



# 2025 WEST END SCHOOLS' TRUST

Building a strong learning community

Contact Us



[www.westendschoolstrust.co.uk](http://www.westendschoolstrust.co.uk)



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# West End Schools' Trust

## 2024 - 2025



The West End Schools' Trust (WEST) is a foundation trust of nine primary schools located in the west of the city of Newcastle Upon Tyne. We are responsible for the education of around two thousand nine hundred pupils between the ages of 3 months and 11 years. We are a strong learning community where our pupils have highly positive experiences and attain good standards.



## Contact Us



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## OUR TRUST YEAR

The decade since the establishment of WEST has seen many challenges in education; some unexpected and external (eg Covid), others internal and ongoing (eg changes to the inspection framework and ever increasing SEND). But throughout that period, we have seen a steady growth of the positive impact within the WEST family between its member schools, pupils and staff in regular surveys, things such as mutual support, collaboration, resilience and, to quote one pupil, 'undefeatedness'. May those qualities - which are the fruit of the untiring and invincible efforts of staff throughout schools - continue to grow in the next ten years.

-John Anderson, Chair

# NEWCASTLE THEATRE ROYAL



For a second year running, WEST have collaborated with Newcastle Theatre Royal. We were delighted to have Laura and Gary return to deliver a series of workshops based on our Year 6 novel, Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman. Their passion and positive energy shone through and the children responded with huge enthusiasm. They created an engaging and supportive environment that allowed every child to feel confident and involved.

The workshops helped children to explore characters and themes from the novel. Children took part in whole class discussions, created freeze frames, and presented short pieces of drama to the class. It was wonderful to see how confident the children were, and it was clear that the workshops enhanced their understanding and enjoyment of the novel.

The children loved having the opportunity to watch Pig Heart Boy at the Theatre Royal in Newcastle and it was a memorable experience for the pupils. Many of them had never visited a theatre before, so it was exciting to see a live performance in such a grand setting. Watching the novel they had recently read brought the story to life in a way that deepened their understanding and enjoyment. The actors' performances captured the emotions and challenges of the characters, making the plot more vivid and engaging. Many of them were sitting on the edge of their seats, enthralled by what they were seeing on stage. Overall, the trip not only enhanced their appreciation of literature but also introduced them to the magic of theatre.





As part of our transition activities for Year 6, schools paired up to take part in sailing experiences on the River Tyne with the Ocean Youth Trust North. The James Cook tall ship can accommodate 12 children, so on each trip there are six children from two schools. The children start their journey at Royal Quays in North Shields where they learn all about health and safety on board. Once they are all kitted out with safety equipment, they sail up the Tyne towards the Quayside. One of the highlights is when the team work together to raise the sails.



The children all get a chance to steer the ship, guiding it along using the onboard navigation equipment.

When the ship arrives at the Quayside everyone onboard enjoys a meal together before the children head to their onboard bunks for bed. In the morning breakfast is served on board before the ship heads back up the river. By this second day it is clear that the children have made new friends and are supporting each other in onboard tasks. It is always a pleasure to watch them engage with each other, chatting about which secondary school they will be attending.





# STEMTASTIC 2025

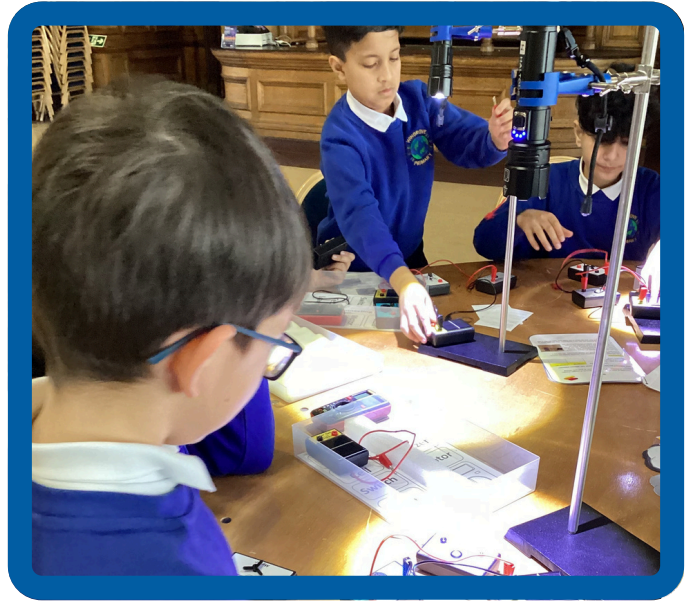
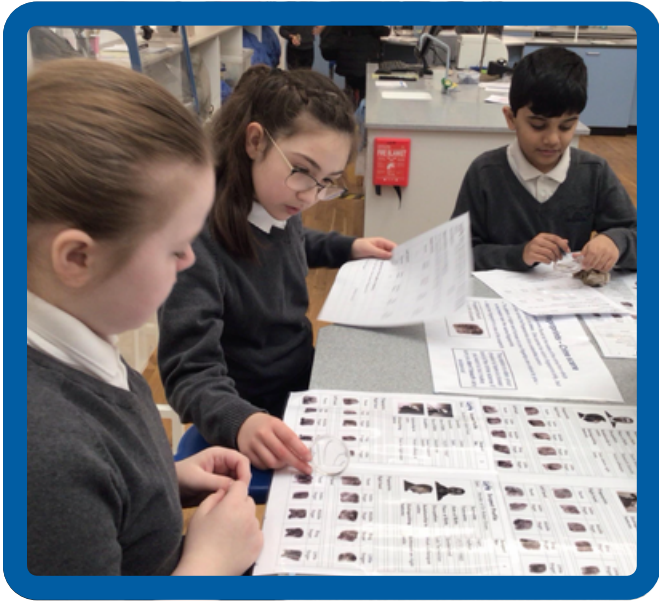
## **STEMtastic Work Inspires Across WEST!**

Our primary schools came alive with curiosity and creativity during STEMtastic sessions across the year. Our children embarked on a series of engaging STEM sessions visiting a variety of Newcastle's premier educational venues.

From the awe-inspiring Centre for Life to the historic Discovery Museum, and from the creative John Marley Centre to the innovative NUFoundation, our pupils were immersed in hands-on learning experiences that truly brought STEM subjects to life.



# STEMTASTIC



What made this opportunity even more special was the chance to collaborate with our neighbouring schools. We were delighted to welcome pupils from Excelsior Primary, St Bede's Catholic Primary School, West Newcastle Academy, and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School to join us in these enriching activities. Together, we formed a community of young scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematicians, all eager to explore and learn.

In total, an impressive 383 pupils participated in these STEM projects, fostering curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking skills. It's moments like these that remind us of the power of experiential learning and the importance of nurturing our pupils' interests in STEM fields.



# NEWCASTLE UNITED FOUNDATION



NU Foundation have visited our schools to provide Family Learning sessions. These sessions have been an excellent opportunity for families of all ages to work together on hands-on, interactive activities such as building Lego creations, programming robots, building paper bridges or towers and driving Spheros to meet challenges.

As well as providing quality family time, the sessions also provide valuable resources and opportunities, ensuring inclusivity in STEM education for all. The sessions include standalone activities enabling families to access them regardless of whether it is their first or last session. The sessions have been thoroughly enjoyable for everyone.

# ORACY

We are pleased to share that oracy remains a crucial focus across all our schools. We are delighted to witness the transformation in our children's ability to effectively express themselves, largely influenced by the Voice 21 programme. Several of our schools have proudly showcased their oracy initiatives by hosting visits from other schools in the North East, fostering a collaborative environment for sharing best practices. Additionally, some of our schools are preparing to present their journey thus far at the upcoming Oracy Conference, enabling them to highlight the significant strides made in developing effective communication skills among children. We encourage continued engagement and support for these vital initiatives, which significantly enhance our children's confidence and expressive abilities in a variety of contexts.





# DEBATING COMPETITION



We held our annual debating competition at Newcastle Civic Centre. Congratulations to Hawthorn Primary School who were the overall winners!



The school councillors have worked hard together this year to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of the West End Schools' Trust. They decided to make a collaborative video, showcasing the best parts of each school, to share across The Trust. The children were keen to show the most important aspects of their school, and present to each other, what makes their school unique. It was decided to create pieces of artwork to showcase this. All the artwork was put together to make one large plaque, that will hopefully be displayed outside each school, celebrating the West End Schools' Trust.

“It was great to be involved in the meetings with all the schools in our Trust. I enjoyed listening to other children's opinions and what happens in their schools. I was pleased to be involved in the 10 year anniversary projects.” Grace

“I enjoyed meeting new children and staff from all the Trust schools. I loved showing everyone around our school, Wingrove Primary. It was such fun to work on projects together.” Hadiya

“I appreciate being involved in the Trust school council work this year. I enjoyed presenting to the group about what makes Wingrove special and listening to everyone talk about their school.” Haleemah



# NEWCASTLE UNITED F.C

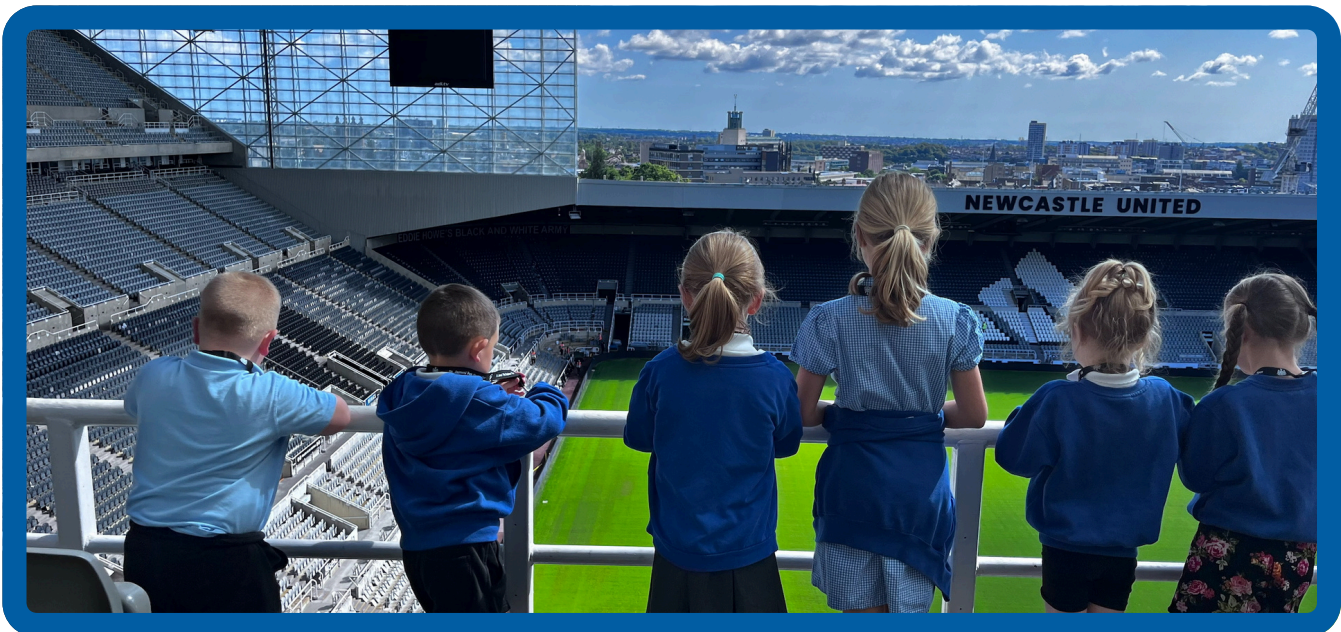


Our Trust has been so privileged to work with Newcastle United Football Club.

Working collaboratively with Julie Smith, the Safeguarding and Wellbeing Coordinator at Newcastle United, we designed a project focused on raising aspirations and attainment through focusing on Newcastle United's four Values.

- Collaborative
- Disciplined
- Passionate
- Hardworking

We launched the project with a visit from two of the youth team players.





# NEWCASTLE UNITED



To help our children engage with the project, we designed simple challenges linked to each value.

Newcastle United kindly provided a selection of prizes ranging from tours of St James' Park for the Collaborative focus, goodie bags for the Disciplined focus and match day tickets for the Hardworking project!



# SCIENCE CLUB



Each Tuesday, 54 pupils from our schools travel to the Centre for Life to investigate and learn about science from real scientists.

The children are thoroughly engaged and are given the opportunity to experience using equipment we do not have access to within a school environment.



We have been collaborating with Life for 10 years. To celebrate our partnership all of our schools have enjoyed a roadshow including a chance to explore how telescopes can be used to detect and study weather across the solar system. Pupils have been set a challenge to design and build structures that can withstand extreme planetary weather including acid rain (on Venus), raining diamonds (Saturn and Uranus) and high winds (Neptune).



# HEALTH & WELLBEING WEEK

Every year we have a health and wellbeing week for all our Year 6 pupils. This is an opportunity for our children to explore the topic of growing up and moving on to secondary school.

Activities take place at the Newcastle United Foundation community hub, NUCASTLE as well as in the school grounds with Zone West link workers. Children have the opportunity to mix with children from different WEST schools and start to form new friendships.





# HEALTH & WELLBEING WEEK





# ACTION GROUPS

Newcastle West End Children's Community (WECC) are supporting our children to work with Community Organisers from Tyne and Wear Citizens to explore concerns they have and consider ways to bring about change. One of the examples of this community organising is with children from St Paul's CofE Primary School who would like to create change in Elswick Park. The children have conducted a listening exercise to find out pupils' views of the park and visited the park to take photos and identify issues.

The children then organised and chaired a meeting with Councillor Khaled Musharraf (Elswick Ward Councillor), Mick Murphy and Steve Scott (Newcastle City Council) and invited guests to present their findings and make several asks for change. The councillors committed to several short-term actions, as well as some longer ones to ensure the area was well lit, clean and tidy and to ensure that the steps redesigned to look for attractive using hard wearing materials.

If you would like to find out more about Newcastle West End Children's Community please visit [www.newcastlewecc.org.uk](http://www.newcastlewecc.org.uk)



# MUSIC SUMMER CARNIVAL

Our children came together for a fabulous music summer carnival. This event was held in the John Marley Centre. Newcastle Music Service, In Harmony and The Glasshouse International Centre for Music kindly supported the event.

This annual event is a brilliant opportunity for our schools to come together, listen to each other and share a love of music.

