



## Hum and Strum

**The WowNow Project by Tim Godwin and Tom Attwood**

The musical creations that Tim Godwin and Tom Attwood bring to schools have always been a fantastic hit with pupils and staff in the academy and this term Sunshine House were delighted to be involved in their WowNow project, with two visits this Spring term.

Having taken four actor-musician students from Rose Bruford Performance College under their wing, Tim and Tom brought in some new sensory contraptions and performance pieces made specifically with our pupils in mind. From vibrating, inflating bass-booming hot-air balloons to the tickly, windy wiggle of the 'big wavy thing', pupils interacted with each experience in new ways to make the most of the 'wow' in every moment ('now').

Their music also went on the move around the school, with each class waiting in anticipation as the music grew and grew before the group burst in with a few favourite songs including "elephants have wrinkles" which became a theme of the day. Then, before too long, they were off to another part of the school and the music drifted away bit by bit.

This visit also gave staff valuable time to discuss new ideas with Tim and the students, about what we can do in school and to plan future collaboration. We are already planning to make our own inflatables and think bigger with some wow-inspiring resources. If you visit Sunshine House School this term, you are sure to hear our staff humming one or two of Tim's songs for weeks to come!

## Welcome

It's been another exciting term at the Eden Academy not least because of the launch of a new section of our website; our [Parent Forum](#), which enables all our parents, whichever Academy school their child goes to, to have access to:

- Information, guidance and support on a relevant topic each term – our first topic is toileting
- Access to helpful organisations as well as tried and tested places to go during holidays and weekends (see the back page for further info)

Many thanks to our family services team for all their hard work to create what will undoubtedly become an invaluable resource for our families.

**Wishing everyone a happy and sunny Easter Break.**

**Susan Douglas,  
CEO, Eden Academy**

### The Eden Academy

*An Academy that places children at the heart of everything it does, a place where parents and carers can look to the future with optimism and confidence and where staff feel their skills and their careers are developed like nowhere else.*

Susan Douglas, CEO of the Eden Academy

### Our family of schools

Alexandra School  
Grangewood School  
Moorcroft School  
Pentland Field School  
RNIB Sunshine House School

### The Eden Academy

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Middlesex HA5 2JQ

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E: [info@theedenacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@theedenacademy.co.uk)



## Blooming enterprise

### Enterprising Sixth Form students

Enterprise is an important part of the curriculum at Moorcroft School for all Sixth Form students as it teaches so many skills:

- Numeracy - working with money, counting items in relation to shopping, checking dates on food labels
- Quality control - ensuring products are good enough to see
- Team work - production line work
- Communication - engaging with people, taking orders
- Promotion - making posters to promote our items
- Hygiene - understanding issues involving food and its preparation

Every term the Sixth Form students make differently-themed items to sell at their Enterprise Fairs. They set up their stalls in the Sixth form area and sell their handmade items to the rest of the school. All the money they raise is saved up and then pupils choose how to spend it – on a meal out or a trip somewhere at the end of the year.



Last term students held a Valentine's Fair and this term they are making rabbits, potted bulbs and cards – *Happy Easter everyone!*



### Stay and Splash

Don't forget that the hydrotherapy pool at [RNIB Sunshine House](#) is available to all our Eden Academy families.

- When:** Monday afternoons  
1pm – 3pm (pre-school children)  
Saturday mornings  
10am – 12pm (family swim)
- Who:** All the family
- Where:** RNIB Sunshine House School,  
Northwood HA6 3DD
- Cost:** £5 per child, £12 per family



## An interview with...

**Hardip Begol is one of our trustees on the Board at the Academy.**

Hardip Begol's current role is the director for independent education, safeguarding in schools and counter-extremism at the Department for Education (DfE).

Hardip was also made a CBE in this New Year's honours list for his services to Education, and we are lucky to have someone with his wealth of experience on our Board.

**What teacher or member of staff in your own school-life made the biggest impression on you, and why?**

It would be Miss Element, my maths teacher at Barnhill, who recognised I was good at the subject and gave me the freedom to progress at my own pace.

**What is your ambition for our pupils and their families?**

That everyone at Eden has high expectations for the development, achievement and contribution of children with SEN and disabled children and we work with families to enable pupils to stretch and fulfil their individual potential.

**How did you originally get involved with the Eden Academy?**

I was responsible for special educational needs (SEN) policy and delivering programmes, such as Aiming High for Disabled Children, at the Department for Education from 2007-10. This included working on the legal changes that enabled special school Academies to be established.

Serving as a Director provides an opportunity to see how Academies work in practice and allows me to use my experience of SEN. All of my schooling was in the borough of Hillingdon (Yeading Primary, Barnhill School and Haydon Sixth Form) and my mum still lives in Hayes, so there's also a local connection.

**What has been your most exciting job to date?**

I've been fortunate in having a lot of great roles at the DfE. The most interesting was leading on changes to the national curriculum, GCSEs and A-levels and school accountability from 2012 to 2014.



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## Reaching out with Safeguarding

**Lisa Hatcher and Hilary McDermott, the Academy's Safeguarding Leads, were both successful in obtaining NSPCC accreditation as trainers last summer.**

Lisa and Hilary can now offer courses outside the Academy, confident that the training meets the required standards for schools and other groups. They delivered their first 'Working Together' course in April, at ADHD and Autism Harrow's Centre in Eastcote to 16 delegates, who were a mixture of staff from the centre, Deputy Safeguarding Leads in Hillingdon and Harrow, local authority personnel and therapists and educationalists in private and charitable groups. The course was promoted by Lyn Laverty, who runs the Centre, and who supported us fantastically throughout the day. It is a relationship we are very keen to continue.

"Working with a range of professionals benefited both us and the pupils in the Academy as ideas and good practice were shared; working together really did work best. We always find that you get back at least as much as you give, if not more when you train. It's a good feeling!" said Hilary McDermott

As if that wasn't enough, it was great to receive such positive feedback from those that attended: 'I learnt how to confidently act on a range of safeguarding-related incidents which may occur at my school - very current and relatable to my new role'. 'The tutors were interactive to our needs and very informative - well delivered'

Bring on the next training we say!

## A day with Incredibly Clever Tools (ICT)

**This term Grangewood School held their first ICT Enhancement Day, to encourage the use of ICT within the curriculum.**



As well as setting up a fantastic sensory area with tents, lights and lots of switch work to explore, staff also ran special activities to give pupils the opportunity of using technology in their own classroom. And to really set the day apart, Grangewood also welcomed a 40-foot American yellow bus, kitted out with IT equipment for everyone to try!





## Ideas for the holidays

### Great fun for you and your family

We know that weekends and holidays can feel like a long time at home without the routine of school, so we've gathered together a list of places that we think would be great fun for you and your family – take a look on our new Parent Forum on our website at

[www.theedenacademy.co.uk/parent-forum](http://www.theedenacademy.co.uk/parent-forum).

This term one of our parents from Alexandra School have reviewed their favourite place to go, and shared some pictures taken there by his eldest son Jack.

“The place we visit frequently as a family is Aldenham Country Park. We live in Pinnerwood Estate and it only takes 15-20 mins to get there. There's plenty of parking although it does cost £4.50 for the day. The park is always well maintained, it has two play areas within wooded surroundings complete with seating and a refreshment kiosk (although you're welcome to bring your own picnic).

The Park Farm is excellent and kids have the opportunity to see/touch/feed a whole range of animals, including sheep, guinea pigs and goats. We normally do the walk around the reservoir which takes about 30-40 mins. The foot path is well maintained and you really do 'feel' that you are in the country. If we have time we also visit the 100-AKER-WOOD, where Winnie the Pooh lives and comes to meet the children every day at 2pm!

Within the park there is also the Aldenham Country Playground which is purpose-built for children and young people with special needs – it has an indoor play centre with sensory rooms and an outdoor inclusive playground with sandpits, play frames, basket swings, and a water feature. The whole park is really worth a visit!” **David Hamilton**



### Aldenham Country Park

**Aldenham Road, Elstree,  
Hertfordshire WD6 3BA**

T: 0208 953 9602

E: [info@aldenhamcountrypark.co.uk](mailto:info@aldenhamcountrypark.co.uk)

Car Park: £4.50

#### Aldenham Country Playground

SEN Outdoor play session: £2.50

SEN Indoor and Outdoor play session: £10 for 1st child, £5 for each subsequent child (incl. parking)

*Above picture: Aldenham Country SEN Playground photo.*

*Thank you Jack – all pictures on this page were taken by Jack Hamilton, older brother to George who attends Alexandra School.*

### Suggestions & recommendations

Parents and carers please email us with any other suggestions of good places to go or things to do at [familyservices@theedenacademy.co.uk](mailto:familyservices@theedenacademy.co.uk) and we can add them to the ever-growing list on our website.

