Children shine brightly at ATLP awards

More than 150 children, parents, teachers and governors came together at the prestigious New Hall hotel to celebrate the outstanding achievements of students from across nine schools.

The ATLP’s second Student Awards ceremony, which was devised, led and presented by student leaders, featured 66 nominees from primary and secondary schools.

The awards gave children an opportunity to share their success with fellow ATLP students and the prize giving was followed by afternoon tea and musical accompaniment by talented John Willmott performers.

Future citizens

The afternoon began with an introduction from John Vickers, chair of the ATLP Trust Board.

He said: “This ceremony acknowledges and celebrates the many achievements of the young people within our partnership.

“It is these future citizens that make our schools so special and bring so much to the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership.”

Student leader Reiss Munn, of Stockland Green School, said: “It was nice to be able to spend time with all the schools and to be part of such an event that recognises student success in this way.”

Student leader Aaron Chauhan, of John Willmott School, said: “It was fantastic to be part of such an event. I’ve thoroughly enjoyed working with the other schools and being able to celebrate together.”

ATLP CEO, Richard Gill, said: “We have some incredibly talented students in our schools. This event was an opportunity to hear just some of the stories about our wonderful children and the dedication they show to school and community.

“I’m so proud of all of our students, staff and learning communities. The partnership is a growing family and it was an honour and a privilege to celebrate together and enjoy a memorable day.

“Our young people are truly remarkable – they continue to shine and I thank them for being outstanding ambassadors for our schools.”

Above: secondary school students celebrate outside the picturesque New Hall Hotel.
Right, primary school pupils are walking on sunshine.

Sue’s MBE delight

A “wonderful” teacher of more than 40 years has been awarded an MBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours for her service to vulnerable young people and families in the West Midlands. Sue Bailey, the “beating heart” of Arthur Terry School, is an assistant headteacher and PE teacher, now in her fifth decade at the outstanding academy. She is also ATLP’s safeguarding lead.

Many families have benefitted from Sue’s role as strategic lead for the Sutton Coldfield Children’s Centres and her work with young people at Four Oaks Youth. Sue has also been involved with Sutton Coldfield Municipal charities for 20 years.

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ATLP’s Erdington academies and MP Jack Dromey united at Slade for the launch of their Unicef’s Rights Respecting School Award – an empowering movement that puts children at the heart of UK schools. ATLP CEO Richard Gill, joined Jack and the schools in an awareness-raising assembly and fun educational events, which saw the MP partake in a spot of Bhangra dancing! Brookvale, Slade and Stockland Green schools pledged their joint commitment to the award, which recognises achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into practice in the school and beyond.

ATLP academies launch Unicef’s Rights Respecting Schools Award

Arthur Terry and Stockland Green have already achieved a gold and bronze award, respectively. Samantha Kibble, associate headteacher of Arthur Terry School, said: “We’re proud to join other ATLP schools in this movement to make our schools safe and nurturing places where all children have the right to flourish.” Stockland Green’s deputy headteacher, Rebecca Goode, said: “We’re delighted to have been recognised for this award to be part of a wider movement within our partnership and across the globe.”

Slade headteacher Helen Hastilow said: “We’re working collaboratively to create and harness the vision of empowering our students across the Erdington ATLP community. The difference that a Rights Respecting School makes goes beyond the school gates, making a positive impact on the whole community.”

Jack Dromey said: “The award provides a framework of excellence on which schools, students and communities can build a mutual understanding of the rights of our children and ensure that their voices are heard and respected.”

A mammoth new art installation inspired by the joy of reading has been unveiled at Mere Green’s new library. A whole new Perspex-ive: Mere Green readers love their new sculpture

Governors and local businesses also attended to reflect on their favourite books. Workshops were supported by a team of motivated year 5 and 6 pupil leaders and by dedicated members of the school’s library and community team, Lis Blizzard and Claudia Robinson.

Families have been attending parent afternoons where they can read in the library and outdoor space, spot their work and appreciate the other book-themed art pieces. Aimee Bursnell, phase leader and English lead practitioner at Mere Green, said: “The pupil leaders displayed exceptional leadership skills and their enthusiasm was infectious to all involved. “The reaction of the children and staff has exceeded expectations. Many now say it’s their favourite area of school because they spot new books to discuss and ponder each time they walk below. It’s an inspirational place. The project has been a fantastic opportunity to bring the whole Mere Green family together to share and inspire a love of reading.”

A whole new Perspex-ive: Mere Green readers love their new sculpture

Talented local artist, Lindsay Chalford-Brown has worked with the library team and staff, enabling staff to lead parental workshops themselves. For more than a year, children from every year group created art pieces based on their favourite books with their parents.

FAVOURITE READS INSPIRE SCULPTURE

The show-stopping sculpture of stained-glass style perspex panels is a dazzling patchwork of book-inspired artwork, lovingly created by children and parents.

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Sue Bailey is pictured centre, alongside Arthur Terry students, associate headteacher Samantha Kibble and executive headteacher Neil Warner

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Sue said: “I’m truly delighted and humbled by this honour. It means so much to me to be able to support young people and their families – this is the most rewarding vacation in the world. This is a team effort and I’ve been surrounded by the very best people, who make such a difference to the lives of so many.”

As a teacher of 42 years, Sue has dedicated her longstanding career to the educational, social and emotional welfare of children. Outside of the classroom she is involved in a number of extra-curricular activities that enrich the lives of students. Sue is a gold Duke of Edinburgh Award holder and the recipient of a long service award from the organisation. Sue was invited to Buckingham palace to celebrate Arthur Terry’s 20-year involvement with the Outward Bound Trust.

Sue has led a number of trips to South Africa. Sue’s priority is the safety and protection of young people. She works across ATLP schools, other schools and organisations and Birmingham City Council, to ensure that Prevent and safeguarding training is delivered across the region.

She said: “There’s more to do and this is what drives us to achieve more, because children remain at the heart of this.”

Neil Warner, executive headteacher of Arthur Terry School and ATLP school improvement lead (secondary), said: “We are all thrilled and incredibly proud that Sue Bailey has been recognised at this level. Sue is the beating heart of Arthur Terry. She enjoys planning and delivering lessons 40 plus years since joining us, and has helped to transform so many lives.

“We praise her outstanding contribution to safeguarding, child protection, internet safety and the Prevent agenda and her tireless work to ensure young people are well cared for. We’re privileged to have such a wonderful teacher.”

Sue is a prominent PTA member, fundraising and organising the school show annually. She plays a key role in governance at Arthur Terry and other schools. Every year Sue co-ordinates various events for local primary schools to help children prepare for secondary school. Sue received a Royal Sutton Coldfield Community Award for her services to the community.

Samantha Kibble, associate headteacher of Arthur Terry School, said: “Sue is totally committed to improving the life chances for everyone that she works with and Sue has made a real difference across all aspects of her work.

“She fully deserves to be recognised for everything she’s achieved and we’re very proud that we have been able to work alongside Sue at Arthur Terry as part of the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership.”

Richard Gill, CEO of the ATLP, said: “Sue has impacted so positively on the lives of so many. She has given tirelessly for the benefit of others. There is no one more deserving to be recognised in such a way. Sue is typically embarrassed and quick to deflect to others around her who have supported her. But every team needs a leader. Sue is more than this; she is an inspiration. I am so proud to be able to call her a colleague and a friend.”

Former ATLP CEO, Sir Chris Stone, said: “There are some people you know are so deserving of being a recipient of such an honour. Susan Bailey is one of these. She is, quite frankly, remarkable; one of a kind. Sue has an aura about her; she makes things happen for the benefit of others. She is tireless and tenacious in equal measure and the world is a far better place for having her in it. Everyone who knows Sue Bailey, and her selfless work for others, will be delighted that she has been recognised.”

Sue’s friend, Tracey Spare, was Arthur Terry head boy in 1979. He said: “Sue Bailey was always approachable, always prepared to listen, always prepared to share a laugh and a joke, but she also reminded you, quite correctly and when necessary, she was the teacher and you were the student.

He added: “Friends and work colleagues have relayed many stories to me of Sue’s support of young people, particularly in non-curricula environments. Students struggling with emotional conflicts; students living with addictions of a varying nature; students who simply did not want to attend school; students with home environmental troubles - light years away from teaching PE on a wet, miserable Monday morning! ”

MP Andrew Mitchell said: “Sue’s award is richly deserved. She’s one of our greatest assets in the Royal Town and has worked ceaselessly for the benefit of local people throughout the 18 years I have known her. Whether as part of Arthur Terry or with local children’s support in the wider community she has been a tower of strength and much loved and respected by everyone. Hooray!”
Inter-school contest soars into the Stratosphero

A-mazed? You will be! Whizz kids from four partner schools put their coding skills to the test on July 3 in the final of a computing competition. Pupils went head to head in a Robot Wars style tournament that saw an all female team from Hill West Primary navigate their way to victory.

Tech-savvy year 6 pupils from the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership’s (ATLP) Brookvale, Hill West, Mere Green and Slade primary schools, competed in the annual inter school computing contest. This year, the event revolved around Spheros – small robotic balls, generously funded by Mere Green School’s parent teacher association.

This is the second time primary schools have competed in an annual ATLP computing competition. Following the success of last year’s Drone Day, this latest event took place over four weeks, with small groups of children coding their Spheros to travel through individual mazes. At the end of each week, children streamed live through Skype to another primary school and a winner from each academy was chosen.

All four winning groups met at Mere Green for the final to code their Sphero on one of four identical mazes. Children added balloons and spikes to their Spheros to battle it out in a Robot Wars style match. They gained points for any rival balloons popped and lost points for any of their own burst balloons. Hill West just pipped (or should that be popped?) the other schools to the post.


Organiser Terri Coombs, IT lead at Mere Green School and ATLP specialist leader of education (SLE) for computing, said: “Congratulations to all our students for taking part and to our winners, Hill West on their fantastic computing skills and teamwork. Throughout this competition, we have seen some incredible coding and some brilliant mazes, with all of our year 6 pupils taking part.

There’s been an incredible response to this project and the children have been so inventive and accurate in their coding, and competition has been fierce.

“This event has boosted learning skills and confidence in a fun way, widened access to computing and brought together children from different schools – a great example of partnership working.”

Irfaah Rashid, a year 6 pupil from ATLP’s Slade Primary School, said: “It’s been quite a challenge but we’ve enjoyed working with the other schools and learning more about coding.”

Slade staff member, Mohammed Minhas, said: “It’s been a really nice opportunity for the children to play with more tech after last year’s drone competition. The children have been developing their computing skills and we even made a Sphero golf course at Slade!”

Celebrating their collective ‘girl power’ the winning Hill West team of friends Rebecca, Emily Mimi and Myla, said: “We really enjoyed taking part and working together. This was all about teamwork and we are so happy to be taking this award back to our school.”

Say hello, wave goodbye

I cannot believe we’ve reached the end of another academic year! It seems like just five minutes ago that we were welcoming our new starters. Now we’re waving goodbye to some of our students and associate teachers, although many of them will be returning to our schools in September, I’m pleased to say.

What an eventful 12 months it’s been. There are so many highlights that it would be impossible to do them justice in one final roll call. This year has seen so many significant events, including Brookvale and Stockland Green’s ‘Good’ Ofsted reports, Scotch Orchard officially becoming part of the ATLP family, not forgetting the odd MBE!

But the biggest highlight took place this month with the second ATLP Student Awards. This celebration of student success and achievement took place at the splendid New Hall Hotel, bringing together children from across our schools. This was the first time children had presented the awards – and what an incredible job they did.

I was truly privileged and proud to be in the presence of such wonderful children, who are a credit to our schools. Young people who go the extra mile, who strive for excellence, who support others. Champions of our schools. Special thanks to our student leaders who organised and presented some awards, and to the talented musicians from John Willmott who wowed us with their beautiful sounds. Each performer and presenter complimented the other – rather like the schools in our partnership.

If you have music in mind, then please do stop by and join the ATLP team at the Lichfield Proms this summer, where we will be celebrating being part of Lichfield’s rich learning community. And don’t forget to pack your picnic blanket!

Finally, I must say goodbye to some senior leaders, who have given years of service and dedication to our schools. Arthur Terry’s Jayne Oliver is retiring after a whopping 33 years at the school, Wendy Horden retires after 18 years at Scotch Orchard, and Brookvale’s Jon Smart is moving on to the next stage of his leadership career. Many thanks to all three for taking such good care of their schools – and wishing them all the best for the future.
Stockland Green School delivered its first ever Wellbeing Week – five days of engaging activities designed to support children and prepare them for modern life.

During the week, children experienced a range of events, including educational visits to three universities and various colleges; workshops on the effects of knife crime; keeping yourself safe; mental wellbeing; sexual health; avoiding gang culture; live dissections in an operating theatre environment; and year 7 enterprise programmes. A number of organisations in the area also showed their support by participating in the week.

During his visit to support the event, MP Jack Dromey, said: “Stockland Green School is going from strength to strength. This pioneering Wellbeing Week is designed to, unashamedly, tackle a range of difficult issues. Duck them, and we let young people down. If these children feel confident and engaged, then there’s no problem that cannot be solved or no mountain that can’t be climbed.”

Headteacher Marie George added: “We’re offering practical help to young people to overcome any struggles in their life, to keep them safe and to equip themselves with the tools to handle a range of issues.

An impressive 48 Associate Teachers have completed the course successfully with the vast majority leaving at an outstanding level of competency in the Teachers’ Standards. details jmurphy@arthurterry.bham.sch.uk or visit https://www.arthurterry.bham.sch.uk/atnts/

Scitt lead, Paul Withey (pictured below) has been presented with a certificate for 13 years’ service for the Duke of Edinburgh award for his part in inspiring, supporting and guiding young people in their self-development and recognising their achievements.

Not forgetting the students who received their Gold Awards at Buckingham Palace!
The popular Four Oaks Toy Library threw a star-studded birthday party to celebrate its 10th anniversary – with plenty of jelly and cake for all.

The Toy Library first opened its doors in 2008 at Mere Green Primary School. From its small beginnings the Toy Library has grown to more than 900 members and successfully relocated to Mere Green’s St James Church in September 2017.

Toy librarian Lynda Gregory said: “We’re thrilled to be 10-years-old and would like to celebrate our decade of difference with friends and family of the Toy Library.

“It really is one big, happy family. From those very first members, we have been part of so many lives. We are so proud at how far we have come and how this facility brings the community together.”

Hill West awarded Primary Science Quality Mark

Hill West Primary School has joined a group of 180 schools nationally to have been awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark for outstanding teaching and learning in science.

PSQM is an award scheme to enable primary schools across the UK to evaluate, strengthen and celebrate their science provision. By embarking a year long process of evaluation and improvement Hill West was able, not only, to raise the profile of science across school, but share this practice more widely through the Arthur Terry Teaching School Alliance.

The alliance saw a number of primary schools join together to accelerate progress and achievement of children in science.

By working with existing science networks and facilitating new science networks, Hill West was able to access a rich data base of excellent practice in science.

Dr Warrack, science subject lead at Hill West School, said: “Being involved in PSQM this year has had a massive impact on the development of science, not only in my school, but also in the other schools that I have been able to support.

The PSQM reviewer of Hill West’s evidence submissions said: “There is a rich, deep range of evidence presented with appropriate commentary to explain it.

“The evidence clearly demonstrates impact across the whole school (Silver) and great feedback from colleagues in other schools demonstrates the wider impact (Gold).

Headteacher Dr Beth Clarke said: “I am absolutely delighted that we have achieved the Gold award: it is a testimony to the hard work and enthusiasm of all the Hill West Staff, who have elevated science teaching so that now children ‘love science’ at our school.”

A well-respected and much-loved assistant headteacher will be saying goodbye to staff and students this week as she retires after 33 years at The Arthur Terry School and four decades in education.

Jayne Oliver began her career as a Maths teacher and joined the school in 1985 as second in Maths, quickly progressing to Head of Maths and then Assistant Headteacher. For the last decade, she has led one of the school’s four houses, Gloucester, overseeing the welfare and progress of over 400 students.

Executive headteacher Neil Warner said: “Arthur Terry just won’t be the same without Jayne. She has given so much to the school and so many students have benefitted from her wisdom, guidance and support. She always keeps students at the heart of everything.”

Colleagues recognised Jayne’s immense contribution to education at an afternoon tea, where teachers past and present gave her the send off she deserves. Jayne is looking forward to holidaying in September - the first time she has been able to holiday in this month for 40 years!

We wish Jayne a long and happy retirement.
Speaking of success

A team of articulate year 10 students from ATLP’s Coleshill School have recently taken part in the Speakers Trust competition.

Speakers Trust is the UK’s leading public speaking and communication skills training charity whose vision is for young people to be able to speak confidently and to be heard through the power of communication.

Students took part in the finals of the Speakers Trust competition at Birmingham University. Following an inspirational speech, Tyler came third out of 18.

Jo Trude-Smith, PE teacher, said: “Tyler’s speech brought me and his Dad to tears. He was confident and really connected with the audience and even got some laughs. To say he did the school proud is an understatement, he was an absolute joy to watch.”

Forward-thinking students at John Willmott have been developing their leadership skills and confidence as part of an innovative programme designed to empower and support young people.

The academy ran its first session of Prime Rise, Young Men’s Leadership Programme, delivered by external leaders and coaches, Richard Daley and Shardia Briscoe-Palmer, who have also led successful programmes at Stockland Green School. Tracey Peters, headteacher at John Willmott, has been working with Richard for over 20 years.

Richard said: “That was probably best first session we’ve ever had with a Year 8 boys group! It felt open from the start and this amazing group of young men showed incredible maturity. By giving them a voice away from the classroom, they can explore who they are and just what they are capable of. Students respond well to this approach, which has long reaching benefits to them and their schools.”

Students and staff are now looking forward to future sessions and the programme for female students has already started.

Shardia, who has worked with hundreds of young people across Birmingham, said: “We want to give young women a platform to explore some of the issues that may be affecting them; to develop their self-esteem and leadership and to discuss their feelings among their peer group. We want them to understand who they are and to feel positive, so they can go into the world as confident, empowered young women.”

Headteacher Tracey Peters said: “I’m very proud of this fantastic and considerate group of young men, who demonstrate real calibre as the leaders of tomorrow.

“Our learning community is committed to helping young people to grow and reach their full potential, as part of our key values of high standards, high expectations and huge aspirations.”

Wendy bids fond farewell to Scotch Orchard after 18 years

Wendy Harden, headteacher of Scotch Orchard Primary School for the last 18 years, was “speechless” when the school community surprised her with five days to remember, featuring assemblies, tributes, a whole-school flash-mob dance, street party and evening retirement celebration. VIP guests, including Bishop Michael of Lichfield and mayor cllr David Leytham, also joined in the celebrations.

Wendy, who has taught for more than 40 years, came to Scotch Orchard as school leader in 2000. She said: “It’s been an exceptional and emotional week and one I will never forget. I’m moved by the thought and effort that everyone has put in to make this week so special. I have so many wonderful memories and this adds to those magical moments that we are fortunate enough to experience as teachers.

Rise and shine - John Willmott students leadership programme

Ian Smith-Childs, headteacher, said: “What an inspirational young man, we are so proud of him. The whole Speakers Trust experience has helped to build the confidence of the year group.”

Congratulations to Arthur Terry and John Willmott students who competed in this year’s ‘Annual Schools Debating Competition’.

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More than 700 children from across seven primary schools in Sutton Coldfield visited Arthur Terry School as part of an annual cluster day event. The Four Oaks Cluster is a partnership of schools that work together to organise and deliver extended opportunities for children and families in the area. Every year, schools meet at Arthur Terry for a day of fun learning activities.

Arthur Terry welcomed pupils and staff from Coppice, Four Oaks Hill West, Little Sutton, Mere Green, Moor Hall and Whitehouse Common primaries.

This year, the theme of the Cluster Day was Keeping Safe and Staying Safe. This built on last year’s theme, which looked at emotional health and wellbeing.

Children in both year 5 and year 6 from across the cluster schools had sessions on Water Safety from the RLSS and West Midlands Fire Service, First Aid, delivered by a group of volunteer paramedics, animal safety, delivered by The Dogs Trust, and Street Safety, delivered by Crimestoppers.

Sue Bailey, assistant headteacher at Arthur Terry School and safeguarding lead for the ATLP, said: “Four Oaks Cluster continues to go from strength to strength. Our schools are close geographically and we work together to develop those connections and to provide more opportunities for children and families.”

“The children thoroughly enjoyed the day. They found out more about safety from dedicated professionals, met new friends and sampled life at secondary school. All of them are a real credit to their individual schools and our community.”

A big thank you to all those who made this another success and to the volunteers for their time and commitment to supporting and educating our local community.

Metro Mayor Andy Street and MP Andrew Mitchell visit Arthur Terry

By Alex Zarifeh

On Friday 13th July, Arthur Terry sixth formers were fortunate to meet and pose questions to local constituent MP, The Right Honourable, Andrew Mitchell and his Conservative colleague and inaugural West Midlands Combined Authority Mayor, Andy Street.

Politics, Business & Economics and Urban Geographers alike, were gripped by the former John Lewis boss’ plans to stimulate economic growth across the ‘Midlands Engine’.

Key priorities that Andy highlighted included making the most of the forthcoming HS2 project, 2000 Boris-esque bikes (with docking stations) soon coming to our city centre, a joined up approach to tackling homelessness and mental health needs and the urgent requirement for house building in particular, affordable starter homes.

Andrew Mitchell who helped arrange Andy Street’s visit, agreed that tackling inter-generational unfairness demands that we build homes by the hundreds of thousands but remained resolute that these should NOT be constructed on Sutton’s Greenbelt.

Rather Andrew recommended numerous brownfield sites ripe for development, post-decontamination, adding "Sutton Coldfield comes first, second and third".

The whole year group were able to hear from these two key democratic decision makers in the hall before a select number of students were able to ask more in-depth and probing questions in the boardroom.

Andy Street noted at the end of his visit that the questions were, ‘On the money’ and

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Andrew Mitchell added, ‘Arthur Terry students are incredibly bright and are always on the pulse of the agenda’.

Sixth formers joined Andrew Mitchell again in the final week of term at an Amnesty International Human Rights Debate.