

Autumn Newsletter

December 2023





Mark Kent: A Legacy of Educational Excellence and Inspiring Futures

After 8 years as Principal of City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College and CEO of the PET, we say farewell to Mark Kent this year. Mark has had a long and illustrious career in teaching, sharing his love and enthusiasm for Mathematics with thousands of students. This passion for learning has helped shape our trust, ensuring students are at the heart of everything we do and that our curriculum, teaching and learning is of the highest quality for every learner.

Mark's vision for the PET was to have an open, supportive learning community where every member of staff is a learner and every learner is valued. This has helped to make the PET the strong successful trust and the Sixth Form College the high performing centre for learning that they are today.

We wish Mark the very best on the next stages of his life journey and will look to build on all of his successes to ensure the PET continues to be the caring community which delivers excellence and inspires futures.

POTTERIES EDUCATIONAL TRUST PRESENTS....



A DECEMBER

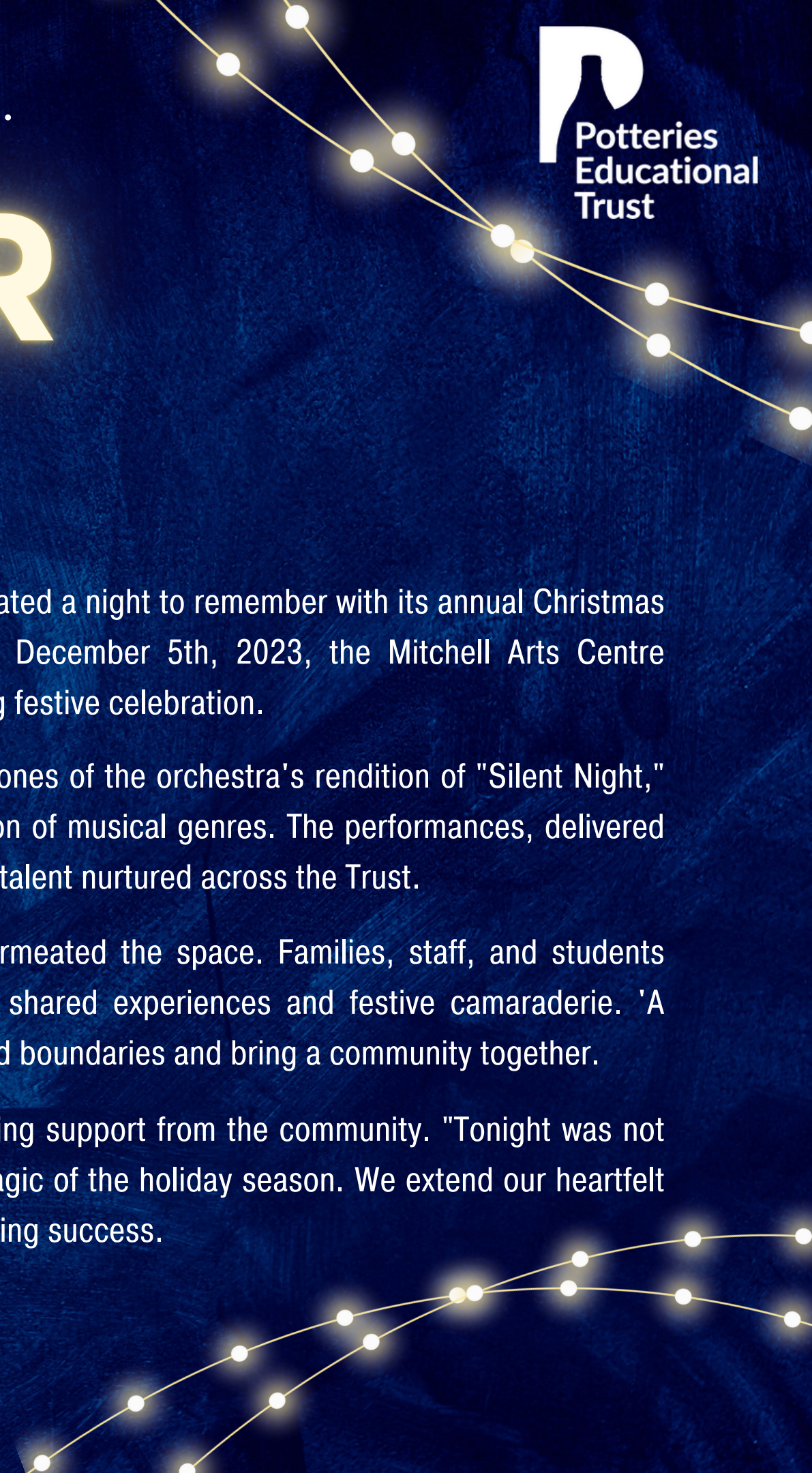
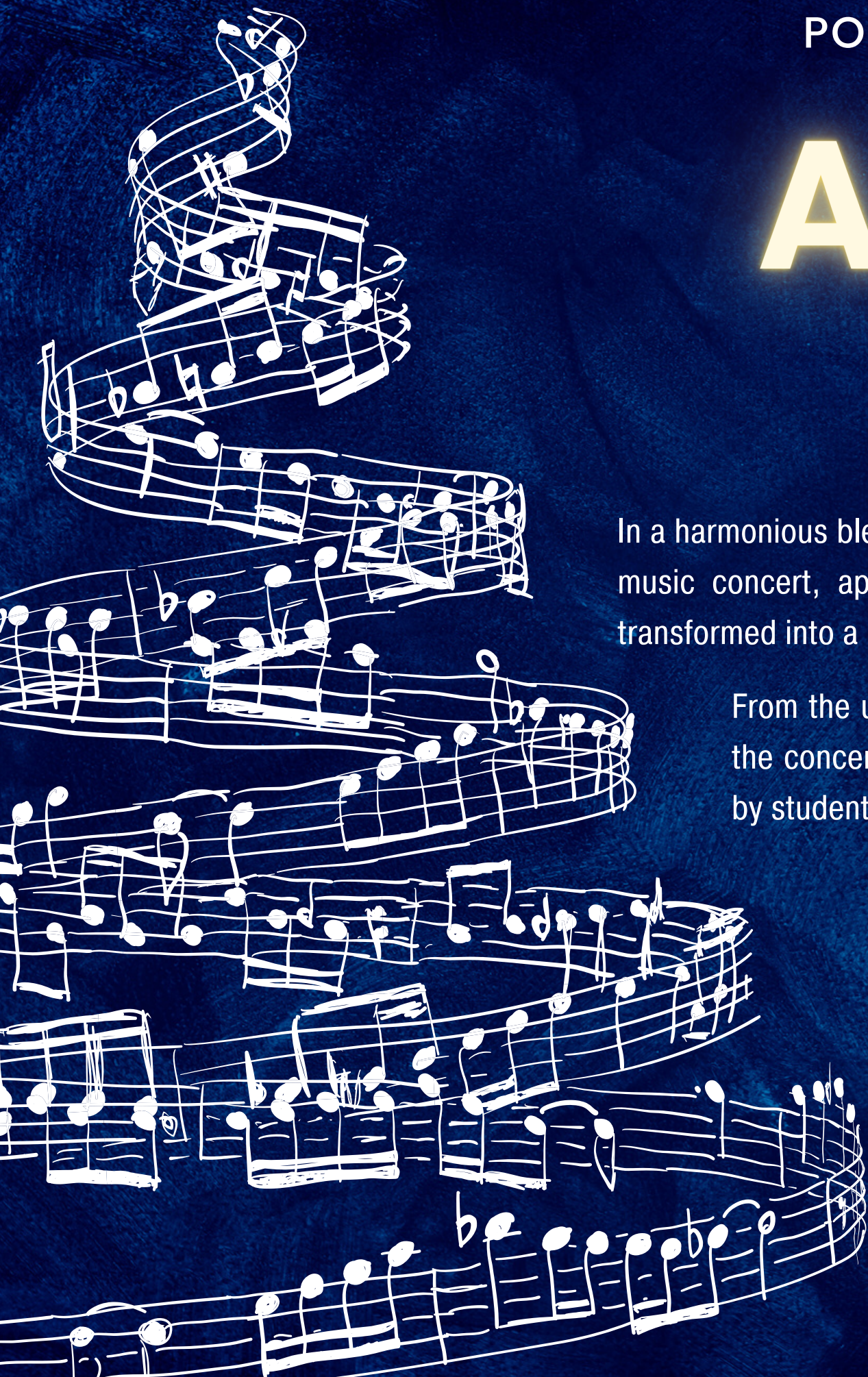
To Remember!

In a harmonious blend of talent and festive cheer, The Potteries Educational Trust orchestrated a night to remember with its annual Christmas music concert, aptly titled 'A December to Remember.' On the evening of Tuesday, December 5th, 2023, the Mitchell Arts Centre transformed into a musical haven, welcoming students, families, and staff for an enchanting festive celebration.

From the uplifting notes of "Love is an Open Door" from Frozen to the soothing tones of the orchestra's rendition of "Silent Night," the concert took the audience on a captivating journey through a diverse selection of musical genres. The performances, delivered by students from all academies within the trust, showcased a remarkable depth of talent nurtured across the Trust.

As the melodies echoed through the theatre, a sense of unity permeated the space. Families, staff, and students gathered to share in the joyous occasion, creating a tapestry of shared experiences and festive camaraderie. 'A December to Remember' highlighted the power of music to transcend boundaries and bring a community together.

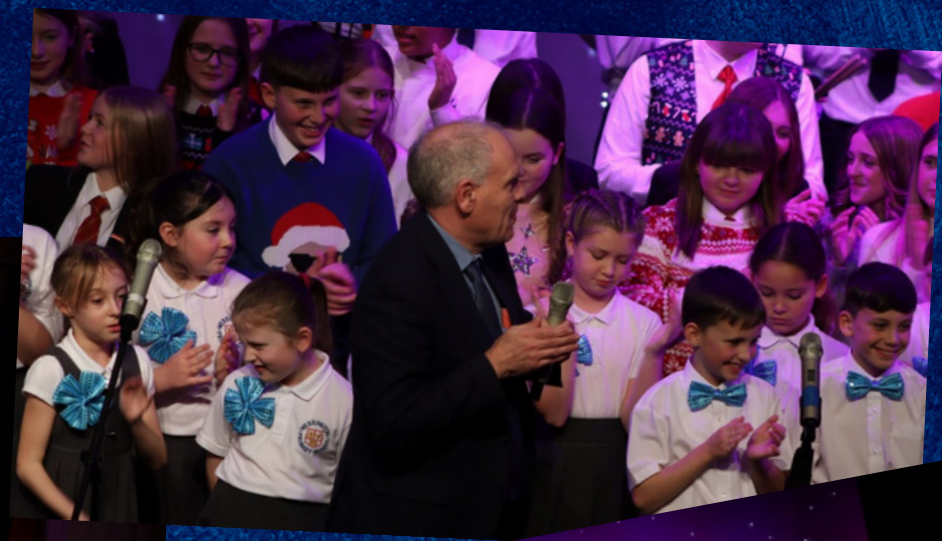
Mark Kent, CEO of the PET, expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support from the community. "Tonight was not just a concert; it was a celebration of talent, community, and the magic of the holiday season. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made 'A December to Remember' a resounding success.



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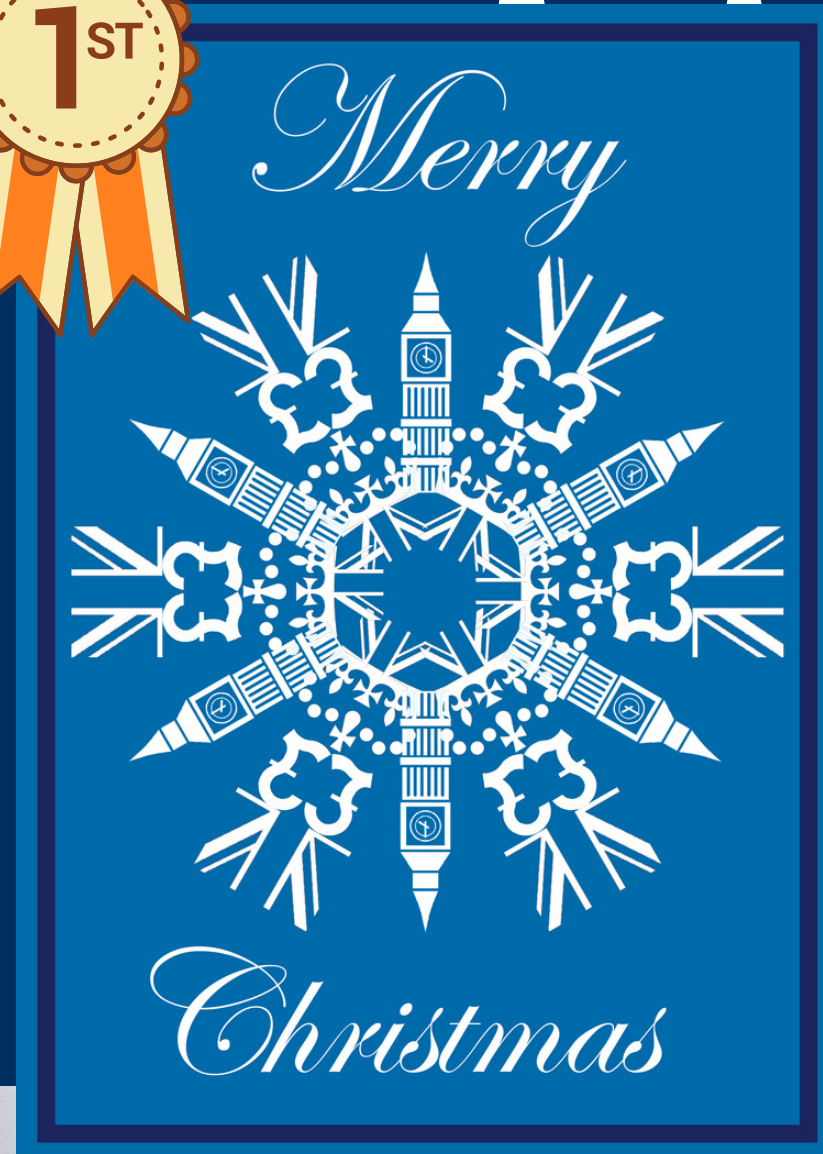
To Remember!

“Walking on to the stage and doing it felt amazing, the beaming lights shining onto my face and my voice being expressed to the whole audience is one of the best experiences I will ever get. The support from everyone was absolutely amazing and I felt so thankful after I’d done it. Doing the show will always be a memory that I won’t forget and will stick with me forever.”

Isobel Keeling - Moorside High School

“ It was fun being on stage and getting to sing for a crowd. Of course, it was scary at first, but it was worth it to sing with Ronnie and Lottie. I’d love to do something like it again sometime. “

Lucy B - Biddulph high School



PET Unveils Design in Annual Christmas Card

In a burst of festive creativity, the Sixth Form College recently held its eagerly anticipated Christmas card competition, attracting submissions from over 30 talented students. The art room became a hub of imagination as students poured heart and soul into crafting designs that ranged from traditional to avant-garde.

After days of meticulous judging, the panel shortlisted three standout designs. Emma, with her serene winter scene rendered in delicate watercolors, faced off against Alex's modern geometric interpretation and Tom's intricate paper-cut masterpiece.

The finalists' designs were showcased for all to see, setting the stage for a college-wide vote to determine the ultimate winner. Staff and students alike participated, casting their votes for the design that would grace the official college Christmas card.

And the winner of this year's Christmas card competition is... Emma!" Her winning design, a subtle masterpiece capturing the essence of the season, will now take centre stage as the official college Christmas card.

As the holiday season unfolds, the Sixth Form College embraces the creative spirit that flourished during the competition. Emma's design not only spreads festive cheer but also stands as a symbol of the vibrant talent within the college community and across our Trust.



BIDDULPH HIGH SCHOOL





**BIDDULPH
HIGH
SCHOOL**

Biddulph Students Spread Joy at Park Lane Care Home with Music and Dance

On Tuesday 18th December, the halls of Biddulph High School came alive with the melodic tunes and rhythmic dances brought to life by our talented students as they performed for residents of Park Lane Nursing Home

As the first notes resonated through the school, the atmosphere transformed into a magical room of harmony and rhythm. The students showcased their musical talents, striking chords that resonated with the hearts of the audience. The dance routines, added a visual spectacle that captivated the residents and transported them into a world of artistic delight. The performances were not only a testament to the students' dedication and skill but also a heartwarming display of the power of music and dance to uplift spirits and create a sense of community.

Amidst the captivating performances, the aroma of delicious food wafted through the air, courtesy of the school canteen. The care and attention provided by the Biddulph Music and Dance students created an atmosphere of warmth and camaraderie, fostering connections that reached beyond the boundaries of age and experience.

In the aftermath of the event, the echoes of appreciation lingered as the residents of Park Lane Care Home showered praise upon the talented performers and the dedicated staff from Biddulph. The heartfelt gratitude expressed by the residents spoke volumes about the positive impact of such cultural exchanges, proving that moments of shared joy have the power to create lasting memories.





Harmonizing Individual Beats: A Year 7 Symphony of Keyboard Exploration at Moorside High School



In our music class, we embark on our individual journeys into the world of keyboard melodies. Armed with keyboards and sheets of music, we dance with the notes at our own rhythm, enhancing our understanding through the digital embrace of laptops. What sets this class apart is its departure from the conventional, bringing a dynamic and interactive approach to musical exploration.

- The keyboards become our accomplices, allowing us to unlock the language of music at our own pace. Laptops, glowing with possibilities, serve as gateways to a virtual symphony of resources, enriching our understanding and refining our skills.
- This is not about scribbling on paper; beyond the technicalities, it's about breathing life into musical symbols, turning them into a living, breathing expression of our individuality.

The keyboards and laptops allowed us to democratise music, providing an entry point for all, regardless of their prior experience. As our collective efforts echo through the room, there's a sense of harmonious achievement, each of us unlocking a unique piece of the melodic puzzle.

By the end of each lesson, the room buzzes with a shared sense of triumph. In the structured world of Year 7, this class stands as a vibrant exception. Oliver Tether, a Year 7 student, sees it as more than a class—it's a captivating journey through the symphonic landscapes of self-discovery and expression.

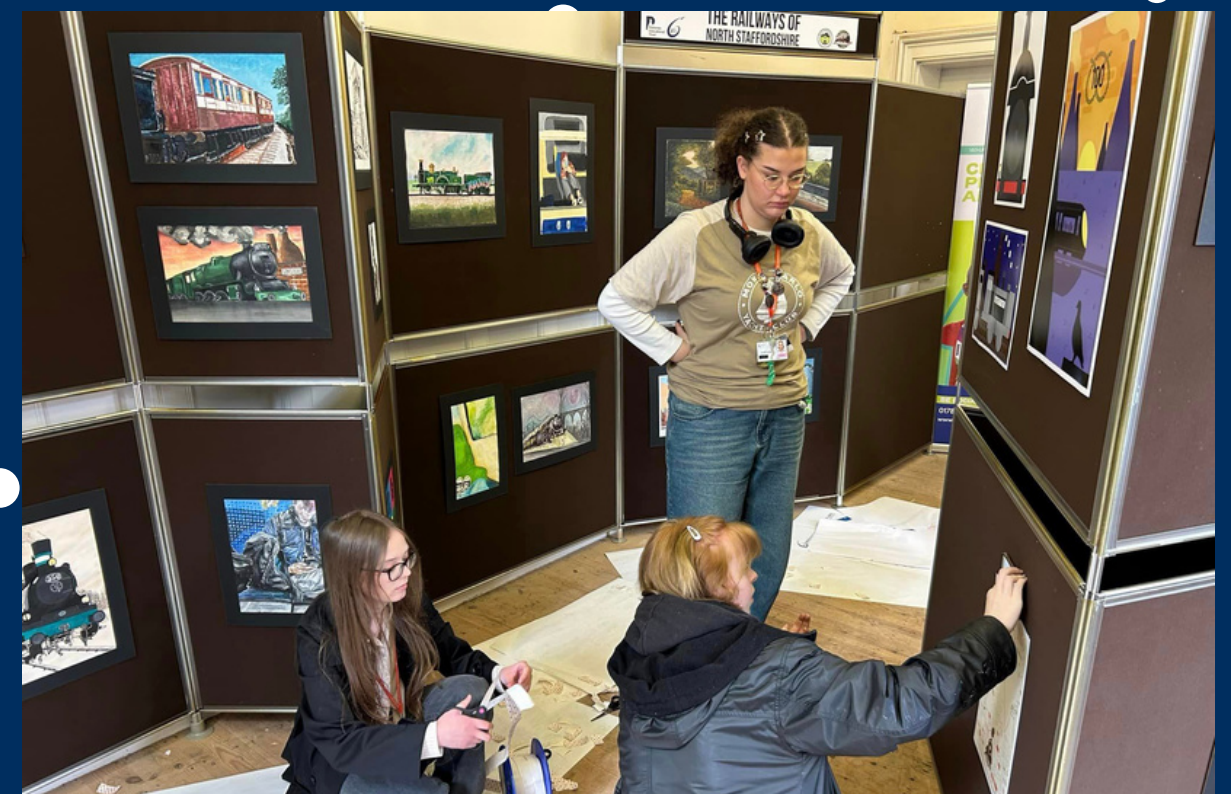
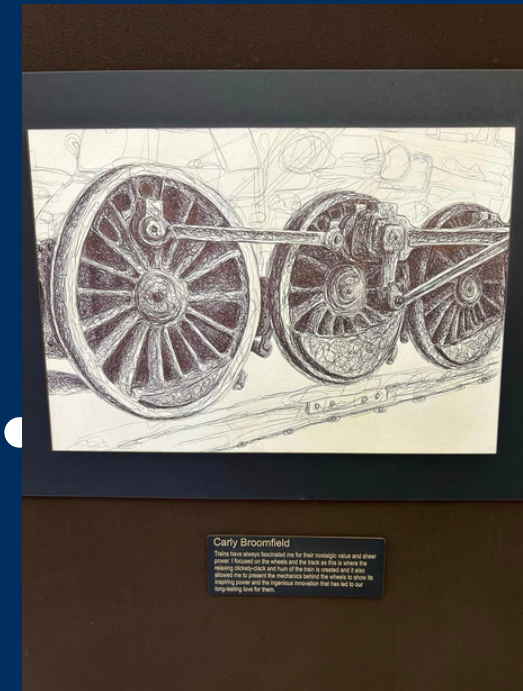
'Knotty 100' Artwork by Sixth Form College Students featured in Local Exhibition

Talented second year A Level Art students from the City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College showcased their remarkable artwork in a public exhibition, organised in collaboration with the North Staffs Community Rail Partnership (NSCRP). The initiative, part of the 'Knotty 100' celebration marking the centenary of the Knotty Line's closure, displayed 15 impressive art pieces at various stations between Crewe and Derby.

The overwhelming community response led to an extended exhibition at Stoke Railway Station. Mark Davies, Teacher of Art, expressed pride in the students' achievements, highlighting the project's profound impact on their artistic journey. Lily Healey, inspired by the Barlaston landscape, shared her excitement about having her artwork seen by the public for the first time.

Jasmine Price, who created a self-portrait during her train journey, and Charlotte Holmes, inspired by Knotty line history, also expressed enthusiasm for the exposure and the opportunity to work on a live brief. The exhibition at Stoke Railway Station was a week-long celebration of art, with Claire Sandys, Community Rail Officer, commending the impressive artwork that added colour and interest to stations along the route.

The 'Knotty 100' festival, commemorating 100 years since the North Staffordshire Railway's absorption into the national railway network, aims to pay tribute to the rich history and enduring legacy of this iconic company and its railways. The collaborative effort between City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College and The Foxfield Railway contributed significantly to the festival's success.





Musical Notes Resonate at Werrington: From Charanga to Nutcracker, a Symphony of Learning

Music at Werrington this term has seen all year groups learning through our online platform, Charanga. Children discover and listen to a variety of musical genres and have the opportunity to play along to tracks using glockenspiels. Each lesson has a focus on key vocabulary in music such as beat, tempo, pulse, and rhythm. All children have learned a new song called "The Werrington Way".

A few weeks ago, all children in Years 1-6 were able to experience live music and arts as they went to watch 'The Nutcracker' at the New Vic Theatre. Anaya in Year 5 wrote the following review "It was absolutely brilliant, the cast, acting and the whole performance really amazed me. They also had brilliant lighting and musicians.

I highly recommend going to see The Nutcracker." Our children in Nursery and Reception will be going on their own visit soon to see Snow White at the Mitchell Arts Centre.

The children in the choir have also been preparing for Christmas performances and are excited to be learning new songs for our upcoming trip to 'Young Voices' in January!

Our choir took part in the PET Christmas concert at the Mitchell Arts Centre. May from Year 6 had a great time and said, "I enjoyed standing on stage and singing with other schools at the theatre. We sang our new Werrington Way song and listened to other children from the PET singing their songs too."



MERRY
Christmas

Wishing you a Merry Christmas,
a Happy New Year, and
joyful moments throughout the holiday season.

See you all in 2024! 🎄 🎉 ✨