

RISING STARS



Bright Futures Newsletter
Spring 2019 Edition



I'm never sure who to attribute this aphorism to. It is claimed to be an African proverb, but wherever it comes from I think there's a lot of truth in: 'If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together'. We live in a time of instant gratification. For all the wonderful things that digital technologies have brought, the desire always to 'go fast' occasionally trips us up and adds to the risks of poor communication and people feeling left out of the loop. Whenever we leave people out, we are reducing the potential for success.

This is why it's so good to see in this edition of 'Rising Stars' the diverse range of excellent, productive partnership working in which we're involved across

the trust. Some of those partnerships are strategic and well-established, such as our work with Youth Sport Trust, the Diane Modahl Sports Foundation, universities, businesses, health and social care services. Just as important, however, are those local arrangements where we engage with organisations that work within the communities that we serve and bring new perspectives, approaches and a wider understanding of our students and their families.

'Community' is one of our core values at Bright Futures. Working well together for a common purpose will not always be the easiest path and certainly isn't the fastest. It does, however, enable us all to go far, regardless of our starting points. As the many examples included



in this edition demonstrate, working with others brings new horizons, different perspectives, added strength and greater energy to all that we are trying to do.

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

Winning with wellbeing and sport

We have been partnering with the Youth Sport Trust (YST) since 2015 and are delighted to announce that this term, several of our students and staff were recognised at the organisation's annual conference in Coventry.

Stanley Grove won the Outstanding Primary School PE Award, while Cedar Mount was presented with the Highly Commended Award in the Outstanding Secondary Schools' PE category - Altrincham Grammar School for Girls was also shortlisted for its Outstanding PE and Sport offering.

Lisa Fathers, Director of Teaching School & Partnerships here at BFET, was given the award of 'Innovation Partner', recognising the breadth of her partnership work and impact of



the Greater Manchester Mentally Healthy Schools Programme, which she helps drive.

Finally, Cedar Mount student Ashkan Muradi was shortlisted for the Young People Award, thanks to his continued commitment to promoting physical and mental health and wellbeing amongst his peers.

Ali Oliver, Chief Executive of the Youth Sport Trust, commented: "BFET has demonstrated a huge commitment to supporting young people to be healthy, both physically and mentally."

Well done, everyone!

Healthy visitors

Our trust welcomed some prestigious overseas guests this month, as a delegation from Helgerson Solutions Group and New York State Partners came to Cedar Mount.

The purpose of the visit was to look at how we can all transform our health and care systems by looking at the roles different organisations play in making sure people have better health: through great pre-natal care, good early years settings and successful school careers, delivered alongside stable housing and strong employment, social and cultural opportunities.

The ultimate aim is proactive prevention and it was great to welcome our partners as part of their overall visit to Manchester for the World Healthcare Congress that took place the same week.





Young Carers' Awareness Day

Marton Primary has recently taken part in a creative fancy dress and photography event, joining several other schools and businesses to help raise money for young carers in the Blackpool area.



There are around 10,000 young carers in the UK, between the ages of five and seven, according to the most recent Census. More than 80% of them are carrying out caring duties every day or most days of the week.

Awareness and vital funds were raised by schools and organisations who took part. Well done Marton.



Multi-language Manchester poetry event led by Stanley Grove

Stanley Grove has partnered with a number of cultural organisations and over 20 other Manchester schools this term, to lead a multi-language, cross-channel poetry performance.

'Manchester's Multi-Language Mushaira' was linked with Manchester Library Service, Manchester Metropolitan University, the University of Manchester and the Whitworth Art Gallery - and followed the theme of food.

This was a fantastically diverse and

fun project, culminating on 21st February - UNESCO's International Mother Language Day. Poetry pods in city centre locations uploaded photographs and films of the young people reading their poems. Professional poets performed some of them along with their own work - to an audience sitting on giant picnic rugs, under a 'poetry sky' at Longsight Library - raising funds for local foodbanks in the process.

What a way to celebrate the written word!

CMA goes to uni



Year 10 CMA students have been sampling university life this term, thanks to GM Higher - visiting The Universities of Oxford and Leeds in recent weeks. They met with heads of admissions, top research students and industry professionals as well as taking in campus and accommodation tours, to gain genuine insights into student life.

These visits are a fantastic opportunity and we know they have a huge bearing on our young people's futures - they help inspire them in their work and decisions.



Sport England Partnership

The Alliance for Learning has been commissioned by Sport England as part of a £13.5m teacher training programme to help foster a more positive attitude to physical education across the northwest.

The teaching school will be working with over 50 schools across the region, providing specialist training, mentoring and events that will help educational providers tackle the lack of physical health amongst young people.

The focus of this project is to provide resources to target the least active pupils in schools, to help make PE a positive experience for all.



World Book Day

A mention must go to everyone across the trust, who made a real effort for World Book Day in March. The costumes get better every year, with fantastic literary events, visits and prizes across all our schools. Bravo, everyone!



Police visit to Marton

We are always delighted to team up with those providing essential local services to our academies - one example is the Blackpool South Neighbourhood Policing Team, who came into Marton at the end of February. The pupils have been learning about people in the community who can help, and the guests really brought to life a range of policing duties and activities.

Melland National Careers Week

Melland partnered with a whole host of professional career mentors this term, to celebrate National Careers Week. As well as applying for - and securing - some invaluable work experience, the students welcomed staff representing a vast range of local businesses, who gave insights and advice about working in their industries. Presentations and workshops were held looking at catering, gardening, recycling, arts, transport, first aid, medicine, construction and care, to name a few. It was an invaluable experience for all the students and staff.

Rushbrook at Ghyll Head

Rushbrook students have had a fantastic trip to the Lake District, travelling to Ghyll Head on the banks of Lake Windermere for an outdoor educational experience that crammed a lot in. Canoeing, climbing, camping, hiking... just some of the activities that were enjoyed. A great trip.



Anna comes to AGGS

As part of the trust's involvement in the Greater Manchester Mentally Healthy Rapid Pilot, athlete Anna Fitzpatrick came to AGGS recently, to work with a group of students from Year 10 on a project called Moving Minds. This aims to help students build confidence, manage physical and emotional wellbeing and achieve their potential in school and in life. The programme uses physical activity to reduce the stress and anxiety of pupils to support improvements in academic attainment, and to increase understanding of stress and anxiety disorders affecting young people - and the role of being active as a mechanism for reducing their prevalence.

The day was a great success.



Duke of Edinburgh

A big 'well done' to all the South Shore Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh students, who were taken on a trip to Ascent Park in recognition of their commitment over the last six months. Lots of trampolining fun was had.



AGGS wins

AGGS' Year 9 netball team was crowned Trafford Champions in March, having beaten nearby Loreto in the final, while the Year 11 hockey team retained its county cup. The K34 first badminton team are through to the National Finals after winning their NW Regional Round. Three great results!



Melland victors

Melland students brought back bronze, silver and gold medals when they competed in the North City Leisure Centre's Swimming Gala. Fantastic news.



In the media

The Rochdale press reported on our Shanghai maths visitors.

Teaching specialists provide masterclass

ROCHDALE students are getting treated to a masterclass from Shanghai teachers. The visit is part of a programme of teaching specialists to provide the Rochdale Academy of Learning with expertise in teaching and learning. The visit is part of a programme of teaching specialists to provide the Rochdale Academy of Learning with expertise in teaching and learning. The visit is part of a programme of teaching specialists to provide the Rochdale Academy of Learning with expertise in teaching and learning.

Northwest multi-academy trust wins national wellbeing awards

A northwest multi-academy trust is celebrating after winning a series of awards for wellbeing. The trust is celebrating after winning a series of awards for wellbeing. The trust is celebrating after winning a series of awards for wellbeing. The trust is celebrating after winning a series of awards for wellbeing.

The YST Awards were covered by some of the northwest's leading business media titles.



New government funding for STEM teachers paid internships

The Alliance for Learning's STEM funding was covered by Warrington and wider northwest media channels.

Case study: Putting mental wellbeing on a par with physical health

Research by the Alliance for Learning (2018) shows that mental health is a significant issue for schools. The Alliance for Learning is working to ensure that mental health is given the same level of attention as physical health. The Alliance for Learning is working to ensure that mental health is given the same level of attention as physical health.

SECED published an article by Lisa Fathers on the importance of wellbeing.

Gary Handforth's piece on performance reviews was published on TES.com.

AGGS student Eleanor Horner was featured in the Manchester Evening News for her road safety campaign, while another AGGS student, Nishi Uggalle, won the Channel 4 'Child Genius' programme and featured across the national press.



Eleanor Horner, a 13-year-old student at Altrincham Grammar School for Girls, started a petition because she says most pupils who walk to school struggle to cross the A56 near St Margaret's Church.

South Shore celebrate

Congratulations also go to South Shore's Year 7 girls' football team, who were crowned Blackpool Schools Champions. Well done!



British Science Week

This term has seen British Science Week have quite an impact on our staff and students.



Budding scientists at CMA dissected lungs and eyes, made slime, wrote about potion-making, took part in educational trips and welcomed Manchester University, who hosted a Flash Bang Extravaganza for CMA and Rushbrook pupils.



At South Shore meanwhile, the entire Science Lab was quarantined thanks to an 'Outbreak Simulation' and Marton Primary went along to learn all about infectious diseases. Melland students visited Manchester University to take part in their science fair and take part in pharmaceutical workshops and Stanley Grove students dressed up and carried out a series of lively experiments.

It was lovely to see our trust schools partner up to share the educational fun.