

RISING STARS



Bright Futures Newsletter
Spring 2020 Edition



Whenever we hold induction meetings for new staff we pose a question about the benefits of being part of a multi-academy trust. Invariably the responses include the opportunities that being in a group of schools provides for people to share – ideas, resources and professional knowledge. For me, mutual support should be a feature of every multi-academy trust. When one school is particularly successful it reflects well on us all. Likewise when any of our colleagues – within BFET or not - are facing difficulties, it is for us all to offer what we can to help out.

There has perhaps never been a more pressing time to appreciate the benefits of working together and providing mutual support. If the

COVID-19 pandemic teaches us anything it is that we are all dependent on others to help us succeed and to sustain our successes. We each have different and complementary strengths. Bringing people and organisations together in a common purpose for good always makes our efforts stronger and more impactful.

It's so encouraging to read the many examples of our schools working collaboratively with others, strengthening our sense of community and remaining outward-looking and connected. Achieving the best for everyone, the best from everyone is not something we can do by ploughing our own narrow furrows. By joining our efforts together creatively, supporting



and learning from each other, the outcomes will always be greater than the sum of the parts.

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

Youth Sport Trust Awards

The Youth Sport Trust (YST) is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year - and representatives from BFET were delighted to support this fantastic national charity this term, as it celebrated at its National Conference.

All of our academies have been members of the YST for over four years. In that time our schools have built on their PE provision, gained School Games Quality Marks/Youth Sport Trust Quality Marks, sent students to the 'Step into Sport Camps', had athlete visits, benefited from the GM Mentally Healthy Schools programme/Lancashire Active Lives and much, much more. The Teaching School has YST on the board of strategic partners and through the SCITT we have run various CPD courses with them along with our PE & Sports Hub, led by the AGGS PE team.

It was an inspiring evening and to make it even more special, our two Blackpool schools were recognised in the prestigious awards that were held at the end of the event.

Maxims Korcagins, 8, from Marton, was brought onto the stage and given runner-up in the 'Outstanding Young Person award' for his passion for Sport and PE. He champions the benefits of an active lifestyle and personifies the school learning powers of perseverance, resilience and collaboration, with constant charm and an unwavering determination to encourage everybody he meets to try a new sport. Well done Max!



South Shore then WON the award for Outstanding Community Contribution through PE & Sport. The last few years have seen an amazing journey for this PE department and this award follows a "Good judgement" in Personal Development in Ofsted and a Silver Award Youth Sport Trust Quality Mark.

We all know that the impact of PE departments in school go well beyond their subject: the impact on ethos and culture in all our schools is always a pleasure to see. As a trust we believe there is nothing more important than the health and happiness of our students and in a world that is becoming more sedentary, we know that PE & Sport is part of the solution.

Well done to everyone involved - we are so proud.



In memory of Annika

A beautiful owl now sits in the garden of AGGS. This fantastic tree sculpture was created in memory of student Annika Cornell who sadly died in July 2019. Annika was a very valued part of the school family community and is greatly missed by everyone.

THIS IS ME-lland!

Communication of all forms is so important - and this was highlighted to the BFET Executive Team and the BFET Principals recently, thanks to a fantastic performance by Melland students.

Using 'This is Me' from The Greatest Showman, A1 students were supported by staff as they showcased their developing communication and singing skills in the recently upgraded Melland Multimedia Studio.

All pupils took on a character from the film and gave their own individual interpretation of the song and its messages, through a range of performances including juggling, tightrope walking and lifting weights as they sang.

This performance delivered on all of the above and perfectly encapsulated the message of the film and the ethos of our Trust - working together to get the best for everyone and from everyone.

Well done, Melland!

Rushbrook Breakfast Club



Rushbrook Primary Academy welcomed Greggs and Stagecoach to help launch its breakfast club this term. Both organisations contribute with morning meals and refrigeration for food, for up to 120 school children each day.

There is a huge amount of staff goodwill and this has been really appreciated.

Thanks to both Greggs and Stagecoach for their support!



Melland and Marcus Rashford deliver care packages to Manchester's homeless

Melland students and staff have been taking part in an initiative to support the homeless, delivering care packages to those in need as part of a national campaign.

'Care and Share' invites groups of people to support the homeless all over the UK and Melland was delighted to

get involved, through the school's work with The Leonard Cheshire Organisation towards a City and Guilds Certification in Building Communities.

They teamed up with Manchester United player Marcus Rashford for his 'In the Box' project and each pupil prepared a care box containing essential items to help combat the winter conditions. They also wrote messages of goodwill to include in the parcels.

Granada Reports filmed the work, which saw the Melland students develop a real understanding of the community and the importance of helping others, while working on their key skills of teamwork, communication and gaining confidence.

A fantastic campaign - our Trust is very proud of all involved.

Don't Dis My Ability

Schools Alive saw 2,000 pupils from Blackpool schools perform hundreds of songs and dances, play in bands and orchestras and enjoy a fantastic introduction to live performances at the prestigious Grand Theatre.

Marton Primary school pupils were delighted to take part in this initiative which is held every year and receives rave reviews.

Their performance was entitled Don't Dis My Ability - a music and dance performance that looked at travel around



the world and involved some brilliant singing and dancing including a rousing dance routine in wheelchairs - all with the hugely important message of never giving up and creating brilliance by supporting each other. Well done on a standout performance, Marton. 'Each of us a single note, together we create a masterpiece'.



Raising funds for global causes - and setting new world records!

Last year, we shared the news that the entire staff and student community at Altrincham Grammar School for Girls had held a fund-raising game of musical bumps, and that they hoped to break the world record for the largest game ever held.



And now, we are delighted to advise that AGGS has officially been named the world record holder for the largest game of musical bumps! Over 1330 individuals took part, smashing the existing record by over 400 people.

The game was held to support The Ocean Clean Up Campaign, which aims to tackle the 1,000 most polluting rivers, responsible for around 80% of the ocean plastic pollution, before the end of 2025. Every penny counts so we are delighted to announce that the school raised over £1,700 for this cause which is wholeheartedly supported by our eco-conscious students. A great charity to get behind and a wonderful way to all work together. Bravo!

(Image courtesy of Guinness World Records)

Marton Buddy system

Supporting one another is the order of the day at Marton thanks to the school's new buddy system.

PALS stands for Playground Activity Leaders and is a scheme that has been set up to support and encourage children to play in a safe and enriching environment - supervised by Marton Staff and trained leaders and led by Blackpool FC Community Trust.

The programme uses the Premier League Primary Stars values to develop key life skills so that pupils can become a coach/leader and deliver games/activities for younger pupils. The aim is to improve the confidence in leadership and develop key qualities such as communication and teamwork.

After training by the Community Trust, sessions began at the school, running every day on the KS1 and KS2 playgrounds as well as on the field during fine weather. Even in the short time it has been running, it has had a really positive effect. The Marton Buddies are developing their skills and are already demonstrating a growing confidence as leaders and they work really well collaboratively to ensure other children have a happy, safe and fun-filled lunchtime experience. This is so valuable for all involved and the impact has been fantastic - evaluation has shown that 94% of pupils feel their confidence has improved from week one to week six. Great stuff!



Melland Careers Week

Melland welcomed a whole host of fascinating visitors this term as part of the hugely successful National Careers Week, which takes place to show students the range of opportunities and support students as they start to think about their future.

The event involved employer-led talks, careers-based class activities, off-site visits, practical demonstrations and networking events, with visitors from organisations as

varied as Northern Rail, GM Police, Autotrader, Astrazenica and Mersey TV, to name a few.

Students enjoyed visits to Aerozone at Manchester airport, HOME theatre and ALL FM.

Lessons were based around a variety of sectors including construction, manufacturing, horticulture, creative media, graphics and hair and beauty – and interviews, discussions and speed networking events were held.

The week culminated with celebrations for all the hard work of the students – awards were given for developing and demonstrating employability skills, for communication, problem solving, team-work, confidence and being employees of the week.

Careers week was a huge success - a huge bravo to the whole careers team and all staff and contributors for creating an amazing and inspiring experience for all the young people.

School trips with Stanley Grove

Pupils from Stanley Grove Primary Academy have enjoyed a number of fantastic school trips already this year. For example, Year 6 children were taken to the world-famous John Rylands Library on Deansgate, central Manchester, where they were given a tour of the Harry Potter-esque interiors and took part in a number of reading activities and debates. Year 5 pupils, meanwhile, took a trip back to Tudor times with a visit to Ordsall Hall in Salford. This fantastic old building is more than 750 years old and some of the oldest parts of the building were built as early as the 13th century. Visiting the house really brings history to life and the children enjoyed a great deal of activities, most popular of all being a huge wedding feast! We love to see the children from across our Trust enjoy trips like these, as they really support young people in their learning journey.



(Image courtesy of great days.co.uk)



Maths success for AGGS

Two teams from year 10 at AGGS competed in the Year 10 Maths Feast competition organised by the AMSP (Advanced Mathematics Support Programme), which was held in March at the University of Manchester. It was a great event with 22 teams from multiple schools from around Greater Manchester. Both of the AGGS teams were placed in the top four. That's not all - AGGS also came 2nd out of 29 teams in the UKMT team challenge held at the University of Manchester in March. Well done all!



Amazing trips for CMA

Cedar Mount Academy Students have been on some fantastic excursions this term. For example, the Humanities team took students to Leeds for International Women's Day, visiting the University and Leeds City Museum. The scholars had a campus tour of Salford Uni as part of Science Week and the Performing Arts students took to the West End for a weekend to see Matilda and take part in dance workshops at Pineapple Studios. These trips are such wonderful experiences for everyone, huge thanks to families and carers for supporting them.

PSHE/Sex & Relationships Bid Success

We are thrilled that our teaching school has been awarded DFE funding to deliver training and peer support to up to 200 secondary schools in preparation for the compulsory changes to the RSHE curriculum.

The programme will include the development of teaching materials, support contacts being created

and teaching staff developing their skills, knowledge and confidence in delivering the new curriculum. Our PSHE SLE team are fully involved in the planning.

We have also partnered with Jigsaw a PSHE CPD provider to ensure we have a wealth of high quality resources to draw from. Contact Lisa Fathers if you wish to discuss this new work stream.

More details to follow in summer term but you may wish to visit the guidance here: <https://bit.ly/2ykr8Vn>



Mindful Me

Health and wellbeing is of huge importance to us and it is wonderful to see this being made a priority across all our academies.

Stanley Grove recently held Mindful Me sessions for children in Years 1 through to 6, which explained in a

child-friendly way what it means to be mindful. The sessions included activities to stay mindful, talking about feelings, looking at relevant websites, practicing breathing and body-scanning exercises, and tuning into senses by wearing blindfolds. The sessions were hugely enjoyable and very positive for all involved.

CMA BRAVE

All year groups at CMA were given a hugely insightful visit this term, when Malik & Luke from BRAVE charity came in to speak about the impact of extremism and gang exploitation. Both speakers are ex-gang members and delivered a hard hitting workshop about the realities of life associated with drugs,

gangs, extremism, county lines and crime. Their stories were moving and gave students an insight into the catastrophic impact this has on families and them as an individual. Staff and students' feedback was fantastic and we would like to thank Malik and Luke for their engaging, emotional and absorbing stories and support to young people throughout Greater Manchester.

Student Leaders plan trust event

We have teams of student leaders across all our academies - and this term, up to four student leaders from each school met with Lisa Fathers and Gary Handforth (BFET Executive Team). Students shared good practice from their own schools in terms of students leadership and will work together to plan a student trust-wide event. It was wonderful to see students working together in such a supportive way.

In the media

Our own Lynette Beckett, Director of HR and Strategy, gave great advice in TES on how to make an application form stand out when applying for work in the education sector.



Our Women in Leadership Day made the regional press.

The Greater Manchester Mentally Healthy Schools and Colleges Programme, which is a collaboration led by The Alliance for Learning alongside other partners, has generated lots of media interest, thanks to a series of school visits from sporting heroes.



MAT engagement was the subject covered in the latest issue of Governing Matters, with comments provided by our Finance Director Edward Vitalis.

