

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to the new term.

The first two school terms in the lead up to Christmas are always the longest and I know that both staff and students really needed the break, I hope you feel that you have managed that. The lead up to Easter in the school calendar is much shorter and therefore jam packed with events and really important curriculum content. You may all be aware that nationally attendance at schools has dropped significantly since the pandemic. Every day counts for our children and I hope you can join us to reinforce the message to your children, being busy is healthy for young children and we want to make sure they don't miss out on an education, they only have one chance to go to school.

At our Annual Autumn Conference in November we awarded our inaugural CST Staff awards to one member of staff in each of our schools. These awards are designed to celebrate the exceptional work of staff across CST who go 'above and beyond' to embrace the values and mission of CST and make a considerable difference to the life chances of the young people in our care. We also recognised staff across our schools and the central team in the run up to the end of last term with our 'CST 12 days of Christmas' awards. The nominations speak for themselves and we are lucky to have such committed and supportive staff. I am sure you will join us in congratulating these members of staff for their achievements and please do thank them too if you get a chance.

Over Christmas I watched the Channel 4 Documentary "Swiped". It brought home to me the concerns many of us have about the impact of mobile technology on our children's lives. I have 2 children who would both find it difficult to imagine life without being "connected". This term we are working with academics from the University of the West of England who are studying the impact on us all and we will be sending out questionnaires to our students and also to you as parents and carers. I hope you can be encouraged to support this work, it does not take very much time and the responses will really help inform what we can do to support both you and your children going forward. Questionnaires for secondary schools will go out in the middle of January and the questionnaires for primary schools will follow in March.

Wishing you all the best for 2025,

Neil Blundell
CEO



Reflective

Collaborative

Creative

As some of you will know, we have had OFSTED inspections at two of our schools already in this academic year. We were very pleased with the outcomes for both Headley Park Primary School and Cathedral Primary School and please use the appropriate link if you would like to read the reports in full - [Headley Park Primary School](#) and [Cathedral Primary School](#).

We were also delighted that the last four Ofsted inspections of CST schools have all received an outstanding grade for 'personal development'. Part of our mission statement is to 'open minds and expand choices' and to 'empower the next generation of changemakers' and the Ofsted judgements recognise the exceptional work that has been done across the Trust to create opportunities for pupils to engage in meaningful experiences which extend beyond the core curriculum.

We are very pleased to let you know about some key internal appointments that we have made so far this year. Gareth Jones (Executive Headteacher at Ashton Gate Primary School) has been appointed to cover the maternity leave for Jessica Swain as Headteacher at Headley Park Primary School. In Gareth's absence, Laura Dowlman will cover his role at Ashton Gate and Alex Hawkins has been appointed Head of School there. In addition we are delighted that Wade Nottingham has now been appointed as substantive Headteacher at Bristol Cathedral Choir School after a very successful first two terms in the post following his time as Deputy Headteacher at Trinity Academy. Congratulations to all involved!

Governance spotlight

Andrea Arlidge

Andrea is our newest Trustee, an experienced education professional with over 41 years' experience in schools and school trusts. She was the founding Chief Executive of Futura Learning Partnership (formerly Wellsway Multi Academy Trust), a post she held for 10 years until her retirement at the end of last year.



Her educational experience includes working as a local authority adviser in Somerset, 16 year's successful headship experience in three secondary schools and setting up and growing a trust that worked across five local authority areas, running 26 schools serving 12,000 pupils.

Andrea has been a governor at City of Bristol College since 2019 and has recently been appointed as Vice Chair. During her career Andrea was recognized as a National Leader of Education and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate for Services to Education in 2018. In 2024 she received a Silver Lifetime Achievement Award in the Pearsons National Teaching Awards. Throughout her career she has been a passionate advocate for inclusion and a strong believer in the power of education to change lives.

On Monday 4th November 2024 over 700 staff from all of our schools attended our Annual Autumn Conference at Trinity Academy. The theme this year was 'Belonging' and colleagues enjoyed a range of workshops, networking opportunities and speeches from a range of internal and external leaders. Our keynote speech was delivered by Marc Rowland, a renowned educational adviser who focused on the impact of belonging on disadvantaged pupils. Feedback from staff was very positive and that the day was thought provoking and impactful for their work in schools going forward. As always, it was a real pleasure to be able to bring all of our staff together and continue to develop cross school relationships and partnerships.



ROYAL
BIRMINGHAM
CONSERVATOIRE

We have been developing our partnership with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire over the last few months. On 16th October 2024 their LEAP ensemble came to Trinity Academy to work with some talented musicians from our secondary schools to put on a performance for Key Stage 2 and 3 students from all of our schools. The concert hall was completely full for the performances and both the audience and performers thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We look forward to continuing and developing our partnership work with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire including in our Annual Trust Concert which will take place on 11th March 2025 at the Bristol Beacon (further details below).



CST schools become lead schools for CUSP

We are pleased to let you know that Stoke Park and St Werburgh's Primary Schools have become Lead Schools for the CUSP curriculum. This essentially means that two of our schools are now running hub visits for prospective and existing schools that use the CUSP curriculum. They will see teaching, pupil books studies and hear about the leader's implementation journey. We are delighted that all of the hard work at Stoke Park and St Werburgh's has been recognised!



CATHEDRAL
SCHOOLS
TRUST

Creative

The last few weeks before Christmas were filled with a huge range of carol services, concerts, nativities and festive events across all of our schools.

A huge amount of effort from students and staff always go into making these events a success and we also thank all of our parents and carers for their support. Whether that is in providing costumes, helping with music or being there to support - it is appreciated. The photos on this page give a taste of what was on offer:



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Before the summer we were delighted to be awarded a contract to deliver the primary music curriculum for Oak National Academy in partnership with the Bristol Beacon. This work is underway and we are expecting the first units to be released soon on the Oak website with the rest to follow later this year. On Tuesday 11th March we will be holding our trust wide music concert featuring all of our schools at the Bristol Beacon. This year's concert is called 'Starbound' and it promises to be a fantastic event with musical collaboration across both primary and secondary phases. Your schools will be in touch with further information on how to get tickets closer to the event.

We are also delighted to let you know that the music department at Bristol Cathedral Choir School is among only seven nationwide shortlisted nominations in the 'Outstanding School Music Department' at the Music and Drama Education Awards 2025. I am sure you will join us in wishing the department the best of luck for the awards at the end of January and any parent or carer who has attended a music event at Bristol Cathedral Choir School recently, will feel that this nomination is richly deserved. Please [click here](#) for further information.

Concert fundraising and sponsorship

We are currently looking for sponsors for the CST concert on 11th March 2025. If you know of any businesses that might like to get involved and showcase what they do to a Bristol audience then we would love to hear from you by emailing us at: enquiries@cathedralschoolstrust.org

We have also got a JustGiving page [here](#) and are fundraising to cover the costs of the Trust concert and ensure we are able to offer free tickets to families who are unable to attend otherwise and also to continue to support music initiatives across our schools. If you or any family members are able to support, all contributions are very gratefully received.



Sam Mumford Henleaze Junior School

I have had the absolute pleasure of being Deputy Head at Henleaze Junior School for the past two years and working here for nearly twenty years. I love working here because of the fantastic sense of community, with our values of belong and respect at the heart of what we do. In my time here, I have taught in all year groups and have led areas as diverse as maths, geography, ICT, pupil premium provision, community cohesion, assessment and teaching and learning. I have also worked with other Bristol schools in my capacity as an SLE (Specialist Leader of Education) and on international partnerships, which has included visiting link schools in Poland and Uganda.

Before I started my teaching career, I trained as a Chartered Accountant after completing my geography degree. I have two adult children, both of whom came to the Henleaze schools. When I am not working, I fill my time running and going to the gym to avoid running injuries! My favourite distance is the marathon (I have completed London 3 times), and have also run several ultras.



WORK WITH US!

There are a number of vacancies for teaching and support staff roles across our schools, if you know of anyone who might be interested then do pass on the details and visit our website at: www.cathedralschoolstrust.org/careers.



Did you know we are on Instagram? Follow us
www.instagram.com/cstschools/

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At CST we want schools and families to work together to have a shared responsibility to keep young people safe from drug dealing, serious violence and exploitation. Family members, friends and carers of young people are nearly always the first people to notice the signs that a young person is at risk. We know this can be worrying for everyone involved and families can be fearful of speaking out about the issues. The earlier we can get support in place, the more chances we have to help them find safer options and achieve their full potential.

The following services for children and families are funded through or delivered by organisations involved in the Safer Options partnership. Safer Options involves organisations across the city who are committed to helping young people lead lives safe from fear, violence and exploitation. Because communities in Bristol are so different there are lots of ways to access support and help. It can feel overwhelming knowing where to start but you have options so there is no wrong place to get help.

- All schools have a link Safer Options worker they can contact to request help for you. Just ask a trusted member of staff if they can support you to get the right support in place for your child
- Call Bristol City Council's Children and Families First Response Team on 0117 903 6444. They can provide advice and guidance, access to family support and community resources and specialist services.
- Barnardo's ROUTES service supports young people at the highest risk of exploitation or violence. You can self-refer by contacting them directly on 0117 9349726
- Your local PCSOs can give advice or link you in with one of the local organisations. They work with specialist early intervention officers from the Violence Reduction Unit and run awareness projects in schools, sports programmes and positive activities in the city.

If you have information that you think the police need to know to keep people safe from drug dealing, serious violence or exploitation you can tell them about it:

By using the Avon and Somerset Police [suspected crime form](#)

Calling 101

In person at a [police station](#)

Anonymously through [Crimestoppers](#)

Helplines:

[Childline](#) 0800 1111 or online chat service

[Kooth](#) online counselling for young people

[NSPCC](#) for adults concerned about a child 0808 800 5000

[Parentline](#) 0808 800 2222

[PACE \(Parents Against Child Exploitation\)](#)