

Winter 2025

CELT CONNECT



Cornwall
Education
Learning Trust

As 2025 draws to a close and the lights begin to glimmer across our towns and villages, I find myself reflecting—as I’m sure many of you do—on what an extraordinary year it has been across CELT. Every Christmas, we pause in the midst of our rushing world to notice the quiet, steadfast goodness that runs through our schools. This year, that goodness has shone brighter than ever.



Dan Mellow
Trust Leader, CELT

From the northern coast to the rolling moors and down to the southern harbours, our shared story has been one of care, courage and connection. Whether in classrooms, nurseries, or sixth forms, the same Cornish heartbeat pulses: a belief that every child matters, that community endures, and that learning can lift us all. We are more than a collection of schools; we are a family bound by purpose.

I have seen teachers who go the extra mile long after the bell, caretakers who keep our spaces safe and welcoming, and leaders who balance compassion with courage. In every CELT school, small miracles unfold daily—moments of laughter, breakthroughs in understanding, quiet kindnesses that rarely make headlines but make all the difference. To each of you: thank you. You embody the Cornish spirit of *onen hag oll*—one and all.

It has also been a year of growth and challenge. We’ve welcomed new colleagues and pupils, expanded opportunities, and deepened collaboration across our trust. Yet what gives me the greatest hope is that, even amidst pressures and change, our focus remains on the young people whose futures we shape together. They are watching us—learning from how we listen, how we lead, and how we care.

After 12 months as Trust Leader I want to say a big thank you to you all for being so welcoming, for listening and telling me with honesty and openness what needed to change. I think we have come a long way in that time and do not take for granted your hard work, support and dedication to enact those changes. I am so proud to serve you all and the schools and directorates you ensure do such exceptional work. My promise is to serve you, the learners and communities with integrity and compassion as we continue to transform lives, together.

As Christmas approaches, I hope you find time for stillness and for joy—moments spent with family, friends, and the landscapes that remind us who we are. Breathe the salt air, walk the cliff paths, and be proud of the difference you make each day.

On behalf of the CELT Board and leadership team, thank you for your unwavering commitment and your heart for Cornwall’s children. May the peace and light of this season be with you and those you love.

04 / NEWS FROM ACROSS OUR TRUST



A Week of Words and Wonder with Author Clare Helen Welsh

This term, we were lucky to welcome award-winning children's author Clare Helen Welsh to seven CELT schools as part of her author-in-residence roadshow.

Learners across the schools were treated to engaging assemblies and creative activities, where Clare shared insights into her stories, her writing process, and what it's like to be a professional author.

Throughout the week, Clare has been inspiring children to develop their own love of reading and writing, encouraging them to use their imaginations and have confidence in their ideas.

[Voice newspaper article](#)

Creating Harmony: The CELT Youth Orchestra

Secondary schools across our Trust have joined forces to form an exciting new youth orchestra. The CELT Youth Orchestra brings together talented musicians from Newquay, St Austell and Bodmin, each contributing their individual strengths to create a dynamic and cohesive ensemble.

This new collaboration celebrates the breadth of musical talent across CELT and reflects a shared commitment to enriching opportunities beyond the classroom.



[Read more](#)

Bodmin College students learn about the impact of knife crime

In November, Bodmin College hosted a special event to raise awareness of the impact of knife crime.

Learners had the opportunity to explore the new MIKES Trust website, experience the airport-style metal-detecting knife arch designed to reduce knife carrying, and listen to an incredibly powerful talk from Becky Dustan, co-founder of the MIKES Trust. Becky shared firsthand insights into the realities and serious consequences of knife crime, leaving a lasting impression on everyone who attended.



[Read more](#)



Pondhu Nursery Officially Opens

There were big smiles at Pondhu Primary School as learners, parents, carers and staff celebrated the official opening of the school's nursery.

Special guests, including Noah Law, MP for St Austell and Newquay, town councillors, and St Austell Mayor Colin Hamilton, joined families eager to see the new facilities.

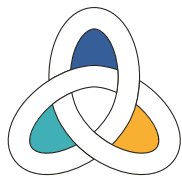


The nursery provides a caring and creative start to education for children aged two to four. Visitors explored bright classrooms and an outdoor play area, where the first group of youngsters were already enjoying story time and hands-on activities.

The £150,000 redevelopment was funded by the School-based Nursery Capital Grant, part of a national initiative to increase childcare places. MP Noah Law praised the project, highlighting its benefits for local families and children's development.



[Front page news](#)



FOWEY SAILORS

Learners from Fowey Primary School completed sailing training with the RS Tera Association.

Despite tricky conditions, learners rose to the challenge and competed in the Tera Open event.



ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Jack from Bodmin College won Athlete of the Year for Newquay and Par Athletics Club.

Jack was praised for his dedication, hard work and determination throughout the season.

WORLD CHAMPION

Yanna from Bodmin College competed in the World Championship of Martial Arts and came home with bronze, silver and gold medals!



“You can, you should, and if you're brave enough to start, you will.”
Stephen King



WRITING TALENT

Kayla from Bodmin College wrote an original creative writing piece that has been published in the Young Writers Anthology.



KARATE KID

Edie from Fowey Primary School represented Team England at the WMAC Karate World Championships in Hull. She achieved outstanding results, winning silver and bronze medals.

FOOTBALL SUCCESS

Jackson from Bodmin College has been selected for the U12s East Cornwall football squad.

Mally and Cohen were also successful in their trial and are part of the Under 13s East Cornwall squad.



BELLYBOARD CHAMPS

The 17th World Bellyboard Championships saw Newquay Junior Academy learners pick up the top spots.

Millie – Junior Girls World Champion!

Sophie - 3rd place

Harley – 2nd place



“Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen.”
Michael Jordan



EAST CORNWALL

Jake & Leo from Newquay Junior Academy were both selected to represent East Cornwall in football and travelled to Bath for their first tournament in November.

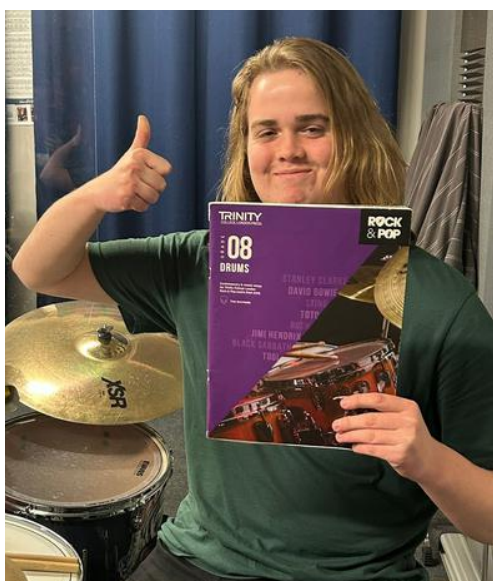
POPPY SHINES

Poppy from Bodmin College competed in the South West Artistic Gymnastics Championships and scooped 2nd place overall!



DANCING QUEEN

Samantha from Bodmin College won Unanimous Judges' Choice Award from all three judges at the 'So You Want to Dance' competition in Southampton in October.



DRUM ROLL FOR JAMIE

Jamie from Penrice Academy recently passed his grade 8 exam in drums - a fantastic achievement that requires a lot of hard work and dedication.

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”
Eleanor Roosevelt



GOLF SUCCESS

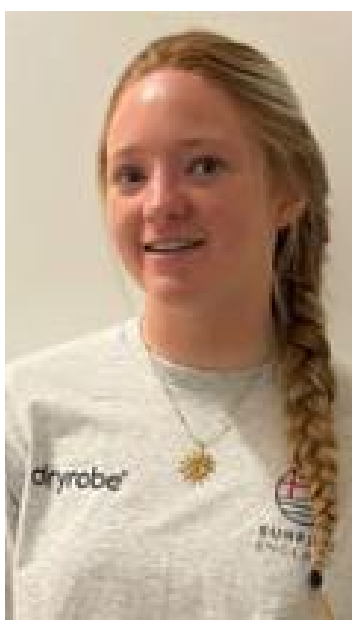
Alfie from Bodmin College has been selected for the England Golf regional South West coaching programme.

Alfie is one of only 10 young players to be selected for the elite coaching programme.



WORLD CHAMPION

Alex from St Mewan CP School competed in the WMAC World Martial Art Games - bringing home two bronze medals and a gold!



ENGLAND SURFING

Newquay Tretherras sixth form student, Willow, was selected to represent Team England at the ISA Junior Surf Championships in Peru this December.

Willow joined fellow student, Lila and a number of former Newquay Tretherras students in the England Team, which placed 15th in the world!



TUMBLING GOLD

India from Newquay Tretherras won gold in Tumbling at the South West Gymnastics Championships, held in Bristol.

10 / WHAT WE'VE LEARNT THIS TERM

This term, schools across Cornwall Education Learning Trust have embraced new learning experiences. With a focus on exciting classroom projects, creative arts and outdoor adventures, our children have been busy exploring, discovering and approaching new experiences with enthusiasm.



St Mewan CP School took part in UK Parliament Week, learning how democracy works in the UK and why every voice matters. Learners explored what Parliament does, the roles of MPs and Lords, and how laws are made.

Children engaged in hands-on activities, including writing their own manifestos on issues they care about, such as protecting the environment, and taking part in debates to practise sharing their views respectfully.



Year 7 learners at **Newquay Tretherras** thoroughly enjoyed an engaging visit from author Matt Oldfield, co-creator of the bestselling Ultimate Football Heroes series. Matt shared his passion for storytelling and football, inspiring learners to explore the joy of reading. Learners also gained an insight into the writing process and were encouraged to develop their own creative ideas and love of books.



WHAT WE'VE LEARNT THIS TERM

Year 5 and 6 at **Port Isaac Academy** explored the wonders of the blood and circulatory system in science!

To bring their learning to life, they headed outside and created a giant model using hoops and bean bags to represent the heart, lungs, digestive system and body.

Learners took on the role of blood - acting out its incredible journey.

An amazing hands-on way to understand how our bodies keep us going!



Severn Class from **Newquay Primary Academy** learnt about mining by visiting a real working mine. Learners were able to visit the dry and see the shafts where the men and ore would have gone up and down to the mine. They even got to talk to a real miner about their job.



To celebrate European Day of Languages, nursery children at **Pondhu Primary School** had a special visit from BilinguaSing Cornwall! They had so much fun learning to say hello and goodbye in Spanish, singing, dancing, counting with instruments, and finishing with lots of bubbles. The session supported key areas of the EYFS framework through music, movement and language, while introducing them to the joy of learning another language in a playful, engaging way.



Year 3 learners at **Carclaze CP School** have been learning to play the steel pans this term.

The music lessons have been provided by Cornwall Music Service Trust and have enabled learners to build confidence and nurture a love of performing.

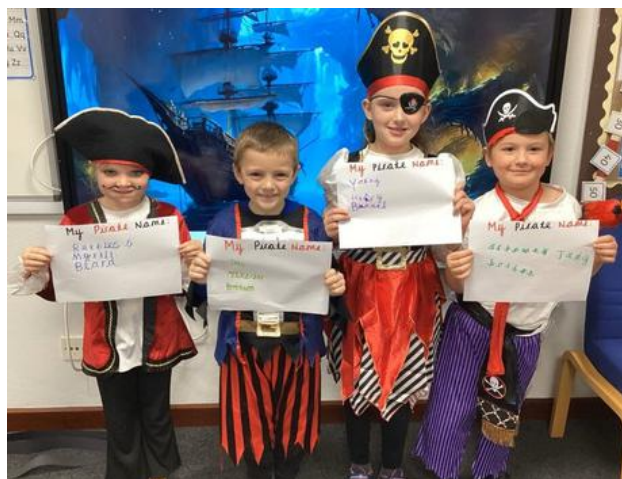
Parents and carers were treated to a special performance at the end of term and Year 3's upbeat rendition of Jingle Bells on the steel pans brought big smiles.

Learners demonstrated fantastic rhythm focus and teamwork throughout the performance.



Year 11 hospitality students at **Poltair School** have been receiving expert advice and support from Harbourtown Hospitality this term.

Learners have been picking up useful tips from the chefs, who visited their lesson to inspire them to consider a career in hospitality.



Ahoy, me hearties! **Mount Charles School** held a Pirate Day for years 1 and 2 to learn all about life as a pirate.

Learners made their own hats and flags, played Captain's Orders, and even tried some pirate grub while sitting under the tables to feel like we were aboard a ship!

The highlight of the day was a surprise delivery from a real pirate with a treasure map to follow!

Lostwithiel Primary School's Maple Class had an amazing and highly engaging experience at the Junior Life Skills workshops held at Bodmin Fire Station. Throughout the visit, learners took part in a range of practical, hands-on activities designed to help them develop important life skills and understand how to stay safe in everyday situations.

The children learnt how to help someone who is choking and were introduced to the basics of CPR, gaining valuable knowledge that could one day help save a life.

They also explored how to stay safe near railways and learned about the importance of online safety in today's digital world. To add to the excitement, pupils even had the opportunity to step into the role of community safety officers by handing out a few (mock) parking tickets. Overall, the workshop was both educational and enjoyable.



Year 8 learners from **Penrice Academy** spent a day being immersed in creativity and inspiration in St Ives! Learners explored the collections at the Tate Gallery and discovering the legacy of sculpture at the Barbara Hepworth Museum. The day was topped off with a hands-on art workshop hosted by the Salvation Army.





Newquay Junior Academy year 3 learners have been learning how a modern Hindu family might perform a Homa ritual at home. The children explored how offerings of food, ghee and incense are made into a small sacred fire, and how this links back to the practices of early Hindu farmers who gave gifts to the gods in hope of blessings.



Bodmin College students visited Oxford University this term to learn about university life and attend academic lectures.

Staying in the Exeter College halls of residence and enjoying breakfast in the Great Hall added to the experience; helping to inspire students to consider future university study.



Learners at **Fowey Primary School** have immersed themselves in Ancient Rome this term thanks to a special visit from 'The Blast From the Past'.

Children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 took part in interactive workshops and activities across two days to gain an insight into what life would have been like for a Roman Legionary soldier during the Roman Empire.

Ash Class at **Luxulyan School** visited the church in September as part of their RE lesson.

Reverend Chris spoke to the children about infant baptism. To help bring the lesson to life, the class brought along one of the RE dolls, Grace, and Rev. Chris demonstrated a baptism using her.



KS2 learners at **Mevagissey CP School** took part in engaging healthy eating workshops delivered in partnership with Cornwall Healthy Schools.

The sessions focused on making healthier choices when it comes to snacks and drinks.

Children explored a variety of food options and were surprised to discover just how much sugar can be hidden in some popular drinks. The workshops sparked thoughtful discussions and encouraged learners to think about what they consume each day.



A close-up photograph of a young boy with light brown hair and black-rimmed glasses, wearing a grey suit jacket and a red tie. He is playing a large, shiny silver tuba. The tuba's bell is large and flared, reflecting light. The boy's mouth is on the instrument's mouthpiece. In the background, other students and brass instruments are visible but out of focus. The text "CELT PERFORM" is overlaid in the bottom right corner.

CELT PERFORM



HITTING THE HIGH NOTES

In December, the CELT Orchestra met for its second rehearsal, this time hosted by Bodmin College.

Talented young musicians from across our secondary schools have formed this ensemble to help foster a musical community in mid-Cornwall.

One of the highlights has been seeing learners from across CELT supporting one another, sharing advice and celebrating each other's talent.

Mr Richards, Head of Performing Arts at Poltair School, said: "What an absolute joy to see the orchestra growing - not just musically, but as a community."



MATILDA THE MUSICAL

Brannel School's recent production of Matilda the Musical was a tremendous success, delighting audiences with a sell-out run and showcasing the incredible talent, creativity and dedication of everyone involved.



PORT ISAAC

Learners took part in Port Isaac's lantern parade to help celebrate the village's festive lights switch-on. Their handmade lanterns looked incredible thanks to local artists who came into school to lead a lantern-making workshop.



BODMIN COLLEGE

Work Skills students helped install over 60 Christmas Trees in St Petroc's Church ready for their Christmas tree festival and concerts. Along with members of the community, they brought the trees into the church and decorated them with lights.

BRANNEL SCHOOL

Brannel organised a Christmas meal for the Combined Cadet Force and service families. Staff and students volunteered to serve food and held a festive quiz. The event was supported by St Stephen-in-Brannel Parish Council and Reverend Paul Salaman.



MEVAGISSEY PRIMARY

The school hosted the community cafe, where learners had the chance to talk to members of the community and explore a collection of toys from the past.



POLTAIR SCHOOL

Poltair School hosted a careers fair for Brannel, Penrice and Poltair learners, attended by over 40 businesses and organisations. Hundreds of learners took the opportunity to speak to the exhibitors about career pathways, apprenticeships and further education.



EMPOWER

CARCLAZE

Year 5 learners have been sharing their writing with their classmates in the school's heart space.

This is helping them to build confidence, focusing on projection and articulation in their delivery.





TRETHERRAS

Year 11 students from Newquay Tretherras attended the Cornwall Construction Summit to gain hand-on experience, learn about apprenticeships and careers in the construction industry.

NEWQUAY PRIMARY

Following a visit from Healthy Cornwall, learners in Tamar class are feeling empowered to stay healthy by eating lots of fruit and vegetables - plus being open to trying new foods.



LUXULYAN SCHOOL

The school empowered its learners to perform at the annual St Austell Festival of Music and Speech.

Luxulyan also scooped the KS2 Primary School Choir trophy.

LOSTWITHIEL

Well done to Lostwithiel Primary School for receiving a national attendance award.

The school was amongst the top 10% in the country for school attendance in 2024/25.



National School Attendance Award

2024/25 Academic Year



Lostwithiel School

Top 10% of all FFT Primary Schools in England



NEWQUAY JUNIOR

Year 5 and 6 spoke confidently about their relationship with the Cornish coastline and what it means to them. They also had great fun getting to grips with the professional sound-recording equipment, taking on the roles of sound engineer and director in the coastal communities workshops.

PENRICE ACADEMY

Noah Law, MP for St Austell and Newquay, visited student parliamentarians at Penrice for a discussion about the needs of young people in Cornwall - helping to inspire our next generation of changemakers.



PONDHU PRIMARY

Pondhu's school parliament held it's very own state opening. Elected student MPs contributed to the Queen's speech and set out their priorities for the academic year. This is a fantastic first step into pupil leadership.



TRANSFORM

FOWEY PRIMARY

Learners transformed ordinary shoe boxes into a capsule of their summer holidays.

It was a very useful way for Mrs Walker to get to know the children, through learning about the pupils' hobbies and interests.



ST MEWAN

Learners helped to launch a new wildlife project at Charlestown Youth and Ladies FC. Children planted tree saplings that will transform the space to reduce soil erosion whilst creating vital habitats for wildlife.

MOUNT CHARLES

Sea Shell Class have been exploring the signs of autumn. The learners have loved collecting and investigating autumn treasures — and using them to create some amazing seasonal artwork.



FROM REJECTION TO AN OBE AND BEYOND

Floyd Steadman shares his inspiring journey — from growing up in care to captaining Saracens, becoming a headteacher, and helping to discover Maro Itoje — culminating in an OBE for services to rugby, education and charity.

**Wednesday
11 February
4.30pm – 6.00pm
Brannel School**

Refreshments and networking opportunities from 3.30pm

CHRISTMAS AT CELT

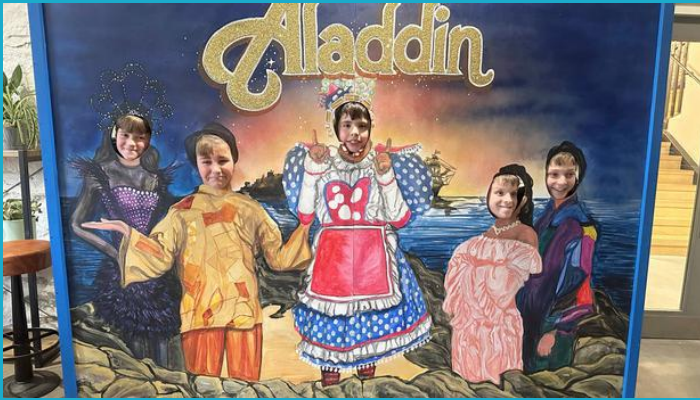




SANTA BY STEAM



28 / YEAR 7 PANTOMIME TRIP



CADET AND SERVICE FAMILIES MEAL

Brannel School hosted a Christmas meal for the Combined Cadet Force and service families. This was a team effort with support from St Stephen-in-Brannel Parish Council and the Rev. Paul Salaman.





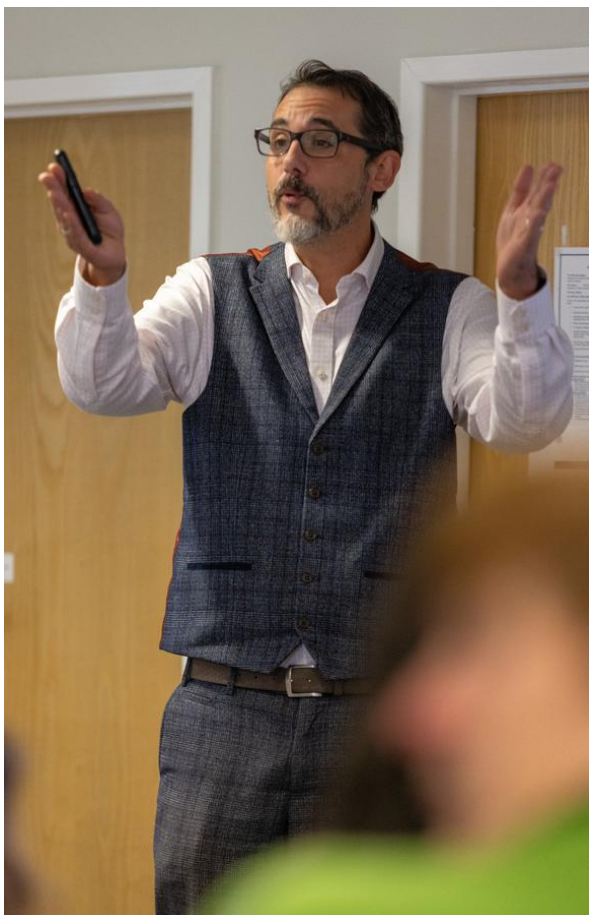
research  **ED**
Cornwall

Saturday 11 October 2025



"These events are so important for our profession, they nourish us, they keep us going, they build momentum because if we thrive then so will our students."

Hayley Bissenden,
Director of the Centre of
Excellence



"Change comes from days like today where we have professionals and colleagues from across multi-academy trusts and other areas, coming to make sure our staff have the very best information, development and opportunities."

Dan Morrow
Trust Leader

REMEMBRANCE DAY

On 11 November, our schools paused to honour and remember those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

Our schools held special assemblies and two-minute silences, they created thoughtful displays, poetry, and artwork - each school showed great respect and we are proud of the understanding and empathy our learners have shown in marking this important day of remembrance.





NADELIK LOWEN!