

Dear Families,

Welcome back, I hope you had a restful break and feel refreshed for the summer term. I wanted to take a moment to reflect as a busy term begins and share some truly wonderful news about what we've achieved together over the past few months.

These successes wouldn't have been possible without the incredible efforts of our students, teachers, staff and, of course, your continued support.

## Key Stage 2 Performance

National performance data recently published by the DfE shows our fantastic Year 6 pupils (2024) have made remarkable progress, with our schools far exceeding national averages.

74% of Year 6 pupils in our primary schools reached the expected standard in reading, writing, and maths, 13% higher than the national average and placing us in the top 11% of all schools nationally! 66% of disadvantaged pupils met the expected standard in reading, writing, and maths, 20% higher than the national average. This places us in the top 5% in the South West, where we rank 3rd overall.

I want to extend a huge congratulations to our students, families and colleagues. I'm determined to continue this momentum to make sure that every child, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to achieve their full potential. You can read more about these amazing achievements [here](#).

## Fantastic fundraising

Congratulations to Honiton Community College sixth form who raised a massive £2,699 for the Samaritans through their 24-hour charity challenge. This year's challenge saw staff and students walk a whopping 845 kilometres! I'm incredibly proud of their dedication and the tangible difference they are making in their local community. You can still donate via their JustGiving page [here](#).



## Building a sense of belonging and joy in our schools

There are many definitions of success, but ultimately I know we will have been successful for our children if they love coming to school, achieve well and live a life of opportunity. This year, we transformed how we measure success to align with our key indicators in our student, staff and parent surveys. This ultimately focuses on joy as essential for genuine success, whether that's our children loving coming to school, parents loving our schools or our staff loving coming to work. I'm so pleased that Tamsin Frances, our Executive Director, People, Infrastructure & Innovations, is advocating for joy as essential to student engagement and success nationally as part of the Research Commission on Engagement and Lead Indicators, and you can find out more about this [here](#). I was pleased that collectively in our latest student survey, we've seen a small increase in students loving coming to school this year. There is some amazing practice across our schools already, with our primary schools in particular doing exceptionally well at creating a strong sense of belonging and joy, and some of our secondaries making significant progress. I'm looking forward to building on these practices as we look carefully at the ingredients which help children to love coming to school.



I am thrilled to formally welcome Exmouth Community College to our family of schools. It's been a pleasure to get to know the school over the past year and I look forward to continuing to meet more students, families and colleagues.

You find more news about our celebrations and student successes on the Ted Wragg Trust website news page [here](#).



We were delighted to have been shortlisted for two national education awards. The SEND award at the MAT Excellence Awards and the Best Practice in Inclusive Education Award at the Education Business Awards.

I'm hugely proud of our students, staff and families who work tirelessly together to make sure our SEND students have the best possible experience. We know there is still more to do, we've been working hard to advocate for better SEND funding and continuing to support our schools to create environments where every student can thrive. It's been great to see the increase in knowledge and support for our neurodivergent students at Whipton Barton as part of their recent participation in the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodivergence in Schools project. You can find more information about the project [here](#).



Well done to Marine Academy Plymouth and Marine Academy Primary for hosting a week of listening and building connections in St Budeaux. The team put so much effort into the week and spoke to over 300 people! It was inspiring to see everyone come together and I'm looking forward to seeing how the feedback can support the evolving needs of our community. Find out more about the event [here](#).



I wanted to wish all our students sitting formal examinations, whether that is SATS, GCSEs, A-Levels or vocational qualifications, the best of luck. We are already so proud of their hard work and dedication. As we approach this examination season, I have one simple piece of advice to share with students - sleep! Research suggests that consistent sleep routines now and leading up to exams makes a real difference to exam performance, with even just an extra 15 mins of sleep each night having a positive impact. I hope that students are able to find a healthy balance and also enjoy time to relax with friends and family.

Best wishes,  
Moir, CEO - Ted Wragg Trust