

**B**ringing together six schools to form a new and exciting academy trust has required a great deal of hard work and effort over the past eighteen months, not just by the teaching and support staff and governors from each of the schools involved, but from the students too. We are extremely proud of everything that has been achieved so far, and of the positive feedback that we have received from the Government's Department for Education on the collaborative approach that we have taken.

We trust that after having read this newsletter and found out more about SMART, you will feel as encouraged as we are about the increased educational opportunities which lie ahead for the young people of South East Cornwall.

On April 1st 2017, Dobwalls Primary School, Landulph Primary School, Liskeard School and Community College, Looe Community Academy, saltash.net community school, and Trewidland Primary School will officially come together to form the South East Cornwall Multi Academy Regional Trust. Below is a summary of how this collaboration has come about and what it means in practice for each of the schools and communities involved.

Throughout their recent history, all six schools have been very open to working together and working collaboratively with schools across the region. The three secondary schools have a shared history of collaboration that previously led to successful joint bids for funding and effective joint training days. Landulph and saltash.net have worked extremely closely as a MAT since 2014 and the effectiveness of this partnership was praised by OFSTED as recently as December last year. Similarly, Trewidland, Dobwalls and Liskeard schools have been part of a joint Co-operative Trust since 2012, sharing resources and expertise. All of the schools have hosted and taken part in joint competitions, performances and events which further underlie their shared vision of working together for the benefit of all children across South East Cornwall.

In November 2015, Head Teachers and Governors from across the region met to consider how a MAT serving South East Cornwall would operate, which schools would work together to form the first wave and how the work could be divided up between them. A core group of representatives from each school was brought together as well as six 'strands' or working groups who met, often weekly, to ensure that all decisions were taken

collectively and we all could benefit as much as possible from the vast range of expertise and experience to arrive at the best possible MAT.

In addition to the numerous meetings that have taken place with the six schools now forming part of Wave 1 of South East Cornwall Multi Academy Regional Trust, discussions and meetings have also been taking place with representatives from other schools in the area, some of which are now also considering becoming part of the Wave 2 expansion later in 2017. We will, of course, endeavour to keep everyone in our school communities updated with these developments.

We very much hope you will enjoy reading about some of the brilliant initiatives that have already been taking place across the new SMART partnership and that you will all join with us in celebrating its launch on April 1st. With the launch imminent, the Trust Board has now been able to advertise for a permanent CEO position, interviews for which will be taking place in April.

Thank you for your ongoing support.  
With very best wishes, **Isobel Bryce and Dan Buckley, Joint Acting CEOs for SMART**



**I** am delighted that SMART is expanding to three secondary and three primary schools. The last nine months have been extremely busy with many meetings to make sure that the structure of the expanded MAT and the way that we will be working together will be for the benefit of everyone.

I am very much looking forward to building on all the great collaborative work that has taken place with the expansion of SMART, and to the opportunities and benefits it will give to all the children in South East Cornwall.

Kate Waghorn, Chair of SMART Trust Board



Alex Lingard, Head at Liskeard School & Community College | Heather Jenkins, Head at Looe Community Academy | Vyvyan Lovell, Head at Trewidland Primary School | Esther Best, Head at Landulph School | Dan Buckley, Acting CEO for SMART | Kate Littledyke, Head at saltash.net community school | Tim Gray, Head at Dobwalls Community Primary School | Isobel Bryce, Acting CEO for SMART

### **Dobwalls Community Primary School**

At Dobwalls, we are passionate about 'building powerful learners'. We are delighted that as part of SMART we will be joining a group of schools that share a similar ethos. The strong partnerships that have already been developed in joining SMART will continue to promote a broad range of learning opportunities and experiences that challenge, support and develop the personal talents, abilities and needs of all members of our school communities. This is an exciting time for children across South East Cornwall.

**Tim Gray, Head Teacher**



### **Landulph School**

At Landulph, we have benefited hugely from being part of SMART and working closely with saltash.net. Staff and children working together has enhanced the opportunities for all. We are excited about the next chapter with more schools joining us and we are looking forward to working together to share expertise, learn from others and provide more opportunities for our children to share learning with each other.

**Esther Best, Head Teacher**



### **Liskeard School and Community College**

At Liskeard, we believe in 'achieving more together'. The ethos and culture we have is based on the view that we all benefit through co-operation and by supporting each other. The joining of SMART and forming a close partnership with other like-minded local schools, therefore, is the obvious and most natural thing to do. I am genuinely excited about the opportunities that being part of SMART will bring to the staff, the students and the wonderful community of Liskeard. The future looks bright.

**Alex Lingard, Head Teacher**



### **Looe Community Academy**

We are leading the way in a changing educational landscape. I am delighted that the informal collaboration we have had for many years, which has benefited us all, is now being formed into a new multi academy trust, SMART. Working together will increase opportunities for our students and young people and improve professional development for staff. As a group, we are all driven by the moral purpose of preparing our learners to be the best they can be. This exciting development can only strengthen and support all our communities.

**Heather Jenkins, Head Teacher**



### **saltash.net community school**

We have really enjoyed working in our multi-academy trust with Landulph Primary school over the last few years: students and staff have benefited immeasurably. It is now really exciting to be moving on to the next stage of this venture; joining forces with other local schools to enrich and strengthen the opportunities for even more children in South East Cornwall. Together we are stronger.

**Kate Littledyke, Head Teacher**



### **Trewidland Primary School**

At Trewidland our mission is to 'recognise the unique talents of our pupils and to inspire excellence across the curriculum'. Being part of SMART and developing a close working relationship with schools with similar aspirations for excellence will further enhance and enrich the wide range of exciting opportunities available for our pupils, staff and the wider community. I have no doubt that in being part of SMART we are at the forefront of something really special.

**Vyvyan Lovell, Head Teacher**



## OUR VISION

Held at the core of our Multi Academy Trust, our vision is there to provide the guide to what we want to become. It allows us to set the defined direction of our development at the level of the individual school and more widely across the MAT.

### SMART LEARNERS

- Every child and adult constantly striving for excellence in all areas of learning
- Positive recognition of achievement in all its forms and at all levels ensuring every learner feels both supported and challenged
- Creating strong partnerships with peers and parents to maximise the progress of all learners

### SMART LEADERS

- Every child and adult having opportunities to demonstrate and develop their leadership
- Schools, governors, staff and children being empowered to be active in developing their own character and owning their own futures
- Head Teachers and Governors earning autonomy for their school and actively engaging in system leadership regionally, nationally and internationally

### SMART COMMUNITIES

- One Trust, working together to focus on the needs of all learners at all phases across South East Cornwall
- Inclusive local schools with all children and adults making positive contributions as good citizens to strengthen local communities
- All children and adults feeling safe within a caring and nurturing community in which mutual respect and kindness are non-negotiable



## SMART Students Give Expert Opinions at BETT

**A**t the annual BETT Show in London in January, Ministers from a number of countries were given the expert opinions of our Year 7 and 9 SMART leaders.

The BETT (British Educational Training and Technology) show, which took place at ExCeL London, is the largest exhibition in the world that focuses on the role of technology in education. Members of the Multi Academy Trust attended for the second year running, following the visit of saltash.net and Landulph students in 2016.

Students from Liskeard, Looe and saltash.net gave a confident and informed performance, with the Romanian Ambassador to London describing their presentation as “an amazing demonstration of how much education has changed and how much we need to catch up as adults.”

He described the experience of being presented with a business card by Holly from the Tech Team in Year 7 as “truly remarkable”.

Technology company, Siveco, had

visited saltash.net earlier in the year, meeting the students. They were so impressed they agreed to cover the total cost of the trip. As lead programmer Marius put it, “a wider audience needs to see how skilled these guys are.”

Morgan from Looe stole the limelight in the Q and A session by explaining why children are in such a good position to deal with technological change.

“We have grown up expecting change, we see it as essential and part of everyday life. Apps change and children have learned the skills to adapt where adults may not have these skills,” he said.

James from Liskeard impressed the audience when he explained the work he had done leading discussions with primary children from the MAT whilst Lottie from saltash.net summed it up well in her report. She remarked that the “whole experience of BETT was a once in a lifetime... it was pretty much all amazing.”

The students were joined by Dan

Buckley, joint CEO of SMART, who presented alongside the students. After returning from BETT, Mr. Buckley praised the students.

He said: “I was both proud and inspired to see students from across the MAT working so well together. Most adults would find this difficult enough in their own place of work but to perform at the BETT show to ministers and ambassadors from all over the world is exceptional. SMART is well and truly on the map!”



## Students Show they are SMART Web Designers

**C**hildren from all six schools who will join the SMART Academies Trust came together at Looe Community Academy in January to work on the new SMART Trust website.

Event organisers Amelia (Year 11 from saltash.net), Mia (Year 9 from Looe) and James (Year 9 from Liskeard), kicked off the event with ice breaker games. After this, students split into groups to research websites and bring together the best ideas. Each group chose five ideas that they would like to see influence the design of the new website, and reported back to the whole group in the last session of the day.

Dan Buckley, joint CEO of SMART said, “Given how important the internet is to this generation, it was no surprise that the children chose the design of the website as the topic of their first MAT Council meeting. What did surprise all of us, was the

highly professional way in which the children planned, organised and led the discussions.”

The students worked alongside Mr. Luscombe, who works at Liskeard School and Community College and is designing the new website, and

who now has the task of including the ideas into the site.

Mr. Luscombe commented that “the students have come up with so many practical and useful ideas. It will be great to hear their feedback on the final site.”



## Dobwalls School London Residential 2017

**A**t 8:00am on Tuesday 3rd January a group of 37 year 5 and year 6 pupils boarded a coach and became the first children from Dobwalls Community Primary School to take part in a London residential. Ahead of them lay four days jam-packed with new opportunities and experiences. For many this was the first time they had been to London or indeed stayed away from home.

With an enthusiastic staff team the children engaged in a wide range of learning experiences closely linked to the curriculum. These included an informative visit to the Houses of Parliament; a stunning view of the London skyline at night from The London Eye; informative educational tours to a host of museums; an

electrifying performance of Evensong at St. Paul's Cathedral; and an amazing performance of Matilda. More importantly, these experiences provided children with the opportunity to explore and widen their own spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding.

"Going to London has changed the way I understand people and how I talk to people." Oliver, year 6.

The children have shared lifelong memories with their peers and for many their horizons have been broadened, providing a new and enlightening

perspective on the wider world. Certainly a worthwhile trip and one that we will aim to run again in the future.



## Landulph School – 'The School of Choice'

**L**andulph School has been celebrating their 'unmistakeable commitment to continuous improvement' as identified by Ofsted during their inspection which took place before the Christmas break. The school has been waiting for an inspection since converting to an academy and joining the Saltash Multi Academy Regional Trust with saltash.net community school in January 2014.

Staff, governors, children and parents are thrilled to be recognised as a good and improving school following a short inspection on Tuesday 6th December. The lead inspector reported the 'superior standards' she witnessed and was impressed with the way the 'pupils talk about their learning with pride' recognising that 'work in books is 'impeccably presented'

Esther Best, Head of Landulph School since 2013, reports, 'We are so very proud of the outcome of the inspection and its recognition of the hard work and dedication of all staff to ensure that our children consistently receive the very best learning experiences. In the last three years, we have focused on developing a broad and balanced curriculum that meets the needs of all our children and inspires an independent thirst for learning.

The report identifies the children's behaviour as 'exemplary' which ensures that maximum progress is made in all areas of the curriculum'.

A key area of the inspection report includes the outcome of the parent survey which virtually all parents completed reflecting the strong links the school has with the local community. Parents felt their children were 'confident' and 'thriving' and a number commented on 'community spirit' and the 'caring and committed staff'.

Kevin George, Chair of Governors and ex parent, reports, 'My initial feeling is one of pride. Landulph is such a special place as is evidenced by the statement that pupils demonstrate great respect for adults and one another and their behaviour is exemplary. It would not be a special place without all the hard

work and dedication of all the staff.'

Landulph has benefited from their close links with saltash.net as part of the SMART group which has enriched learning opportunities for children across the school. A spokesperson for SMART said, 'It is excellent that Ofsted has not just recognised the considerable strengths of Landulph primary school but also the many benefits which have arisen over the last few years from the school being part of a wider network with saltash.net community school. SMART would very much like to congratulate the staff and pupils of Landulph Primary School on achieving such a great inspection outcome - it was certainly a fantastic way to start the new year and is especially exciting as SMART is due to expand to include another four schools in March 2017.'



## Liskeard School – Anne Frank: A History for Today Exhibition

**L**iskeard School and Community College were privileged to work with Tam Fowles from Hope in the Heart, a not-for-profit social enterprise based in Cornwall, to be the first school in Cornwall to host the international exhibition *Anne Frank: A History for Today*. Liskeard was selected as one of only two schools in the South West to pilot the Anne Frank Schools project that has been running across the country for the last 25 years.

The exhibition was a 33 panelled display that tells the story of Anne Frank and the history of the Holocaust. Simon Pollard, Head of History, described it as “a really good exhibition that was extremely well presented by our student leaders.”

Sixteen student leaders were trained to lead peers through the exhibition. Students from Year 8 and 9 and A-level historians came to visit the exhibition during the week. They were skilfully led through the exhibition by the trained student leaders. A Year 9 student said, “It was really interesting and I learned a lot.”

Primary students from Darite and Trewidland visited the exhibition during

the week and the student leaders brilliantly adapted the presentation for the new audience and were a credit to the school all week.

The Year 8 classes who visited the exhibition had follow up workshops that discussed issues of prejudice and discrimination today in a context that is relevant to students’ own experiences. The students were willing to share their own experiences to contribute to the valuable discussions.

Tam Fowles from Hope in the Heart said, “It has been a pleasure to work with the students at Liskeard School and Community College and to see them progress as they’ve learned Anne

Frank’s story and seen the relevance of the issues it raised in today’s society. The programme aims to inspire empathy and raise awareness of how prejudice and discrimination can grow to uncontrollable proportions. Liskeard students have grasped the concepts and shown a passionate concern for people who are marginalised or oppressed.”

This exhibition follows on from recent workshops and hate crime competition with PC Turner-Moore. The work of Liskeard students who entered the competition were displayed in Truro Cathedral for the Holocaust Memorial Day.



## Looe School – Technical Triumph!

**O**n 31 January, Year 10 students from Looe Community Academy travelled to the South Devon University Technology College in Newton Abbot to take part in the South West Regional Final of the annual Land Rover 4x4 in Schools’ Technology Challenge.

This is where students have to design and build their own remote control car and drive it over a model terrain, be interviewed on their manufacturing processes and give a presentation to a panel of judges. Between them, the two teams consisting of Tom McLaren, Declan McNaught and Charlie Seddon; Ellis Charity, Ollie Hawkins and Joe Jackman won a trophy for the ‘Best Engineered Car’, a trophy for ‘Innovative Thinking’ and third place overall which puts them through

to the National Final at Silverstone on 28 March. The boys are now going to join forces in order to build a new car and develop their presentation work for the final. They would appreciate

any form of sponsorship to support them in their venture. Thank you to Mr Langdon and Mr Long for taking them on their adventure.



## saltash.net Students Get Hands on With STEM Showcase

**O**n Monday 23rd January, Mr Henderson, Head of Science at saltash.net, took Year 5 and 6 students from Landulph Primary school to Plymouth University for a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) showcase.

The university had a marquee filled with interactive exhibits, ranging from Segways to computer game technology, oculus rift to marine wildlife, chemistry experiments to health care sciences. There was something for everyone with plenty of opportunity for students to get hands on.

On the following day, several Year 12 students from saltash.net went to a similar event. They got to actively experience the exhibits and also met some of the scientists in a series of bite-sized 'lectures' from PhD students and researchers at the University.

Topics included the psychology of robotics, video gaming for education and marine biology. The speakers had eight minutes to give the audience an overview of what their research is and put this in context: why is it important and why should we care about it?

These inspirational speakers have had amazing opportunities to sail, scuba dive and travel across the world as part of their research and shared their stories.

The aim of the days was to raise students' aspirations in science and technology subjects and demonstrate how exciting STEM can be at A Level and in higher education. As well as having some fun, it was a unique opportunity for students to talk with current undergraduate students,

PhD students and academics about what it's like to study and work in STEM.

The students from both schools were, as always, outstanding, getting fully involved to get the most out of everything on offer.



## Trewidland School - Our Fascinating Trip to Carnglaze Caverns

**O**n Friday 24th February, Class 2 went to Carnglaze Caverns to learn about rocks as a result of their topic being 'Shake, Rock and Roll.' As we turned the corner from the owner's house, the entrance to the mine looked like a monster's mouth which was wide open – ready to eat you up. Even so, we stepped in with excitement.

Walking into the mine, we saw a gallery of colours on the walls. The first cavern was called 'The Rum Store.' In the past, horses would take slate down to the docks at Looe, to be placed on ships to be used elsewhere. When they returned, the horses would have lime in their saddle bags to use as fertilizer for farmers. Lime is very bad for skin – it can burn. Therefore, smugglers hid rum in the lime, so that the authorities didn't find it. Back at Carnglaze, the rum was then hidden in the mine, away from prying eyes, hence the name 'The Rum Store'.

We then descended 60 steps, gazing in amazement at two hibernating horseshoe bats. They looked like dead, brown, dry leaves. Caroline, our guide, explained that mummies and baby bats live in her roof above

ground, whereas the males hibernate separately in the mine.

Next we followed the course of an underground stream which led us to a large pool of water. It was 10m deep, but because of refraction it looked shallower. The water looked quite blue, even though there was no sunlight or sky. Caroline explained that it was blue because of the minerals in the slate. It was really pretty.

Finally, we came back to the surface and into the conservatory to complete some rock experiments. We tested which rocks were waterproof and

which weren't. We discovered that slate and granite are waterproof. Chalk isn't waterproof because water soaks through it – this is known as an aquifer.

After lunch, we went for a walk in the woods surrounding the caverns to look at the different types of soil and erosion which takes place naturally.

We all thought that the day had been very successful because Caroline was a great guide who explained everything to us. We thoroughly enjoyed the day and learnt a lot.





## CONTACT

Kate Waghorn is Chair of the Trust Board and can be contacted either through the clerk to the Trust, Debbie Stoneman, on [clerk@smart-trust.net](mailto:clerk@smart-trust.net) or via [saltash.net](http://saltash.net) community school, [Wearde Road](http://Wearde.Road), Saltash, Cornwall PL12 4UX.

### Chairs of Local Governing Committees:

- Berni Yeatman, Dobwalls
- Kevin George, Landulph
- Marie Long, Looe
- Davina Finch, Liskeard
- Kate Waghorn, Saltash
- Lisa Coyte, Trewidland

You can contact the Chairs of Local Governing Committees via their respective schools.

SMART Newsletter produced by Richard Luscombe - Web, Publicity and Marketing Manager at Liskeard School & Community College.

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