

RISING STARS

Bright Futures Newsletter
Winter 2018 Edition

It has been so encouraging to see the amount of attention and interest there is in the design and implementation of the school curriculum. Ofsted's research and the centrality of the curriculum to a promised new inspection framework has certainly got us all thinking!

In my view, there is nothing more important for us to be devoting our time and energy to. **What** we want children to learn, **why** we want them to learn it and what we will need **to do** in order for them to learn in the best ways possible, are important questions that we should all consider in our various contexts.

I am delighted, therefore, that this edition of 'Rising Stars' is a

celebration of so many achievements that are symbolic of the breadth of opportunities available to our students across the Trust. Through high quality experiences in the arts and sport we are helping our students to develop into well-rounded young people. The character, leadership and resilience that come from engaging deeply with a range of challenges help to sustain all our students through school life and into adulthood.

It's really encouraging to see a renewed emphasis on the importance of mental health and well-being for both children and adults. The way in which we support our students to aim high, to succeed, to keep trying and to deal well with setbacks is fundamental to their physical



and mental well-being. Enjoy reading about the many and diverse achievements of our young people over the last term. As ever, there is so much to celebrate at Bright Futures!

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

Healthy progress

The Alliance for Learning Teaching School was delighted to help launch the Greater Manchester Mentally Healthy Schools project earlier this year, commissioned by the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership. This project is seeing primary and secondary school children and young people across the northwest of England receive training to become Young Mental Health Champions while their teachers receive Mental Health First Aid Training. It's part of a £134m action plan to help transform mental health in Greater Manchester and we are delighted to be involved.

The findings of the project were delivered at a teaching professionals' conference at the Etihad Stadium in October, where Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, said: "This is the most exciting project to come out of Greater Manchester while I have been Mayor." We are delighted that its success means that a further cohort of schools will be invited to be involved during 2019.



how they have loved being involved and showing everyone a series of exercises

Cedar Mount Academy's Mental Health Ambassadors were speakers at the event, telling a delighted audience

to build focus and strength. They were excellent representatives for the school and the Trust.



Following the conference, Andy Burnham came along to Stanley Grove, where he joined The Greater Manchester Headteachers' Alliance, The Greater Manchester and Social Care Partnership and Greater Sport, to urge all schools to become more active. Children told Andy and Daily Mile founder Elaine Wyllie that they felt 'ready for work', 'energised' and 'happier' since starting the Daily Mile. Well done everyone!



"We Are 11"

Stanley Grove students have curated 'We are 11' - an exhibition at Manchester's Whitworth Art Gallery.

The display seeks to explore what it means to be an 11-year-old living in Manchester today, looking at their stresses and joys.

Stanley Grove is encouraging 27 other primary schools to get involved with the We Are 11 project. It's a fascinating insight into what it means to be a young person in Manchester and only the latest example of one of our Trust schools working with the wider community, in a thoughtful cultural project.

The exhibition will be on display until the end of January 2019.

Photo credit - Alice Barron Eves, The Mancunian

Black History Month

The walls of Cedar Mount Academy have some stunning artwork on display, thanks to recent events to mark Black History Month. Students created artwork, poems and raps to celebrate 'Black Excellence' and also took part in a competition to find out information



about 20 black British icons. In addition, students celebrated the launch of the book 'Her Hair a Crown' at Central Library, after providing the artwork and helping to design the book, which celebrates natural hair. They also came to school in traditional outfits on Traditional African Dress Day and had a trip to the International Slavery Museum, as well as to the cinema to see 'The Hate U Give'. It was a hugely busy and rewarding celebration.

Happy 10th birthday, Melland studio

A happy 10th birthday to the superb studio at Melland. The media studio is focused on serving the needs of our staff and pupils by providing them with the opportunity to use technology in effective and creative

ways. This involves providing the tools, making those tools accessible to the whole school, and encouraging their use to enrich the learning experience of Melland pupils.



Emmeline Pankhurst tribute

Students from Rushbrook were honoured to attend the unveiling of Manchester's Emmeline Pankhurst statue last week. The statue, in St Peter's Square, was revealed on 14th December - the 100th anniversary of women first voting. When choosing names for the new classes at Rushbrook, Emmeline Pankhurst was one of the top choices.



Through multimedia support for classes and events, distributing and maintaining equipment, researching and developing new classroom and presentation technologies,

supporting creative learning activities as they relate to media presentation and performances, and producing a variety of content for the school, including video and audio productions, the studio has developed the creativity of all our students for a decade this month, inspiring several students to pursue careers in the art and technology arenas.



Wicketz

Wicketz is a community cricket programme that targets young people and aims to give them more chances through sport. Cedar Mount Academy is delighted to be involved with the programme and was recently filmed for Lancashire Cricket TV - alongside the coaches, our students and very own Trust CEO took part.



Swimming successes

The senior swimmers at AGGS competed in the Northwest round of the English Schools Swimming Championships and were successful enough to



qualify for a place in the National Finals in November at the iconic London Aquatics Centre. It was an amazing experience for all involved - the team finished in 18th place for the freestyle relay and 29th in the medley. A fantastic day out.

Medical Mavericks

Last week, Connell was delighted to welcome the 'Medical Mavericks' team to its Sixth Form. Medical Mavericks is the UK's number 1 careers, STEM and sport enrichment experience organisation.



The students gained inspiration from a carousel of hands-on activities and were introduced to the wide range of careers within the NHS - a huge thankyou to GM Higher for giving everyone such a wonderful opportunity.



National hockey finals

The Under 14s hockey team at AGGS have won their pool at the North Finals and have made it through to the Investec Girls National Finals, which take place in February next year. It was a fierce competition against GSAL, Newcastle and Kings Macclesfield and all the AGGS students played fantastically, showing true team spirit and resilience. Well done all!

Shakira meets the City team

Melland Sixth Form student Shakira Honeyghan was invited to SportCity this term, as a reward for 'going



above and beyond' in all areas. As part of the celebration of her achievements, she had a meet and greet with the Manchester City men's first team squad, meeting the likes of Aguero, Sane and manager Pep Guardiola, having her picture taken and invited to sit in on the squad photo, taking a front seat alongside the Champions. A huge thankyou to Paul Kelly from City in the Community and Mrs Harrison, for making this possible. Well done Shakira!

South Shore launches D of E

This term has seen the launch of Duke of Edinburgh Awards at South Shore Academy. Over 60 students have registered on the programme, all with parental support. They have started their practical and volunteering elements of the qualification, helping in PE and reading as well as creating a combat sessions club. The Awards have been supported with funding from the Head Start Fund, which was secured through the hard work of South Shore students earlier in the year. Well done to the students and thanks to the teaching staff who are individually mentoring them.





Marton makes music for shoppers



Marton Primary
Academy and Nursery
BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Marton made music for Blackpool shoppers recently, when the academy choir welcomed the opening of a new Co-Op retail outlet with songs. Students sang and cut the ribbon at the grand opening and featured in the local press.

Rushbrook does the same

It was Tesco for Rushbrook meanwhile, as shoppers in the Gorton branch were entertained by the school samba band. Money raised is going towards new books and educational resources - and the community was certainly brightened up! This was in addition to a series of winter assemblies for parents and Scrooge the Musical.

Maddie comes to Marton

CBeebies Star Maddie Moate came to Marton Primary Academy this term, to bring science to life for the delighted students. The children learned about renewable energy with the help of a solar-powered toy car, about sounds and how they are made and about Britain's best-loved wild animal - the hedgehog. BAFTA award-winning Maddie visited Marton with Explorify, a new programme by the Wellcome Trust biomedical research charity, which gives teachers new scientific activities to do with pupils.

In the media

The Alliance for Learning's Director, Lisa Fathers, was interviewed by the BBC to talk about The Active Lives Children and Young People Survey and featured on The Big UK Newsroom.



Marton's Choir and Science visit were featured in the Blackpool Gazette - as was their 'Little Riddlers' - the poets who had their work published in a book as part of a nationwide competition.

CBeebies star Maddie Moate makes science fun for Blackpool pupils



Poems published in Lancashire book



THE TIMES

Our CEO John Stephens was interviewed for The Times as part of the Wicketz story.



Stanley Grove makes music with Manchester University

Children from Stanley Grove have been performing with the Outreach Team at Manchester University's music department - after seven weeks of sessions, they teamed up with other schools for a fantastic concert, supported by the Outreach University. Well done all.

While The Hara make music at South Shore!

South Shore Academy watched a performance by 'The Hara' at the end of November. The hugely popular trio brought their eclectic mix of pop and rock to the school for a fantastic concert and then spoke with the students about mental health, online safety and cyber bullying. Huge thanks to the band for coming along and speaking so well about these very important issues.

