

ALT: CONNECT

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Areté 
Learning Trust
Being the best we can be

Being the best we can be.

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Your Guide to Using our Interactive Newsletter



This newsletter has been designed to be interactive, allowing you to directly open external pages and information.

You can click an article title on the left to read the full story. Then use the buttons on each page to navigate your way through the newsletter.



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CEO Welcome

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to this edition of ALT:Connect which provides you with an update on just some of the fantastic work that is going on across our Trust. It is amazing to see the breadth of great educational experiences for our learners across our four schools and to see how students and staff are working really effectively around issues such as Sustainability. As we come towards the final part of the summer term I would like to say a huge thank you to all staff involved in supporting all of our learners, but particularly those who have done SATs, GCSEs and examinations at Post 16. I am sure all of the hard work and support will mean great outcomes for our learners when the results come in over the Summer.

Best wishes,

Richard Crane
CEO



Welcoming Mill Hill Primary

Mill Hill Primary School, Northallerton, has become the first primary school to join our Trust. Following its recent Ofsted inspection, in which the school was rated 'Good' and received stellar commendations, Mill Hill now joins a strong and growing family with three North Yorkshire academies under its guidance.

We would like to once again extend a warm welcome to Mill Hill Primary and its incredible staff, families, and pupils. We are looking forward to all the inspiring work we will do and everything we will achieve together.



Academy Updates

Our academies have seen a lot of new initiatives and growth in 2023.

As we face one of the busiest times of the year and guide our students through their last exams, here is some of the work we are most proud of.



Northallerton School & Sixth Form College
Being the best we can be



Richmond School & Sixth Form College
Being the best we can be



Stokesley School & Sixth Form College
Being the best we can be



Mill Hill Primary School
Being the best we can be



Northallerton School & Sixth Form

Northallerton's Year 10 football team travelled to Thirsk School to take on St. John Fisher High School in the North Yorkshire County Cup Final. In tough conditions and after an intense game, Northallerton was crowned North Yorkshire U15 County Cup Champions. This ends a hugely successful campaign for the team, who were also crowned Hambleton and Richmondshire Area Cup Champions and Area Seven's Champions earlier this year.

Well done team!



Creative Writing



richmondschool.net/year-6-students-produce-outstanding-descriptive-writing/



Poetry Workshops



richmondschool.net/celebrating-military-children-with-poetry-workshop/

Richmond School & Sixth Form

Trinity Academy Richmond's Year 6 students have been working on an ambitious project based around the Apartheid in South Africa, in anticipation of moving up to Richmond School. Some alumni have also been visiting to volunteer, helping students with their work and sharing their experiences in university.

In April, Richmond delivered poetry writing workshops to celebrate Month of the Military child, recognising the important role that Military children play in the Armed Forces family.



Stokesley School & Sixth Form

Students in Year 9 and 10 have been taking part in their Duke of Edinburgh Award Bronze and Silver practice expeditions, roaming the North York Moors and displaying excellent navigation, map skills and teamwork.

The school has been focusing on Maths activities, with one student participating in the World Maths Day Mathletics as one of the top 100 competitors! In addition, about 45 Year 10 students travelled to London for an exciting Maths trip, while students from Year 7 and 8 took part in the Readathon earlier this term.





Mill Hill Primary School

After joining Areté Learning Trust in March, Mill Hill Primary has been continuing its Imaginosity project, a creative art project in partnership with Wykeland, the company behind the incredible regeneration of Northallerton's prison site. The project culminated in the planning of four public events, which will take place in July.

More recently, children at Mill Hill have all enjoyed a full week of Sports Activities organised by Andrew Warden, PE Lead. Children loved the 'Everybody's Cycling' event, where every child had the opportunity to access a type of bike, from Nursery to Year 6.



Investing in Our Trust Estates

You might have noticed that a great deal of work is being done across each of our Trust's school sites, with plenty more to come.

Solar Panels – Northallerton & Stokesley

The installation of solar panels on roof spaces in Northallerton and Stokesley is now nearly complete.

Toilet Block and Student Service Desk Upgrades - Richmond

The refurbishment of Richmond's toilet block and student service desk is due to start in early July. In addition, over 1,600 light fittings will be replaced by LEDs, which will reduce energy consumption by as much as 30% going forward.

Accessibility Improvements and Sports Facilities Upgrades - Stokesley

Stokesley's on-site 3G pitch will soon be upgraded, with the surface and fence to be entirely replaced. We are also working on several accessibility improvements: automatic doors in Sixth Form, lifts, and improved lighting in DT.



Stokesley



Northallerton



Inclusion and SEN

Our Trust continues to focus on providing inclusive support, aiding in the identification and assessment of students with SEND and regularly reviewing provisions for students with EHCPs.

SENCOs meet monthly to share good practice and identify priorities, and following feedback, we have committed to funding Educational Psychology support starting in September 2023.

Additional funding has also been used to provide specialist Speech & Language support, and we've been working with the organisation NeuroSmart Learning to help supports the self-regulation of students.

Learn more: ↓

NeuroSmart Learning



neurosmartlearning.com



Breathwork - YES @ Areté Learning Trust

As part of our YES @ Areté Learning Trust initiative, we have launched an exciting 'Breathwork' project aimed at supporting student wellbeing and lifelong learning.

Breathwork refers to mindful breathing practices found to be effective in regulating mood and reducing anxiety. Advanced breathwork instructor Steffy Cappleman has been delivering breathwork sessions to students, who have reported promising improvements in managing their anxiety.

To learn more about the initiative, you can get in touch: yes@aretelearningtrust.org.



Workshops and Activities at Northallerton & Stokesley

Northallerton has been delivering mental health workshops to students who access the LinC (Learning Inclusion Centre), in collaboration with Red Cross online and Darlington Mind. A trainer from the former organisation has been covering topics such as resilience, self-esteem, body image, and relationships.

Red Cross online has delivered two insightful workshops, 'Coping with Challenges', focused on developing resilience, and 'Empathy and Migration', focused on developing empathy and a better understanding of others' motivations.

Stokesley's Learning Support Centre has seen a lot of enthusiasm for new activity Connect4, an accessible competitive game designed to forge long-lasting friendships across year groups.



Sustainability

Our Trust has been taking important steps towards making our schools more environmentally sustainable.

In addition to installing solar panels and LED lighting across Richmond, Northallerton and Stokesley, each school has begun to implement eco-friendly initiatives to make a difference in their local communities.



Northallerton School & Sixth Form

Biodiversity Survey

Northallerton's Green Ambassador Student Leaders delivered informative assemblies on World Environment Day, explaining to students what they can do to [#BeatPlasticPollution](#).

Blake Preston, a Year 7 student, has also come up with an innovative plan to phase out selling plastic bottles in canteens, replacing them with students' own reusable water bottles and aluminium cans.

The Sixth Form Council Leaders of the Green Ambassadors have been working on Northallerton's application for the Eco Schools Green Flag Award, saying, "I really like the fact that we, the students, are leading this application."

Northallerton has also completed its first Biodiversity Survey, aiming to put together a list of plant species present on the school's site, with 24 students and 4 staff taking part along with local botanist Judith Cox.

Consultant ecologist Ione Bareau has made recommendations on how to improve the biodiversity of Areté's sites moving forward.



Frankie identifying a leaf



Amy and Harrison conducting a transect



Amy identifying plants within the quadrat



Richmond School & Sixth Form

Eco Club

Richmond School Eco Club has set three main targets for this year: to reduce waste, reduce energy usage, and increase biodiversity on the school site. Throughout the year, students have volunteered at a local nature reserve, organised litter picking, participated in fundraising initiatives, and planted over 400 trees on the school site.

Take a look at Richmond's most recent day out at Foxglove Covert Local Nature Reserve: ↓

Foxglove Covert



richmondschool.net/eco-club-have-a-brilliant-day-at-foxglove-covert/

In a bid to increase the biodiversity on the site, has planted over 1000 wildflowers, introduced recycled bird feeders, and invited several guest speakers who specialise in biodiversity and conservation.

The school is also in the process of switching all lights to LEDs.



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Stokesley School & Sixth Form

Planting Trees

The incredible work of Stokesley's Green Group and Student Leaders have helped the school gain its first Eco-Schools Accreditation earlier this month.

The group has been planting trees to improve the site's biodiversity, while Student Leaders have delivered an inspirational assembly on the importance of recycling and using the correct bins during lunchtime.



Mill Hill Primary School

Adopting Eco-conscious Practices

Mill Hill has been improving its paper recycling processes and cutting down on photocopying, among other eco-conscious practices such as limiting the use of lights and heating.

Following Northallerton, the primary will undertake a full Biodiversity Survey in July with assistance from Northallerton's Year 12 students.



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