrance provides learners with an opportunity to consider those who spent their life in service, furthering tolerance and mutual respect.







Lyndon School has been re-accredited as an Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) Centre of Excellence following a rigorous re-inspection. Lyndon School was first awarded Centre of Excellence status in 2020 by IQM, who described the school as "a welcoming, safe and supportive environment" where the well-being of learners is an utmost priority.



#### **Shoe Box Appeal**

Thank you to our wonderful Lyndon family and community, we did it again! 192 shoe boxes full of love, joy and hope have been collected and donated for the T4U charity.



#### **Carols at Heartlands Hospital**

Lyndon School learners were delighted to take part in singing carols at Heartlands Hospital to raise funds for University Hospitals Birmingham Charity.





### Lyndon



#### **Belgium and France Trip**

This term seems to have gone in a flash, but it's been a busy one and our learners have had some wonderful experiences.



A real highlight of this term was the Battlefields Tour to Belgium and France where we took 40 students to some of the main battle sites and WW1 memorials. All the students enjoyed the tour and felt they had a much better understanding of WW1 and why remembrance is so important.

This followed on with Remembrance assemblies where we shared the special ceremony we had at Thiepval. Ali Sardar Khan in Year 10 read a poignant poem about why we remember people affected by conflict both in the past and today.

We also ran a Remembrance competition which saw lots of brilliant entries. The winner was Eesa Raozaman in Year 9 for his wonderful memorial. Some Year 13 A Level students from Solihull Sixth Form joined us to talk to our Year 9 learners about A-Level History and future careers in the subject. It was wonderful to see the students engage with this session and ask lots of questions about history!

#### **Community Performers**

The Performing Arts department has been extremely pleased to see so many learners taking up opportunities to learn new skills and attend clubs after school and during tutor time. Those learners that auditioned for a part in our whole school production of Matilda have been working hard learning their lines and songs, and we look forward to showcasing their talent in February 2023, with two nights of performances. Over recent weeks, learners have been busy practising pieces for our Christmas Gala on 15th



December, and for our Christmas Showcase events during break and lunch time. The showcases give learners opportunities to perform in front of a live audience, and provide a great atmosphere for others to see what can be achieved when you work hard, practise and persevere. The PA department also took the Ninestiles Choir to Heartlands Hospital to raise money for University Hospitals Birmingham Charity. The choir was spectacular. Feedback from hospital staff and visitors was truly heart-warming and our learners thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

#### **Cultural Opportunities**

In November, Year 10 GCSE 3D Art students visited the MAD Museum in Stratford upon Avon as part of their coursework studies. The Mechanical Art and Design attraction displays interactive pieces of mechanical art, in particular, kinetic art and handmade automata. As part of their visit, learners were able to use and see how these quirky pieces of art were made. Drawings and research notes were also taken so that all aspects of this visit could be recorded in learners' sketchbooks when they got back in school.

### **Ninestiles**



#### Maths - Autumn Term

The Oaklands began the term with all year groups spending time developing their understanding of what it means to think like a mathematician. This involved some year groups researching famous mathematicians whilst others selected a range of mathematical skills, including working systematically, reasoning and convincing, thinking strategically and they completed activities which enabled them to practise these skills. Another focus has been enabling our children to experience purposeful mathematics teaching and learning outside of the classroom.

We have hosted a series of exciting parent and carer workshops this term that have been well attended. These have included a Year 4 Times Tables and Early Maths workshop (Reception and Year 1). The feedback from both was extremely positive.







Colleagues have been working hard to continue promoting mathematics around the school, an in-school network of excellence has been created with colleagues from across the school auditing resources and developing different maths display boards.





#### **Competitions**

Four learners in Year 4 competed in the Borcherds Shield competition at King Edward's school in Edgbaston. They did fantastically well and were great ambassadors for our school. They also thoroughly enjoyed visiting such a prestigious venue. Learners in Year 5 will be competing during the spring term. In November, all Children in Years 2-6 took part in the Times Tables Rock Stars 'England Rocks' competition. I'm proud to announce that we finished within the top 25% nationally- with over 4000 schools taking part. This was a fantastic achievement!



### The Oaklands



#### **Community Performers**

The Pegasus Choir were thrilled and delighted to bring some much need festive cheer to the staff and patients at Good Hope Hospital – they sang their hearts out and made some very poorly people a little happier. We also were able to perform our Christmas Nativity at our local church, St Cuthberts where parents and carers joined us.









#### **Cultural Opportunities**

The Pegasus community came together for the Christmas Fair. The children all took part in 'Entrepreneur Day' to design and make festive items to sell at the fair and Miss Wardle set up a competition to see who could make the most profit. Reception class were the winners – well done to all classes. Their Christmas stalls were amazing. Children had the opportunity to meet our very own Santa in his grotto. It was a wonderful community event. As well as the fair, the children have enjoyed discos, workshops and educational visits. Children have worked with the Birmingham Hippodrome and been to Dudley Zoo, the cinema, St. John's House in Warwick, the Think Tank and Warwick Castle.



Pegasus



#### Sixth Formers take on Cop27 challenge

Four Geography learners from Solihull Sixth Form College took part in the Inter Climate Network Model United Nations COP27 Schools Climate Conference at Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council's Civic Suite this term.

Representing Indonesia, Hana Mian, Inayah Khan, Martha Tole and Joe Burgess outlined the serious challenges that Indonesia faces as a result of global sea level rises, especially the submergence of their capital city Jakarta. They put forward proposals for financial aid from the biggest polluting nations including China, India and the United States.

The learners also accepted an award on behalf of the College from Solihull Council's Your Future Lead Councillor Ian Courts and Sustainability Development Officer Sarah Lardner for the College's green transport credentials.

#### Geography teacher Helen Evans, who is also working with the **Environmental Society at the College, commented:**

"Huge congratulations to Hana, Inayah, Martha and Joe for their fantastic team-work and public speaking. All four learners were enlivened by the event and recognised the valuable skills it developed in them. They were a credit to the College."

This event is just one of the ways learners at the College are getting involved in environmental issues. The Environmental Society is an enrichment that sees learners with an interest in protecting the planet working together towards a common aim.



The learners meet every Wednesday and have placed a particular emphasis on their desire to reduce plastic waste at the College.

#### **Music Concert**

Talented musicians at Solihull Sixth Form College entertained friends and family at the end of term with a Christmas Concert held at the Widney Manor Road campus.

Learners on the A level Music course joined other learners who undertake musical activities as an enrichment option for this festive public performance to get into the festive mood and end the Autumn term on a high. There was a range of music being performed with both Christmas songs and covers of some of their favourite songs being performed, including music from Arctic Monkeys, White Stripes and Harry Styles.

Music teacher Catherine Douglas commented, "A Christmas Concert is a great way to end a



busy term and all those who performed did so to a high standard. It is especially pleasing to see those learners who have chosen Music as an enrichment activity coming together to put on public performances."

## Solihull 6th Form



#### Mathematics learners shine in challenge

Mathematics and Further Maths learners at Solihull Sixth Form College have excelled in the Senior Mathematical Challenge this term.

The Senior Mathematical Challenge is a 90-minute, multiple-choice test open to young mathematicians across the country. It encourages mathematical reasoning and good use of basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. It is designed to make learners think, including questions that are accessible to most, while still challenging to those with more experience.

Seventeen learners at the College achieved the Bronze award in the Challenge, while eight learners

achieved the higher awards. This included Rohan Rana, Pascal Yuen, Alfie Brusch, Leon Walker and Michael Masters, who achieved the Silver award and Harry Cremins, Shakur Harrison and Dan Wormald, who got the Gold award. Shakur and Dan will progress onto the Kangaroo Challenge next, which is an hourlong paper completed in College. Meanwhile, Harry Cremins, who achieved the highest score ever attained by any learner at the College, will progress to the Mathematics Olympiad, which a 3½ hour paper with very challenging questions.



#### Scott Fisher, Curriculum Leader for Mathematics, commented:

"I'm proud of all our learners who took on the Senior Mathematical Challenge. It is great experience for them, especially those who have ambitions to continue their Maths studies at university. The eight learners who got Silver and Gold awards achieved especially highly and should be very proud of their achievements. We wish Shakur, Dan and Harry the best of luck in the Kangaroo Challenge and Mathematics Olympiad respectively."





#### **Charities and Fundraising**

This term Yarnfield Primary has been on a mission to raise as much money as possible for some fantastic charities. We have loved supporting causes such as 'Hello Yellow', 'Wear it Pink' and 'The Poppy Appeal'. We were delighted to receive a certificate from The Poppy Appeal informing us that we had raised £736.11 in total as a school, which was the most money generated by any of the Hall Green and Acocks Green schools who sold merchandise for their campaign. We have loved seeing our community coming together to support these causes and can't wait to continue this work throughout the year.







#### **Parent Events and Workshops**

We have loved continuing to welcome families into our school to work in partnership with us. Recently we held a 'Watch the Teachers Teach - Reading' event where parents and carers were invited into Yarnfield to watch and take part in Phonics and Reading lessons. These events are always enjoyed by colleagues and families and saw a good turn out across the school with 46 Key Stage 2 families attending and 40 from Early Years and Key Stage 1. We are looking forward to our 'Watch the Teachers Teach – Maths' sessions in January.







Yarnfield



#### **September Inset Key Priorities**

It has been an incredibly busy Autumn Term of Professional Learning at Summit as we continue to develop our offer for all our colleagues. We hit the ground running in September with INSET days taking place across all our phases and directorates, to share key messages on Professional Learning for the year ahead, and to focus in on key priority areas such as Literacy, Resilience, and Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI).



### **Literacy and Creativity**

Back in September, primary colleagues had the opportunity to work with Dr Debra Kidd, looking at creativity in the curriculum and to share ideas on how hard thinking can be initiated to promote challenge for all learners in subjects across the board. Secondary colleagues tapped into the expertise of Helen Handford from the National Literacy Trust to identify the importance reading across the curriculum. This focus on reading through the lens of different subjects was built on in the afternoon where colleagues had the opportunity to explore Disciplinary Literacy in subject teams. The commitment to professional learning around Disciplinary Literacy continued throughout the term with Alex Quigley running webinars on Closing the Writing Gap for Primary practitioners, and Closing the Vocabulary Gap and Reading Gap for our Secondary Practitioners. We are delighted to be welcoming Alex back in the New Year for more webinars and also for our Trust Conference in June.

#### The Science of Learning

As part of a November INSET day Solihull Sixth Form College welcomed back Inner Drive to work with all colleagues on supporting all learners in making the best progress with their studies. All learner facing colleagues took part in various interactive workshops which explored a range of aspects linked to the Science of Learning including work on memory and retrieval and the importance of sleep and healthy lifestyles. We are looking to invite Inner Drive back to work with other colleagues from across Summit in the new year.

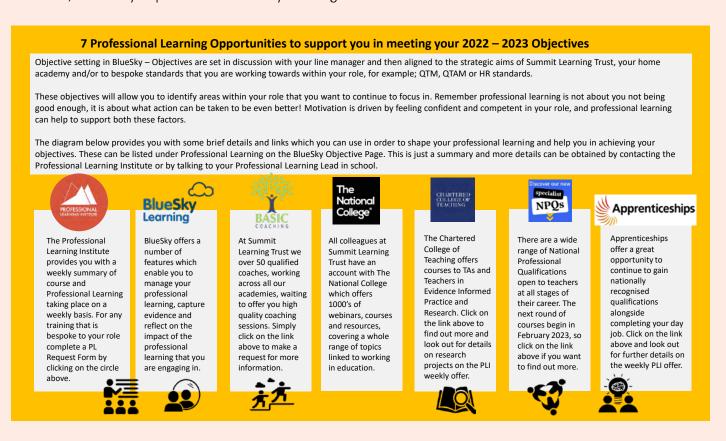
#### **Allyship and DEI**

Our commitment to building awareness of and allyship on issues of Diversity Equity and Inclusion continues. This term, our core video focused in on Sexual Orientation and Homophobic Bullying Awareness, led by Shaun Dellenty. This insightful webinar shared Shaun's lived experiences, and discussed how through education the trans and homophobic bullying can be tackled. We are excited to be at the stage of planning the next steps of the journey with DEI, and early in the new year we will be looking to capture feedback from the Pillar Groups, and each of the home academies on the next steps.



#### **Developing our Colleagues**

BlueSky and the National College play an integral role in ensuring a high quality Professional Learning offer to all our colleagues. BlueSky has been used by colleagues across Summit to reflect on last year, and to also set objectives for the year ahead. A massive thank you to Isobel Carter, our L&D administrator, who EARNING INSTITUTE has led additional BlueSky training sessions with colleagues across our Trust. To support colleagues in identifying the Professional Learning needed to meet these objectives, we have created our 7 Links to Learning, which has allowed colleagues to have variety and ownership over their professional development. We are also delighted to announce that we have put further investment into the recently revised and updated National College platform, including the National Online Safety quality mark. The National College will also be used, moving forwards, for many aspects of mandatory training.



A huge thank you to all Professional Learning Leads, Summit Lead Practitioners and to all colleagues who continue to promote and develop our Professional Learning offer. We are excited for 2023 and for all the opportunities in Professional Learning that it will bring. Wishing you all the best of holidays and a well earned break.

### Professional Learning



#### Welcome

The South Birmingham SCITT cohort of Trainee Teachers 2022/2023 have made a tremendous start to the programme. From day one they have demonstrated a great attitude and have approached a new way of working with determination. It was fantastic to see the cohort come together through the Team Building day at Bear Grylls Adventure, and to form a network of support that will sustain them in the year ahead and way beyond.







Since Monday 5th September the cohort have been working within their Placement A schools and have demonstrated themselves to be professional at all times and have quickly settled in to become part of school community. Over the past 14 weeks the trainees have been forming their teacher identity and developing their practice; through observing expert practitioners, discussions with and mentoring by School Based Trainers, team planning and team-teaching classes, and to taking responsibility of full lessons and classes, they are well on their journey to becoming teachers.

In addition to the time spent on placement the trainees have also been developing their knowledge and understanding of pedagogy through the sessions delivered at the South Birmingham SCITT on a weekly basis. The Professional Studies sessions explore a range of aspects, linked to Assessment, Behaviour and Cognitive Science, forming the bridge between the theory and the practice, allowing the trainees to secure an understanding of the evidence-based practice through observation and discussions with expert practitioners in schools. Additional opportunities such as attending Dr. Adam Brett's, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Conference in September, further allowed the trainees to enhance their knowledge of the importance of psychological safety and how they can support the learners, and also develop their own teacher identities.

To support trainees in developing the subject specific and key phase specific pedagogy, they are following a Secondary programme with BCU, or a bespoke Primary programme designed and delivered by expert Primary practitioners. With trainees having completed their first Post Graduate assignment on critical reflection, they are now beginning to look at the next assessment which is focusing in on the research and experiences of Behaviour Management.

All trainees are embarking on placement B in January and are looking forward to becoming part of a new school community and demonstrating the strands of our "ABISCUIT" model into their everyday teaching. To further enhance their knowledge the trainees will continue to evaluate how they can embed the theory and the pedagogy into their everyday delivery and practice. We are also looking to broadening the trainees' knowledge of wider school and educational issues, by hosting some fantastic and well established facilitators within their field, such as Catherine Kirk, who will lead a session on RSE and SRE in the classroom.

**SB SCITT** 



We wish all our Trainee Teachers an amazing holiday and hope they all get the opportunity to recharge and refuel in preparation for their Spring term placement. A massive thank you to all of our School Based Trainers and Professional Tutors at the Summit Learning Trust Schools for all of the energy, time and expertise that you have already invested in the trainees.









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### **SB SCITT**



# We hope you have an amazing Christmas and restful break

**#ScalingNewHeights** 



# RöundUP