

RISING STARS



Bright Futures Newsletter
Summer 2019 Edition



A few years ago I read an excellent book by the American journalist James Surowiecki called 'The Wisdom of Crowds'. The author makes a powerful argument for the power of collective wisdom over that of the individual, no matter how clever and ingenious any one person may be. Whenever I have a really important decision to make, I always seek the views of others. I know that the decision may be down to me in the end, but I like to inform what I'm going to do with the perspectives of others.

Some of the happiest times that I've spent in any job that I've done have been when I have felt part of a great team. No matter how hard the challenges, they are always easier to face with a strong, loyal, honest and reliable team around you. We see so many great examples of good teamwork across Bright Futures.

Students and staff supporting and challenging one another help us all to make progress.

It has been great this term to celebrate so many examples of people working effectively together, whether that's through Duke of Edinburgh Awards, sporting events, musical ensembles, drama, dance or academic, community and citizenship pursuits. We are always stronger when we are together. Nowhere is that better illustrated than through the work of our 'system leadership' – the Alliance for Learning Teaching School, our National Support Schools, our Maths Hub and SCITT school centred initial teacher training. By working well with others everyone benefits and we set a positive example to young people of the importance of teamwork. I hope you enjoy reading about all the wonderful ways that



Bright Futures helps to bring people together and the good that comes from collaboration.

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

Chartered College of Teaching Fellowship at Bright Futures

Two of our executive team have been awarded Chartered College of Teaching Fellowship Status in the last few weeks. Dr John Stephens, CEO and Lisa Fathers, Director of Teaching School and Partnerships, have joined teaching professionals across the UK with this Fellowship (FCCT), held by the most committed teachers and leaders and granted when a consistent and significant contribution to the education profession is demonstrated. It delivers access to a wide range of training and professional events to further improve the education of children and young people. Lisa and John have been invited to an event at the House of Lords in November along with other successful Fellows. Congratulations to you both.



BFET welcomes guests from Singapore

A number of our schools welcomed teaching professionals from Singapore this term. They completed learning walks, took part in lessons, spoke to staff and students and watching extracurricular activities such as Duke of Edinburgh.

The visit has further strengthened the teamwork between our Trust and Katong Convent in Singapore, enabling us to build education bridges as part of a government-led programme, sharing best practice to ensure the best possible teachings and experiences are given to our students.





BFET sports day

We recently held our BFET Sports Day. It was a lovely atmosphere and all our students demonstrated teamwork and respect; they were incredibly supportive of each other. A special mention must go to the SGPA samba band who were fantastic as always, as well as the student leaders,

the CMA dancers, the Melland media crew - and the staff who took part in the space hopper race!



The Diane Modahl team

were excellent and the whole event truly encompassed all that is great about operating within a MAT - teamwork, support, encouragement and skill-sharing. Well done everyone!



Marton goes green

Marton achieved a Bronze award in the Woodland Trust's Green Tree Schools Award a few weeks ago. To earn it, students and staff had to order tree packs and plant them, so it has been won by the whole school community, as everyone worked as a team and planted a tree. Well done all! We hear that you are now in hot pursuit of Silver and ultimately Platinum!

Cycling superstars

A huge congratulations to the Stanley Grove Y6 cycling team, who took part in the Manchester Go Ride Cycling competition last week and came second! This was only the second time SGPA has participated in the event. Well done!

South Shore and Young Enterprise Team



Year 10 students at South Shore welcomed the Young Enterprise Team into school this term. They started the day by looking at their personal and unique qualities, which they could use when completing college or job applications. They then focused on creating their 'Own Personal Brand' to encourage a college/employer to invest in them as individuals.

The students then applied their 'Personal Brand' into a CV and Personal Statement to make themselves 'jump off the page'. The students looked at the scenario of an interview, particularly looking at the dos and don'ts. The day finished with a group activity where they had to create their own business looking at money management and creating a profit.

Science roadshows

The Science department at South Shore has had the pleasure of watching two roadshows from the Lancaster University and the University of Central Lancashire this term.

As part of the roadshow they demonstrated how space time-

travel really works and how physics is helping with modern transport ideas. They also analysed how we use social media and digital devices with cyber forensics and encryption codes.



Bigger Book Bash



Stanley Grove Primary Academy was delighted to help host the Bigger Book Bash - Manchester Children's Book Festival - halfway through June. Over 60 activities were organised for the whole community, with special guests including poets, musicians and authors joining the fun. The children dressed up in the themes of their favourite books, created stunning pieces of art and



craft and took to the streets with other primary schools for a fantastic parade. It was a truly memorable community event.

Expansion at Melland and at Marton

Melland

Due to a rise in the number of pupils across the city with complex needs, Manchester City Council is funding exciting expansion projects at Melland High School and other specialist support settings. Building works will start in earnest later this month to extend the complex needs zone with two new spacious classrooms; revamp and enlarge the outdoor area with exciting outdoor equipment and relocate the infamous Melland Multimedia Studio.

The changes mean students have access to a wider range of IT resources in the newly configured IT Suite as well as new Interactive Multimedia Studio with a refreshed professional lighting and sound rig, professional quality film and music making equipment, a wide variety of interactive music and DJ technical kit and a range of traditional musical instruments. The Arts and Humanities Studio where pupils can further develop their skills as musicians and artists will also be refreshed.

In addition Principal Sue Warner and Head of Admin Yvonne Reil will have brand new office spaces along with a much-needed newly designed meeting room. This will enable key staff to welcome families to pupil centred EHCP Reviews.

This expansion has to be completed in record time so that the outstanding and ever improving educational provision at Melland will seamlessly continue to successfully meet the needs of our all our students.

Marton

The Nursery expansion at Marton has also just started - the school is refurbishing and reconfiguring its Nursery and Early Years provision in order to expand its two year old provision. The Nursery was opened to two year olds last September and it has proved to be incredibly popular, with a long waiting list for September. A purpose built room for two year olds is being created with large soft play, bespoke story and creative play areas. In addition, a multi sensory room is being developed to support the emotional development and wellbeing of Marton's Early Years children.

The outdoor learning area is also being refurbished to ensure children can access high quality provision in all the areas of learning, with a particular emphasis on developing early literacy and knowledge and understanding of the world. This is great news and we look forward to sharing the pictures once the work is complete.



welcomed the company MD, Gail Jones back to school as an alumni and guest speaker. UKFast has also been key in supporting and implementing the school's new blog system and has helped Year 10 students progress an anti-cyber bullying app ready to launch.

It is wonderful to see our schools work so closely with industry leaders and be rewarded for all their hard work in this way.

AGGS meets HRH

Students and staff from Altrincham Grammar School for Girls were honoured to meet HRH Princess Anne this month, when they were invited to award-winning cloud host provider UKFast, to celebrate being awarded the Princess Royal Training Award 2019.

The Royal visit took in a tour of the UKFast campus and as education partners of UKFast, Mrs Walker and Mrs Gillibrand from AGGS met the Princess Royal and took part in a classroom activity learning about servers and coding. Two of the academy's Year 12 Digital Leaders, Rebecca and Ojas, were also invited to the event - several Year 12 students have enjoyed work experience at UKFast and the school has

Asian History Month at Cedar Mount

After the success of Black History Month in October, Cedar Mount recently celebrated Asian History Month. Gorton MP Afzal Khan came in to speak to students, there were house competitions, current affairs activities for form time and lessons relating to the theme.

Staff and students came in traditional dress and in the library Miss Bachelor put together a collection of fiction books by Asian writers and stories featuring Asian characters and places - plus a selection of non-fiction on Asian countries. Staff also decorated their display and notice boards. Everyone made a huge effort and had a great time.



Rushbrook celebrates third Montessori accreditation



Huge congratulations to Rushbrook, as it celebrates its successful accreditation by the Montessori Evaluation and Accreditation Board (MEAB). This is the school's third Montessori accreditation: the MEAB Awards are an acknowledgement of a school's achievements in identifying and delivering Montessori best practice for its children and recognise the hard work and commitment of all Rushbrook's Foundation teachers and support staff in delivering quality Montessori education - with special thanks to Mrs Niederbuhl (Montessori Lead), Mrs Helliar (Foundation Lead) and Mrs Murphy (Nursery Lead) and all the Foundation Team.

Maths /MFL roadshow at AGGS

In June, Altrincham Grammar School for Girls welcomed teachers and pupils from seven schools across Manchester to take part in its annual Maths / MFL roadshow. Pupils were tasked with solving mathematical problems, written in French, German and Spanish. It was very challenging, but the pupils worked with interest and managed to solve an impressive array of puzzles over the course of the morning. They were supported by Year 10 Language Leaders, who did a great job helping them to interpret the puzzles and then marking them. The event was enjoyed by pupils and staff alike. Great teamwork!



Inspiring 'Digital Advantage' project at Melland

Melland students have been taking part in a fantastic work experience project this term with Digital Advantage, an award winning Community Interest Company that delivers innovative work experiences to young people of all ages and abilities. The students have worked incredibly hard together to set up their very own digital business by developing an app (APP TAPP) that gives the user an opportunity to win screen time by being active, socialising and accessing clubs. This involved creating a brand, a promotional video, a website with blogs and a social media campaign, all of which were then pitched to specially invited students and teachers in a Q& A session.

This was then followed by a visit to The Sharp Project - Manchester's home for creative digital entrepreneurs and digital content production - for a full tour, Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality trials, a presentation on work in the media sector and the chance to meet with some of the businesses located in its warehouse.

The project was a huge success and culminated in a celebration ceremony during the last week of term.



In the news



South Shore student Corron Barnes took part in the launch of The Resilience Pathway in Blackpool this term, having led resilience workshops with students and staff at South Shore every Tuesday. Corron was interviewed about this on NorthWest Tonight.



News4Trafford

News 4 Trafford covered the story of the Alliance for Learning's new partnerships with the EAL Hub.

The Gazette
School of the week: Marton Primary School

Marton Primary was Blackpool Gazette's School of the Week.