

# RISING STARS



**Bright Futures Newsletter**  
Spring 2017 Edition



## Welcome to the Spring 'Collaboration' edition of Rising Stars.

I am delighted to introduce our Spring edition of 'Rising Stars'. One of the great joys of my job is the overview I have of all the wonderful things that are going on in our schools and settings. I never cease to be impressed by our fantastic sporting achievements, our high standards in the creative and performing arts, the wealth of cultural trips, visits and adventurous activities, our innovative young entrepreneurs and, of course, the everyday high quality provision for the children, young people, families and communities that we serve. The outcomes that our young people achieve in examinations and national tests are very important; they are often the 'tickets' to further success in life, but they never tell the whole story.

To complement those results, we also want to develop young people who are confident, reflective, compassionate and resilient; people who will embrace lifelong learning and make a positive contribution as active citizens.

Being part of a fairly small multi-academy trust enables us to work closely together, sharing those ideas and approaches that are just too good to keep to yourself. The more complex the challenges we face, the more important it is to draw on our collective expertise and resources to find the solutions. This includes working with partners beyond the trust so that we remain open and connected. The work of our Teaching School Alliance, the Maths Hub and our school centred initial teacher training are great examples of this kind of deep, productive collaborative working. The best of our collaborative working is always reciprocal; working



together well brings benefits for all those involved.

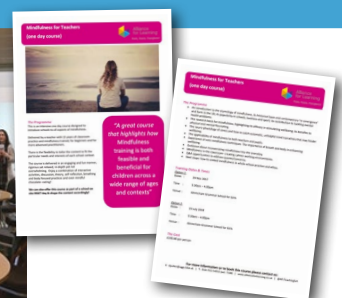
'Rising Stars' is a great celebration of just some of the rich and varied opportunities for learning that our children and young people are able to access, thanks to the dedication of all our staff and governors - and the talents, enthusiasm and commitment of our children and young people and all those who support them.

**Dr John WM Stephens CBE**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Bright Futures Educational Trust

## Teaching School takes a lead on Wellbeing

Our Teaching School 'Alliance for Learning' has delivered a hugely successful mental health package to all Warrington secondary schools. This has led to fundamental changes and sustainable improvements for young people. The project was so well received it has resulted in a further primary school commission. There are significant, complex challenges for everyone working in education and The Alliance for Learning is committed to helping all the schools improve the health of their children and young people.

With this in mind, The Teaching School is offering a 'Mindfulness for Teachers' one day course. Providing an introduction to the etymology of mindfulness, its historical basis and contemporary re-emergence, the course will look



at how to apply mindfulness, to teachers and pupils. A range of techniques will be taught, with guidance on how to create calmer working environments and how to embed mindfulness.

There is also a 'Teachmeet' to collaborate and share innovation, with the theme of health and wellbeing, to be held in July.

**For further information please contact The Teaching School or look on the new website, [www.allianceforlearning.co.uk](http://www.allianceforlearning.co.uk)**



## A Robot Triumph

South Shore Academy students were recent victors after being chosen from 196 schools across the country to take part in The Tomorrow's Engineers EEP Robotics Challenge. This national robotics challenge at the iStem College in Preston saw students involved in "space missions"; 18 teams were challenged with real-world engineering, technology, robotics and computing conundrums.

Congratulations to the South Shore students who were winners of the Project Presentation section, in which they developed a winning response to 'How can robots help humans explore?'. Well Done.

## Lake District Residential

In February, a group of pupils from Rushbrook Primary, Stanley Grove Primary and Cedar Mount Academy went on a residential trip to Ghyll Head in the Lake District. During their stay they enjoyed canoeing, zip-wiring and a night walk, amongst other activities. The children worked really well in teams, shouting instructions to the children behind to guide them in their walking, advising how to make the best rafts - and boosting each other's confidence along the way. New friendships and alliances were made during the truly collaborative trip.



## 'Just Joshing' - an anti-bullying collaboration

As part of Marton's ongoing anti-bullying programme, children from Y1 - Y6 joined forces with the Firehorse Travelling Theatre Company, to take part in a production of 'Just Joshing'.



The play involved thought-provoking audience participation, as the characters continually confided in the children and ultimately, it was audience who decided whether a situation was bullying, or whether it was (as the bully claimed), 'Just Joshing'. Firehorse is a leading production company that uses theatre and drama for educational purposes, creating memorable shows that tackle relevant issues. Their performances led to very empathetic responses from the pupils.

## Melland BBC News Report

On the 15th March Melland High School successfully broadcasted its BBC School News Report 2017. This is the fifth year that the school has participated in this fantastic project. The Media Crew has worked really hard



throughout the year, gaining the skills needed to produce a high quality report. Not only is this a great opportunity for Melland pupils to contribute news items, it allows the Media Crew to put what they have learnt towards their City & Guilds qualification in Video Production Qualification.





# World Book Day Celebrations

The 2nd March was World Book Day, and schools all over the UK took part in the celebrations. The team at Connell Sixth Form College marked the event by dressing up as their favourite literary characters and then taking part in a short story competition. Stories could be six words long, 140 characters long (a short and tweet story), or 100 words or less. Congratulations to the winners, Ibukun Ayanlere, Elizabeth Bisuga and Nicole Alderson - and to everyone who took part in such a creative celebration.



Altrincham Girls' Grammar School, meanwhile, used World Book Day to raise funds for the library, with

students following the theme of 'fandom'. Everyone dressed up as their favourite book character, film or



sports character or celebrity, meaning a wide and varied array of costumes took part in the fundraising!

## Mile a Day at Stanley Grove

The staff and students at Stanley Grove all started the 'mile a day' initiative last week. Children spend ten minutes on the pitch challenging themselves to travel further each day. This is not competitive and isn't about winning or losing, but socialising, increasing fitness levels and improving concentration once returned to class. Pupils and teachers are all feeling energised and really enjoying the new initiative, which sees everyone walk a mile a day - even parents have the chance to join in the fun.



## Melland welcomes Paralympian

Melland welcomed an Olympic athlete this term, as the school opened its doors to Beverley Jones, the Welsh Paralympian. Beverly won a bronze medal at the 2006 Commonwealth Games and took part in four Summer Paralympics, from 2000 to 2012. Her visit included a range of activities at the school as well as an inspirational talk to staff and students, as part of Sports for Champions - a programme which aims to inspire the children of today to be champions of tomorrow.

## Connell students create an App

Georgia-Leigh Wheeler and Sina Taavon from Connell Sixth Form College have created 'DONATEit', an

app which allows you to quickly share your unwanted household goods with charities, who can then use them, or sell them to raise funds. Their idea won the Sustainable Communities Category at the national Apps for Good Awards after they presented their idea to a range of judges, including international tech CEOs and journalists. The app is now available to download. Bravo!





## AGGS Careers Convention 2017

Wednesday, 8th March saw the return of the AGGS biennial Careers Convention. The evening had a real buzz to it with 60 representatives taking part, including companies such as Aldi, Barclays, KPMG, Pozzoni, Myerson Solicitors and many more. Representatives from Russell Group universities, colleges and apprenticeship schemes were on hand to offer advice on their courses and application processes. The event provided an excellent opportunity for pupils to explore different career options and to attend talks from marine science, law, sports psychology and radiotherapy.

The event celebrated National Careers Week and International Women's Day with all female contingents attending from engineering and construction companies.

## South Shore's Community Class

South Shore Academy's Annual Basic IT Course started in February with approximately 15 learners signed up from the local community. The course is run in partnership with Blackpool Council and strengthens the case for the school being a hub for the local area. The course is run over a 10 week period and when it is completed, all the learners will have the basic skills and understanding needed to feel more confident on a computer.



## Gorton's Got Talent

Rushbrook Primary Academy has been auditioning for 'Gorton's Got Talent' over the last few months. Several acts from the school have been chosen and are going to perform alongside pupils from Stanley Grove, Cedar Mount and Melland High School. They have worked hard perfecting their acts during rehearsals with Miss Asbery and Miss Price - the culmination of all their hard work was the Grand Performance on Wednesday 29th March. This is a great example of collaboration between our Trust schools - well done everybody taking part.

## Cedar Mount Academy and Manchester Museum

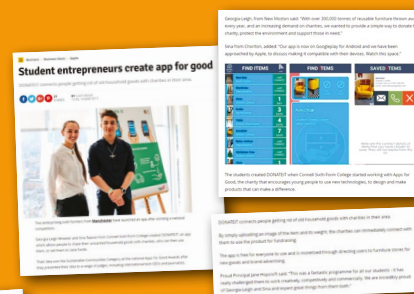
Staff and students at Cedar Mount Academy have been working on a year-long collaboration with Manchester Museum. This started last September, when a class of KS3 students took part in the museums 'Art of Identity' project as part of the Start programme funded by Children and the Arts.



The project has been ongoing since then and concludes this July. Pupils involved have focused on creating a cross-schools collaborative piece of artwork, examining the identity of South Asia - with the chance to work with an artist inspired by this part of the world. It is great to see our students help to shape the galleries for the future.

## In The Media

The launch of DONATEIT was covered by the Manchester Evening News.



Our new CEO was listed in the 'Movers and Shakers' column of Schools Week.

Gary Handforth's article on collaboration driving improvement was published in SMT Magazine.

