



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to those of you who responded to our consultation around the Trust merger between CST and TiLA. In total we received 41 responses and, where appropriate, we responded to questions individually. The proposal is due to be considered by the Regional Advisory Board on the 21st July and we will be in touch when the new academic year starts in September to update you on that decision and any future timelines.

Thank you also to those who responded to our smartphone research project carried out with the support of colleagues from the University of the West of England. Please find [attached](#) a letter outlining our initial response to this important discussion particularly focused on our primary schools. We are also looking at our secondary policy and practice and will keep you updated and, of course, involved in the discussion about this important topic.

You will be aware of the difficult consultation process we have embarked upon over the proposed merger between Hotwells and Cathedral Primary School. There are no wholly good options and the situation arises over the very significant decline in birth rates across the city and resulting place planning crisis. The Harbourside area of the city is particularly impacted and the proposal is designed to avoid closure for Hotwells maintaining the site for education and overall supporting the city's needs to reduce the Published Admission number. We have listened carefully to the stakeholder voices and as a result made some adaptations to the original proposal. We have also extended the consultation period which now ends on the 19th September. The CST board will consider the consultation and proposal in early October and will make a decision as to whether to submit a significant change proposal to the DfE. More information about the challenges to primary place planning across Bristol can be found [here](#).

As the year draws to a close I know you will join me in wishing a heartfelt thank you to all of our teaching and support/professional services staff who have, as ever, gone the extra mile supporting our children. It is a very demanding and, of course, rewarding job. We do have some incredibly dedicated members of staff who will be leaving us this year including, after more than 20 years of service, Emma Taylor, Charlotte Thomas and Darsana Patel. We thank all staff who are leaving and wish them the very best for the future. In addition, the Headteacher at Henleaze Junior School, Jonathan Parr, will be moving on to new opportunities. We thank him for his service and dedication to the school and our family of schools and wish him well.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for a restful and happy summer break. If your child is leaving one of our schools this year we wish you all the very best for the future and for those of you who will remain with us, we look forward to welcoming you and your children back in September.

Neil Blundell  
CEO Cathedral Schools Trust



## Year 6 Careers Fair

On the 17<sup>th</sup> June St Werburgh's Primary School hosted 33 different career options represented by 50 visiting professionals at the annual CST Careers Fair. 240 children from across the Trust chatted to different professionals and were suitably inspired for the future!

Thank you to Helen Faulkner and team for organising this great event!



## Sports Day

At the start of June, two separate CST Sports Days were hosted at Headley Park Primary School - the 7th annual event. Children took part in a variety of events such as netball, tennis, hockey, quidditch and much more! The tug-of-war at lunchtime was particularly competitive and we finished the days with every child taking part in a track race. The weather was kind and it was brilliant to see so many children being active and having fun! The event wouldn't have been possible without the amazing helpers from both St Katherine's and Ashton Gate, alongside the effort from all of the school staff who helped organise their children!



## Year 2 Celebration of Music

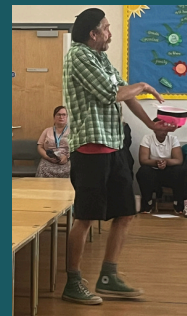
It was wonderful to bring together 450 Year 2 children from across our Primary schools on June 23rd for a joyous Celebration of Music. Thank you to Trinity Academy for providing use of their fabulous concert hall and to all children and staff for practising the repertoire of songs in the run up to the event - it was worth it! The children were clearly excited to be part of such a tremendous event and have the opportunity to express themselves through music. They were also treated to a musical performance by Trinity students which will surely have inspired any budding musicians!



## Poetry Slam

Ashton Gate hosted the first CST poetry slam competition for Year 6, which was a roaring success! The event was compered by Jonny Seagrave, a.k.a Johnny Flufflepunk, who is a local performance poet. He made sure that the crowd were cheering all the participants throughout.

The pupils' poems were exceptional; the originality of the content was clear to see with pupils performing their poems with confidence and panache! Thank you to Storysmith Bookshop for judging the event. It was wonderful to see the confidence of our Year 6's on stage as they start the next stage of their educational journey.





## National Modern Languages Spelling Bee Success



Amazing news to share from Henleaze Junior School! The school's Languages Spelling Bee finalists went to Cambridge University in July to take part in the National Modern Languages Spelling Bee. Finalists came from schools all over England, and Henleaze Junior School students achieved the top 4 places in the competition i.e. in the whole country! What an incredible achievement - well done to everyone who took part!



Huge congratulations to Cathedral Primary School who have become a Centre for Excellence for Voice 21. Voice 21 is the UK's oracy education charity, they work with schools to transform the learning and life chances of young people through talk.



## Governance Update

Earlier this month, Cathedral Schools Trust hosted a Governance Conference that brought together trustees, school governors, and key leaders from across our family of schools. The event focused on our commitment to ensuring every child receives the highest quality education, with presentations on our future growth plans, strategies to support pupils with special educational needs, and how we are working to close the attainment gap for disadvantaged students. These discussions underline CST's ongoing efforts to place children's learning, wellbeing, and life chances at the heart of our decision making.

One of the topics explored was the proposed merger with TiLA (Trust in Learning Academies), which would allow CST to extend opportunities for children and staff across the region. The focus remains on protecting what's already working well in our schools while ensuring we grow in a way that benefits every pupil.

Reflective

Collaborative

Creative





## Cycling Adventures for Trinity's Tamsin

Early in July, Trinity member of staff Tamsin Griffiths took her 16 year old daughter to Paris for the weekend to celebrate the end of GCSEs ..... on a bicycle. The pair cycled with another post-GCSE teen and her mother from London to Paris. The trip followed the "Avenue Verte", a largely off-road cycle route set up from London to Paris as part of the London Olympics in 2012. The team cycled over 165 miles (265km) and faced all the challenges of a proper adventure: burning sun, torrential rain, a broken gear cable, a wasp sting to the eye and dismantling the bicycles to return on the Eurostar and then reassembling them to cycle across London on the return. Tamsin would recommend the trip for anyone who enjoys even a short bike ride. "It is a thoroughly achievable feat whilst also representing a great adventure". The team are already in discussions about where to take their bikes after A Levels



## Headteacher Justin takes on the Tour!

This summer, while many of us are enjoying a well-earned break, Justin Humphreys, Headteacher at St Katherine's School, is swapping staff meetings for mountain climbs — on two wheels! Justin is taking on one of the toughest amateur cycling events in the world: L'Étape du Tour. This iconic race follows the exact route of Stage 19 of the Tour de France, covering a gruelling 131km with 4,600m of elevation gain across four mountains in the French Alps. A keen cyclist since 2016, Justin thrives on a challenge. "I love hills, I love pushing myself, and there's something about a long day in the saddle that clears the mind and tests the limits," he says. A self-confessed Jonas Vingegaard fan, Justin is relishing the opportunity to ride a stage of the very race he follows so passionately. But this adventure is about more than personal endurance. Justin is using the challenge to raise funds for Cancer Research UK. "Cancer affects your friends, my friends, your family, my family. Every mile I pedal is for those people we care about, and for those we've lost." We'll be cheering Justin on as he takes on the Alps — bonne chance!





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# Sustainability at CST 2024-25

Sustainability is a huge topic for schools. It spans Operations, Estates, Curriculum and the day-to-day of our schools' values and culture. Cathedral Schools Trust developed a sustainability strategy in 2023. We are working to raise the profile of Sustainability across our whole school community and to provide opportunities for climate change education and positive action.

As part of the government's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for Education, released in 2023, all education settings are required to have a Sustainability Lead and a Climate Action Plan. Most of our Trust schools now have a named Sustainability Lead and all of our schools are on their way to creating a Climate Action Plan to support their work to reduce their impact.

The four areas of the government's strategy are outlined below with examples of just some of the brilliant and creative things our schools are doing to support positive action and environmental education.

## Decarbonisation and Operations

All schools now have access to half hourly energy data to enable them to review and reduce energy use. Most of our schools have access to EnergySparks to share this data with pupils in a child-friendly way and support young people to make changes.

St Katherine's are trialing some new smart technology with their heating system and will be upgrading all their lighting to LED.

Recent tenders for catering and cleaning contracts included sustainability requirements for the first time and we will be working with the successful contractors to ensure these are met.

We have made improvements with our IT, introducing a Trust-wide shut down of printers and photocopiers and sharing servers across some of our schools.



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## Adaptation

Victoria Park Primary has been working with Bristol Avon Rivers Trust to learn about and install Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) planters; a concept to reduce flooding in urban areas.

Trinity Academy are installing reflective film on their windows to reduce the impact of solar gain in classrooms.

St Werburgh's parents have sourced funding for planters and trees to improve outdoor space and provide shade in the playground.

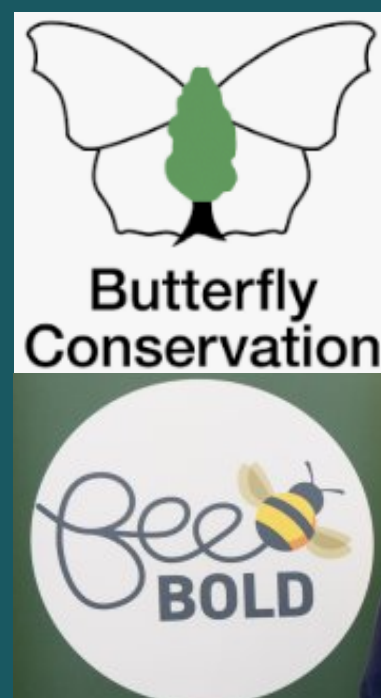


Actions have included creation of wildflower meadows, new planters with pollinator-friendly plants and rejuvenation of pond areas. Henleaze Infant School hosted a Biodiversity Day with pupils from all our primary schools coming together to learn about and celebrate wildlife.

Stoke Park won a Bee Bold certificate for their action for pollinators.

## Biodiversity

All of our nine primary schools have been working with a charity called Butterfly Conservation. They have worked on child-led projects to enhance the school grounds for biodiversity (and people!).





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# Sustainability at CST 2024-25

## Climate Education/ Green Careers

Most of our schools have active Green Teams, ensuring students can lead on positive action for the planet.

Five of our schools are working with Bristol City Council's Active Travel team to help children understand the positive impacts of sustainable travel through the Modeshift Starts scheme.



Five of our schools now have Bristol School Street status where roads around the school are closed at drop-off and pick-up time to support a calmer and healthier journey. Two more schools are hoping to join the scheme in the near future.

Bristol Cathedral Choir School hosted a screening of Six Inches of Soil for their sixth formers. They also held an Environmental Action Week and ran a hugely successful wildlife photography competition.



St Katherine's recently had to fell some trees and have used the wood to create seating and redevelop their Forest School area.

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# Sustainability at CST 2024-25

Headley Park has secured funding for more bike storage to encourage healthier and more sustainable journeys to school.



Four of our schools are involved with the Global Goals Centre's Earth Day Heroes initiative. They visited Sparks in Broadmead for a launch event and met Dr Mya Rose Craig, aka Bird Girl, local environmentalist and diversity activist.

Lots of our pupils benefit from Forest School sessions at CST's Failand site. Headley Park and Victoria Park have also had some brilliant Nature Connection visits to Watercress Farm on the Belmont Estate, a regenerative farm in Wraxall.



Ashton Gate Primary has been working for a few years with Climate Change All Change as part of their Geography learning to combine climate literacy with creative design solutions to the climate crisis.

**CLIMATE CHANGE  
ALL CHANGE**

If you want to get in touch about Sustainability at any of our schools or have any contacts or expertise that might support us, please email El Walker, Sustainability Lead: [ewalker@cathedralschoolstrust.org](mailto:ewalker@cathedralschoolstrust.org)

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## Keeping safe over the summer

Lots of us will be looking forward to the school holidays and all our schools will be closed for staff and children to enjoy the long break however we know that the holiday period is not always easy for families. Whilst our schools are closed there is still help available out there if you need it. The Bristol Safeguarding in Education team have put together a comprehensive webpage for children, teenagers and parents with lots of useful, age-related information on keeping safe and where to get support:

<https://www.bristolsafeguardingineducation.org/staying-safe-out-of-school/staying-safe-for-children/>

There is similar information for families who are living in North Somerset:

<https://nsscp.co.uk/>

## Who to contact

If you are worried about the safety or welfare of a child over the holidays, please contact:

Bristol First Response 0117 903 6444 or North Somerset Care Connect 01275 888 808 .

If a child is at immediate risk call the police on 999.

You can also use these numbers if you need some support for you and your child.

There is also lots of support and advice available through the NSPCC

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/>

Please reach out for support if you need it. Help is available. Our school safeguarding teams will be looking forward to seeing you and your children at school in September and will be readily available to discuss any worries or concerns that have arisen over the school holidays.