

Easter

NEWSLETTER 2026



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WELCOME



Welcome to our end-of-term newsletter

As we approach the Easter break, it is a pleasure to reflect on what has been a productive and rewarding term.

We have enjoyed a rich variety of student events, including a tightly fought day of mathematical challenges for Years 6 and 8, showcasing teamwork, problem-solving and impressive determination. World Book Day once again brought our schools together in celebration of reading, and our Year 4 pupils had great fun taking part in Times Table Rock Stars activities.

Our Trust Services team also gathered for a valuable development day at The Queen Katherine School in Kendal - a fantastic opportunity to collaborate, share ideas and explore new ways to support our schools so that teachers can focus on what matters most: teaching and learning. I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to all colleagues who achieved their NPQH & NPQSL this term. This is a tremendous accomplishment and a testament to their dedication and leadership.

This term also saw our first Ofsted inspection at Petteril Bank under the new framework, with the report to follow shortly. Well done to all. My sincere thanks go to all staff for their commitment, professionalism and hard work in creating such positive learning environments. I am equally grateful to our dedicated governors, whose voluntary support, insight and challenge continue to be vital to our success. Looking ahead, we remain ambitious in our journey from good to great. Important steps have been taken this term, and we are excited about the opportunities ahead.

A personal highlight for me has been visiting our schools and seeing firsthand the enthusiasm and dedication of both staff and pupils. Their energy is inspiring, and it is clear that our trust continues to go from strength to strength. As always, I am incredibly grateful to everyone who works so hard across our schools.

I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved and restful Easter break.

Lorraine Hughes OBE,
Chief Executive

Follow Us

Stay up to date with CET by following us on social media. Click on the icons to connect!



Social Media Ban Debate

Students at Workington Academy are exploring the debate around a potential ban on social media apps for under 16s through a new podcast series on WA Radio. As part of the project, students have already interviewed Josh MacAlister OBE MP, Minister for Children and Families, and Will Gardner OBE, CEO of Childnet, with more guests planned as the series continues. The project gives students the chance to develop media and interviewing skills while engaging with a live national issue.

[READ MORE](#)

Primary Pupils Take on CET Maths Challenge

Pupils from across Cumbria Education Trust's primary schools recently came together at William Howard School for the annual CET Maths Challenge. A total of 48 Year 6 pupils, representing all 12 CET primary schools, took part in a day of fast-paced maths rounds including relay challenges, logic puzzles and quizzes that tested their problem-solving skills and teamwork. After a closely contested competition, Stramongate Primary School's team - the Stramongate Stars, took first place, with Yewdale Primary School and Castle Park School finishing second and third. The event was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to apply their mathematical thinking in a fun and collaborative environment.

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Outstanding result at National Hockey Finals

Kirkby Stephen Grammar School's U18 Girls' Hockey Team have achieved an outstanding result, finishing as runners up at the National Hockey Finals in Nottingham and securing a silver medal. The team reached the national stage after winning their district, county and regional competitions, before narrowly missing out in the final to finish second in the country. KSGS were the only state school to reach the finals and one of the smallest schools at the tournament, fielding the youngest squad with pupils from Years 10 to 13. A special congratulations also goes to Martha Bainbridge, who finished as the tournament's top goal scorer, alongside Head of PE Helen Paul and the whole team for representing the school and community so brilliantly.

[READ MORE](#)



Wellbeing Partnership Board

Last week we brought together representatives from each of our schools and the Trust for our very first Wellbeing Partnership Board workshop - and what an incredibly positive and special session it was.

The openness and honesty in the room was truly humbling. The discussions were insightful, meaningful, and a reminder of just how much our staff care - not only about the children they work with every day, but about each other.

A huge thank you to every single person who gave their time, shared their thoughts, and trusted us enough to open up. Your contributions are invaluable and will help shape the support we offer going forward.

Students join national RE discussion

It was a proud moment for the Trust as RE Ambassadors from The Queen Katherine School represented their school at a national discussion with Dr Vanessa Ogden, who is leading the Department for Education's Task and Finish Group exploring the future of Religious Education within the National Curriculum. Joining students from Okehampton School, the ambassadors spoke with real passion and insight, sharing thoughtful perspectives on why RE is essential, as well as the balance between depth and breadth in the subject and the importance of both local and global understanding of religion and worldviews. Their contributions will help inform discussions at the highest level, including with Bridget Phillipson.

The students were a credit to their school and the wider Trust, continuing to build on earlier successes, including presenting to trainee teachers and pupils from across the North West at a special event with Edge Hill University.

Would you make an inspiring teacher?

We are proud to partner with Ambition Institute, to deliver an exceptional Initial Teacher Training (ITT) provision across Cumbria. Transform your future and the lives of young people with expert-led, in-school teacher training.

- ✓ Qualify as a primary or secondary teacher in 12 months
- ✓ Minimum £30,000 starting salary once qualified
- ✓ Bursaries available in select subjects



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I've thoroughly enjoyed my time with CET so far. It's brilliant to see that the whole team are so passionate about what they do day to day. My induction last week provided a valuable foundation for my teacher training journey where I engaged in insightful conferences on inclusive practice, managing behaviour and starting the lesson. I'm looking forward to the year ahead and the opportunities that come with it!"

- Elliott, current ITT trainee



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Below is a few key highlights from each school this half term. Click on their logo to visit their website.

OUR PRIMARY SCHOOLS



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Below is a few key highlights from each school this half term. Click on their logo to visit their website.



OUR SECONDARY SCHOOLS



GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Local Advisory Boards (LABs)

We welcome the new LAB Chairs, Jon Silcock for Castle Park Primary School, and Joanna Gray for William Howard School. Both Jon and Joanna were already valued members of their respective LABs - congratulations to you both on your new roles!

A big thank you to our outgoing LAB Chair, Dr John Storr, who has been part of William Howard School's LAB since the very beginning of the Trust's journey in 2015. Over the years, John has served as Vice Chair before going on to hold the position of LAB Chair for the last seven years.

We would also like to thank Beth Billington, who steps down as LAB Chair for Castle Park Primary School. Beth brought invaluable experience to the role, having previously served as Chair of Governors before the school joined CET, and played a key part in ensuring a smooth transition into the Trust.

We are delighted that John and Beth will continue to be LAB members on their Local Advisory Boards.

We welcome new LAB members from January 2026

A warm welcome back to Ellen Mothersdale, who rejoins William Howard School as a member of the Local Advisory Board. Ellen was a valued member of the WHS Leadership Team for many years before taking an exciting new career opportunity, and we are delighted to have her back - this time in the role of LAB member.

A warm welcome to Antonette Falloon, who joins the Petteril Bank Local Advisory Board as a new LAB member. Ant is a self-employed HR Consultant with a genuine passion for the difference education can make to people's lives and to the communities around them.



Joanna Gray, William Howard, LAB Chair



Jon Silcock, Castle Park LAB Chair



Antonette Falloon, Petteril Bank LAB member

CET Annual Governance Conference, April 2026

We are looking forward to welcoming LAB members, Trustees, Members and our partners in Cumbria's Education sector to our Annual Governance Conference on 22nd April at the University of Cumbria, Carlisle.

The theme for the conference is "Every Child Achieving and Thriving" and we will welcome keynote speakers on Inclusion, Operational Excellence, Energy and Sustainability.

Join your school's governance and make a real difference!

Volunteering as a school governor offers a rewarding opportunity to make a significant impact on the education and development of young people.

You do not need to have a background in education; we seek governors from all walks of life. Your unique experience and perspective can bring valuable insights to a school.

We believe that being a governor is for everyone. Make a difference today.

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Click on the Recruitment Pack for more information

JOIN OUR TEAM

We are looking for talented individuals to join Cumbria Education Trust.

Explore the roles below and apply today! Join a forward-thinking trust, full of growth and excellent professional development opportunities.

Can't find a suitable job right now?

Join our Talent Pool and be alerted as soon as the role you are looking for becomes available!

[OUR CURRENT VACANCIES](#)

SHARE YOUR NEWS

At CET, we always want to publicise and celebrate success.

This includes students, parents, staff... everyone! Whether you are fundraising, have won an award or you want to raise awareness, we want to hear from you!

Send your news to marketing@cumbriaeducationtrust.org

KEY TERM DATES

Spring Term ends

Friday 27th March 2026

Easter Holidays

Monday 30th March to Monday 13th April 2026

Inset Day

Monday 13th April 2026

Pupils return to school

Tuesday 14th April 2026

Bank Holiday

Monday 4th May 2026

Half Term

Monday 26th May to Friday 29th May 2026

[TERM DATES](#)

You can view the rest of the key dates for next year, and each year up until 2028-2029 on our website.