



# South Cumbria Multi-Academy Trust

## NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026

*Inspiring young people and changing lives through  
excellence in education in South Cumbria*



Excellence



Respect



Innovation



Celebration



Ambition



Support



# UPDATING OUR PARENTS AND CARERS

## Parents invited to meet CEO

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we head into the final term of the academic year, it's hard to believe how quickly the school year has passed. There is still plenty to look forward to and it has already been a fantastic few weeks celebrating the achievements, dedication and community spirit that make SCMAT so special. A big thank you to all those who have supported pupils through SATs and continue to support students through GCSE exams.

Congratulations to all the pupils, staff, governors and families who took part in the Keswick to Barrow and Coniston to Barrow walks. I saw lots of familiar faces along the route as I completed the 21 miles from Coniston and even more afterwards on social media. Hats off to those who tackled the full 42 miles from Keswick! It remains a brilliant community event and it was wonderful to see so many people from across our Trust getting involved.

It's also awards season at SCMAT, and we are delighted that Lyndsay Venter from Chetwynde has been shortlisted for a prestigious Pearson National Teaching Award. We also have our own SCMAT staff awards where we celebrate staff in our school communities who go above and beyond.

We are now confirmed to be joining Co-op Academies Trust from early 2027. It is one of the country's largest education trusts and will bring increased capacity, investment and opportunities for pupils and staff. You can read more about this in the newsletter. The CEO of Co-op Academies Trust Dr Chris Tomlinson has been meeting staff across our schools and **Parents/Carers are invited to a presentation with him on Wednesday 8th July at Chetwynde School Theatre 5pm to 6:30pm.** This will be an opportunity to find out more about the Trust, its values and the Co-op's commitment to high ambition for every pupil.

The summer term brings excitement with sports days, school trips and the conclusion of GCSEs for our hard-working secondary pupils. We are looking forward to a successful end to the academic year.



## TEACHER IN RUNNING FOR AWARD

An inspiring primary teacher at Chetwynde School is in the running for a prestigious national award.

Lyndsay Venter has been shortlisted in the category of Outstanding New Teacher in the Pearson National Teaching Awards in recognition of her natural ability that shines through.

The award is given to early careers teachers who inspire pupils to love learning and achieve their best while showing openness to learn as a professional.

Lyndsay, who is currently teaching Year 3, has become known for creating a vibrant learning environment with a classroom filled with music, poetry and creativity.

She said she was surprised to be nominated but also felt very honoured. "Children are at the centre of everything I do," she said "I try to create a classroom that is a safe and welcoming space for all children so they feel happy and secure and can then reach their full potential.

"It is important that children feel it is okay to make mistakes and aren't afraid to have a go – it is all part of learning.

**Full story [here](#).**



Steve Jefferson  
Acting Chief  
Executive Officer  
South Cumbria  
Multi-Academy Trust

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for more news from our schools



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## Pupil accepted into Mensa

Eight year old Newbarns Primary pupil Sam has become one of the youngest members to be accepted into Mensa. He qualified for membership after educational assessments showed he had an IQ of 130 – an unusually high score for a child of his age. Sam was referred for private assessment after his parents noticed signs of advanced intellectual ability from an early age. Although he is too young to sit the standard Mensa test, which is available from the age of 10, he met the criteria for membership. Sam said he loved learning and gave school and his teachers a big thumbs up. “Being in Mensa makes me feel really proud because it’s like a club for really smart people,” he said. [Read more.](#)



It's great to see Mini Police from Ormsgill School in action and learning how police dogs help fight crime. The children were introduced to PD Beck and found out about police dogs are trained and the important role they play in keeping communities safe.



Year 6 pupils from South Walney Juniors enjoyed a Geography Field Trip to Bowness where they collected data, interviewing shopkeepers and tourists. This information will be used to evaluate the impact of tourism on the town.

## Ella reaches Poetry By Heart Grand Final



A talented pupil from South Walney Junior School will represent the North West on one of the country's most prestigious stages this summer. Ella, pictured above, has reached the Poetry By Heart Grand Final at the Globe Theatre in London in July after impressing judges with her powerful poetry performance and passion for spoken word in the regional round. Poetry By Heart is a national event that encourages young people to learn and perform poems aloud, helping them develop confidence, creativity and a deeper understanding of language and expression. The final will bring together exceptional young performers from across the UK for a celebration of poetry and performance. Good luck Ella from everyone at South Cumbria Multi Academy Trust.

## Co-op CEO to meet parents

Co-op Academies Trust CEO Chris Tomlinson has now begun introductory visits to our schools, starting with Newbarns, where he met with staff to talk about Co-op Academies Trust ways of working, values and the opportunities available. There will be a meeting for Parents/Carers on on Wednesday 8th July at Chetwynde School Theatre 5pm to 6:30pm. Please come along to find out more about the Trust, its values and the Co-op's commitment to high ambition for every pupil. The move marks the beginning of a new partnership building on the positive aspects of SCMAT in delivering high-quality education and long-term stability for pupils, staff and local communities. You can read more about the plans for our six schools - Chetwynde, Newbarns, Vickerstown, South Walney Juniors, Ormsgill and Cambridge - to form a Cumbria Hub of Co-op Academies Trust [here](#).



Co-op Academies Trust CEO Chris Tomlinson with SCMAT Acting CEO Steve Jefferson. Below, Newbarns staff at the first staff meeting.



Staff and pupils from across our schools were among thousands of people taking part in the Keswick to Barrow and Coniston to Barrow walks. Completing 42 miles and 21 miles respectively, they raised vital funds for charities across the area. Well done to everyone who took part. Pictured are some of the participants from Vickerstown, top, and Newbarns, below. Congratulations to everyone who took part in the event.



## Attendance award for South Walney



Well done to everyone at South Walney Junior School on fantastic attendance in the Spring Term. This is a credit to staff, pupils and families working together to make every school day count.

## TEACHER TRAINING OPEN EVENT - JUNE 26TH

Applications are still open for our PGCE Primary programme in partnership with the University of Cumbria and launching at Chetwynde from September 2026. If you hold a degree and are considering a move into teaching - or know someone who is - we will be at the open afternoon at the University of Cumbria's new Barrow campus on 26<sup>th</sup> June. You can register [here](#) or there is more information about the ITT programme on our website [www.scmat.org.uk/thinking-of-becoming-a-primary-teacher](http://www.scmat.org.uk/thinking-of-becoming-a-primary-teacher)

## Year 10 impress on work experience



Year 10 pupils from Chetwynde School enjoyed a successful and inspiring week of work experience across the performing arts and engineering sectors. Students Marli, Derryn and Caitlin worked alongside Katherine Parkinson, Head of Faculty for Creative Arts and PE at Chetwynde who runs KS Musicals, to plan and deliver musical theatre workshops for pupils at schools including Chetwynde Primary, Vickerstown, South Walney, Newbarns, Parkside and Sacred Heart. Over five days, the students independently led workshops for around 15 groups of children and also helped prepare scenery for Chetwynde Primary's upcoming production of Joseph. Katherine said: "There aren't many opportunities for work experience in Performing Arts in Barrow, so I was delighted to be able to provide this opportunity for them. They led the workshops in such a professional manner and the feedback has been fantastic." Meanwhile, several Year 10 pupils successfully completed their work experience placements at BAE Systems, finishing the week with impressive presentations showcasing the skills they had developed in the week.



Reception, Year 1, 2 and 3 pupils at Vickerstown School enjoying educational workshops with South Lakes Farm Experience.



**Pupils from across South Cumbria Multi-Academy Trust celebrated the 100th birthday of legendary broadcaster and natural historian Sir David Attenborough with a day of wildlife-inspired activities, creativity and outdoor learning.**  
[Read more here.](#)





## COMIC WORK PRAISED

Pupils from Chetwynde School enjoyed seeing their creative achievements on public display after their artwork was selected for this year's Barrow Does Comics festival.

The Year 9 pupils explored the exciting world of comic art, developing their skills in storytelling, illustration and visual expression.

Their work was chosen to feature in the festival's window trail, with artwork displayed across a range of town centre venues including Footwear and Fascinators, Mind, The Works, McDonald's, Costa and The Albion.

Art teacher Charlotte Strafford said from bold superhero designs to imaginative narratives and striking graphic styles the work produced was inspiring.

"I am extremely proud of their hard work and imagination," she said "This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to see their work showcased beyond the classroom."

Pupils also worked with illustrator and comic artist Mollie Rae who visited the school to deliver a hands on workshop.

She showed them the process of creating comics and they went on to design and produce their own zine-style comic books.



## MP VISITS NEWBARN



Newbarns Primary and Nursery School was delighted to welcome Michelle Scrogam MP for a special visit, providing an opportunity to showcase the school's inclusive ethos and vibrant learning environment. During her time at the school, she met with staff and pupils and was given a tour by Headteacher Victoria Fitzgibbons, including a visit to The Hive to learn more about the school's support for children with special educational needs.

Ms Scrogam also observed pupils in lessons across subjects including geography, maths and English, where she saw confidence, curiosity and pride in learning on full display. The visit highlighted the warm, supportive environment at Newbarns, ensuring every child can thrive and reach their full potential. Headteacher Victoria Fitzgibbons said: "We were thrilled to welcome Michelle to Newbarns and to share a glimpse of daily life in our school. It was a pleasure to highlight the dedication of our staff and the enthusiasm of our pupils."

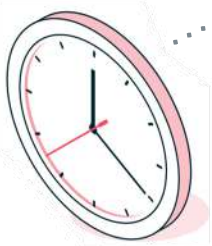


STEM FairyTales  
at Vickerstown -  
testing Jack's  
Golden Egg



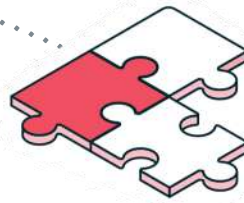
# PRINCIPLES OF LEARNING

ENABLING BRILLIANT  
LEARNING IN OUR  
CLASSROOMS



## DAILY REVIEWS

How do you incorporate time to revisit and retain key knowledge?



## NEW MATERIAL IN SMALL STEPS

How are lessons broken down into small steps across the curriculum? How do you avoid overloading your pupils' working memories?

## ASK QUESTIONS

How do you use questions within lessons to check and secure learning? How are they used for assessment?



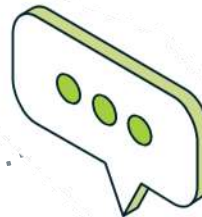
## PROVIDE MODELS

How do you use modelling to support learning? Do your children model for each other?



## GUIDED STUDENT PRACTICE

Where is time given for students to rephrase, elaborate and summarise new material? How do you build time into lessons for guided work?



## CHECKING STUDENT UNDERSTANDING

How do you use strategies to check students understanding, before, during and after a lesson?

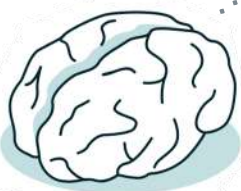
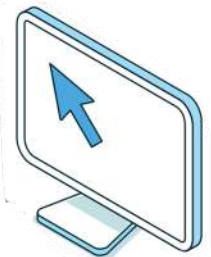
## OBTAIN HIGH SUCCESS RATES

How do you decide if children have been successful? How do children know? What is done with this information? How are gaps closed for those who do not achieve within the lesson?



## SCAFFOLDS

What temporary supports do you use to assist learning? How do you incorporate them into lessons?



## INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

What are your independent practice procedures, where children recall and apply new material? How often? At what point in the learning journey - daily, weekly, at the end of a unit?



## WEEKLY & MONTHLY REVIEWS

How do you incorporate time to revisit learning that has happened recently. Does the school plan to revisit ideas that connect to new material?

# OUR STRATEGY

South Cumbria Multi-Academy Trust recognises that each school has its own educational character and ethos and we are passionate about retaining and nurturing this. Our schools have their own identities but all share a common approach to encourage pupils to reflect and embrace challenges, learn from mistakes and develop the resilience essential in our rapidly changing world.

## OUR VISION:

Inspiring young people and changing lives through excellence in education in South Cumbria



## OUR VALUES:



## OUR AIM IS TO:



Each of our schools has its own vision and values that make it unique but contribute to the overall SCMAT strategy above. Please take time to read the strategy to see how the values fit with the ethos of your school.