

# RISING STARS



**Bright Futures Newsletter**  
Winter 2021 Edition



One of the things that we have all been really keen to see since returning to school in September is the re-introduction of the many 'enriching' activities that our schools have always provided.

As well as the wonderful opportunities for students to participate in sports and arts activities our schools give students the chance to get involved in volunteering and charitable work. It's great to see so many examples of people working together in the service of others or simply enjoying the energising spirit of being part of a strong, supportive team.

There have been many moments of darkness over the last 12 months, times when we have all had to make

sacrifices and deal with situations that were completely new, even to those of us with years of experience.

In all the wonderful moments of success celebrated in this winter edition, however, we see light breaking through.

It's in the spirit and energy of our young people and in the creativity and care of those that work with them that the light manifests itself.

The broad range of opportunities available to students across the Trust are something of which we should all be rightly proud – but it is the young people themselves, with their enthusiasm and talent that breathe life into all that we do.



I hope you enjoy reading about the many successes in all our schools; we are, indeed, Bright Futures!

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

## Forest School at Barton Clough... with a little help from Lime Tree

Barton Clough have had an amazing first term with their new Forest School going from strength to strength. Paul Gibson, Forest School and Outdoor Education Lead said:

"Since first seeing the area allocated for Forest School, I was excited at the potential it had to offer, with its established trees and orchard, plus areas for growing vegetables and flowers. There was, however, a lot of work to be done before the area could be used by the children.

"A thorough Tree Survey was carried out and then Steve (a local tree Surgeon and Barton Clough parent), worked to make the area safe. Pupils have been regularly drafted in to help with clearing the site of litter, making a path through the woodland, and creating a fire circle.

"An Eco Squad also has been set up, with the responsibility to work towards The Eco Schools award. As well as litter picking, children are helping with composting, the eradication of single use bottles, and attracting more wildlife. The group were also involved in setting up a 'Bulbathon', where the school community were asked to bring in bulbs or seeds for planting. I am in the process of applying for external funding, as well as developing



a three-year plan of planting with 'City for Trees'; our aim being, that every pupil will plant a tree on the school grounds.

"We are grateful to Janet Green, Outdoor Learning and Forest School Lead & Practitioner at Lime Tree, who delivered a 12-week programme with Year 1 which has been wonderful. We are currently running various after-school clubs and EYFS are regular visitors; recently making clay hedgehogs and helping them to hibernate.

We still have lots more planting to do and we can't wait to see the fruits of our labour!"



## Employability & STEM workshops at Melland High.

Students worked on developing their 'Skills for Life' with Nicki Sorton from Equans – Engie Group. Nicki delivered CV writing sessions and gave top tips on developing employability skills too.

As part of the CV writing session, she gave advice on the do's and don'ts of CV writing and how to make a CV stand out from the crowd. Students put their CV writing skills into practice in work-related learning lessons.

During the afternoon session, students took part in a STEM workshop. They used snap circuits to build different devices such as a musical doorbell, an FM radio, a trip wire and a flying saucer. Students displayed self-management by organising themselves into small groups, and teamwork by ensuring each person had a role in the task.

The group were challenged to use their problem-solving skills to figure out what all the components were and to relate them to the circuit diagrams. Students demonstrated excellent communication skills throughout the task.



They showed self-belief by not giving up when their circuits didn't work the first time, and trying to find the faults in their circuits so they could correct them.

All students managed to successfully construct several different circuits and there were certainly some budding electricians in the room.



## Acre Hall achieves art gold

Congratulations to Acre Hall having achieved the prestigious Arts Council Artsmark Gold Level Award, recognising the raised profile of the arts across the school and the hard work of both students and staff during the past three years.

Colin Catherall, Head of School at Acre Hall, commented: "I would really like to thank Laura Tomlinson, the teacher who led this project with great passion and desire to raise the profile of art in our school. I am delighted to see how this has enhanced the quality of education for all children here at Acre Hall by providing valuable experiences and opportunities for them to explore and develop a wider range of skills and ignite the multiple intelligences that exist in us all."



Acre Hall is now striving for further artistic development and extra-curricular activities for the school, providing inhouse opportunities for children to meet local artists across Manchester in their mixed-aged after-school Arts Club.

## Bee here to bee brilliant

There has been a real 'buzz' around Stanley Grove Primary Academy with the launch of a new attendance reward scheme. Children were introduced to a new character called the 'Beekeeper' (an ever-enthusiastic Attendance Officer, leaping around in a full beekeeper suit!), who revealed the new scheme.

Every attendance mark now counts towards earning exciting activities for the whole school at a new summer event called 'Bee-ing Here Celebration 2022'. The Beekeeper also informed the children that they were already well on the way to earning a field of inflatables and bouncy castles for the event. The children were buzzing!

The innovative approach was created by Attendance Officer, Jenny Hollingsworth, who wanted to link attendance to the Manchester Bee, as celebrating the city of Manchester runs through the Stanley Grove curriculum. It also harnesses the idea that bees work as a collective and instead of individuals being celebrated for their attendance, Stanley Grove want children to work together as a school community. By helping pupils to think this way they can be more inclusive.







# Olympian inspires at Cedar Mount

Students were thrilled to welcome taekwondo silver medallist, Mahama Cho, to Cedar Mount. Arriving with a TV crew and reporters, Mahama's visit exceeded all expectations. During a Q & A session, Mahama discussed how he emigrated from the Ivory Coast and settled in the UK at the age of eight. He was subjected to racism and struggled with both confidence and self-esteem, which is why he is so passionate about good mental health in young people. Mahama was keen to share his training regime and to talk about the discipline and dedication it takes to perform at the highest level and how this feeds into Cedar Mount's values of hard work, respect and aspiration.

Mahama attended the weekly Student Leader meeting where he discussed, in more detail, the setbacks he had faced and the importance of believing in yourself, never giving up and aspiring to be the best you can be. Finally, Mahama put students through their paces and became PE teacher for the afternoon.

It was both an enjoyable and educational experience working with TV crews, having cameras in school for the day, and watching students and staff interviewed by Granada Reports.

As a parting gift, Miss Bennett presented Mahama with a 'Scholar' badge which Mahama acknowledged via his Twitter account where he posted: "I was given the scholar badge as the school massively believe in leadership and setting a good example. An honour to obtain this badge!"



# New library unveiled at Rushbrook

Excitement is brewing at Rushbrook Academy as their brand-new library is unveiled. Children cannot wait to start taking books home to share with their families.

Matthew Carroll, Principal at Rushbrook, said: "There has been an incredible amount of hard work that has gone into the library's creation, and we are so pleased that we can now offer the children even more opportunities to read high quality texts across a range of genres. We have listened to what the children want and have included many books that explore our diverse community, as our young people wanted our library to reflect culture, inclusion, and celebration."



# Minduli celebrates singing success

During the summer, Minduli, a Year 11 student at AGGS, entered the New Talent British International Youth Music competition organised by The British Music Society, Royal Academy of Music (RAM) and the Amy Yuan Academy.

There were over 400 entries, from 28 countries, ranging from age 4 to 30. Minduli received the Virtuoso Prize for Voice as the overall winner of the voice category. She was awarded a cash prize, the opportunity to perform at the Royal Academy during the award ceremony and a 1-1 masterclass with Professor Julie Kennard, a former professor of Singing at the RAM, who was also the adjudicator for the competition.

This is an incredible achievement, particularly given the lack of opportunity for face-to-face lessons and singing over the last 18 months. Well done, Minduli!





## Inclusive sports at The Orchards

The Orchards welcomed LuSu Sports Ltd to school who delivered an inclusive sports teacher training course. Colleagues, who described the course as 'truly inclusive', 'inspirational', 'informative' and 'empathic' really threw themselves into the activities. The training was a huge hit and is already providing real benefit to sports at The Orchards.



## Putting the ART in Marton

This term, Marton Primary Academy and Nursery treated the school community to its inaugural art exhibition. Stunning artwork from across the year groups was proudly displayed in the school hall for parents and carers to purchase. Children were so excited to see their masterpieces mounted in real frames, labelled with their name and artwork details. The exhibition raised money for both the school and Zoe's Place Baby Hospice.



## Charity Week at AGGS

The Islamic Society at AGGS held a Charity Week before half term and raised more than £2,500. Led by Ayesha and Fatima, with the help of Mrs Charlton, the team organised a whole host of events to raise money for Islamic Relief to help orphans around the world.

There were Henna events, international food sales and both an own-clothes day and a bake sale. The week-long event during break and lunchtimes took a huge effort from the girls but what an amazing outcome!



## Teamwork triumph for Lime Tree

In the Autumn term, Year 6 students from Lime Tree took part in a multi-school sporting event at Sale High, where they finished in 1st and 2nd place! Students have made it to the next stage of the competition which will take place in the new year.



The team's exemplary behaviour, fantastic teamwork and great sportsmanship didn't go unnoticed, and they acted as fantastic ambassadors for the school. Fantastic!

## In the media



Mahama Cho's visit to Cedar Mount hit the headlines and the image of the Olympian proudly showing his 'Scholar' badge made it to the national newspapers online.



Altrincham Grammar School for Girls were again named 'Best State Secondary School In The Northwest' in The Sunday Times School Guide 2022. Well done, everyone.

Mrs Warhurst's appointment as Head of School at South Shore Academy made the headlines in the Blackpool Gazette. Congratulations!





## Cedar Mount students represent at PTI conference

Five Year 10 students from Cedar Mount Academy were invited to be pupil panellists at the PTI (formerly The Prince's Teaching Institute) Subject Leadership conference which was held at the Crewe Hall. The team presented on what they consider good teaching to look like in Maths, Science, History and MFL. They responded with confident, thoughtful, and insightful answers to questions from subject leaders, giving the conference delegates plenty to think about for when they returned to their own schools.

During the day's activities, Ayla, Ayra, Monisha, Nida and Shoonki attended both a History workshop and Science lecture. In the Science lecture, students were able to hold an ice core sample from Antarctica and they described hearing gasses escaping the ice and being released into the atmosphere, 'making a crackling sound'. In the History workshop, the group learnt about 'Cheddar Man', and had to distinguish the dates of ancient artefacts.

The group enthused: "We really enjoyed the experience and the opportunity to voice our opinions and improve the curriculum. If we ever had the chance to go again, we would!"



## Fantastic fundraising at Elmridge

The Elmridge School community had a busy term fundraising for a number of charities. The response to the Care4Calais fundraising campaign in aid of refugees from Afghanistan was overwhelming. Elmridge families contributed clothing, bedding and bags to support refugees and families in need. The school also raised money for Children in Need and worked with Altrincham Football Club on their Christmas fundraising campaign 'Alty Gives Back'.

This year, the staff are undertaking personal challenges to raise money for charity. Amongst these challenges are: The Manchester to Blackpool Bike Ride, indoor swimming the channel in 5 days, reading challenges, 5k a day in May and 100miles in October (dog walking). A big well done to everyone for your amazing efforts.



## South Shore commended for raising awareness for the LGBTQ+ community



Students from South Shore have been celebrating equality and diversity this term by taking part in events both in school and in the community.

As a result of their hard work and dedication, South Shore Academy won the John Palmer award at Blackpool Pride for going above and beyond in raising awareness for the LGBTQ+ community. We are all very proud of you!



**Bright Futures**  
DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

We've got our first term wrapped up here at the Bright Futures Development Network.

**600**  
ECTs &  
AB

**400**  
NPQ  
PROGRAMME  
MEMBERS

**25**  
NEW  
SLES

**NEW**  
PARTNER  
SCHOOLS

**NEW**  
A-Z CPD  
OFFER

**Bright Futures**  
TEACHING SCHOOL HUBS  
TRAFFORD & SALFORD MANCHESTER & STOCKPORT

**Bright Futures**  
SCITT  
TRAIN · TEACH · TRANSFORM

**BRIGHT FUTURES**  
Alliance  
for Learning

**MATHSHUBS**  
NORTH WEST ONE

## Christmas card works of art

Students from across our schools went to huge efforts with their designs for the Bright Futures Christmas Card competition 2021. The judging process did take some time because entries were of such a high standard, and it was evident that we certainly have some fantastic artists and designers.

The overall winner was Christina (Y10) from AGGS. Christina's incredible design (below left) is based around a traditional Christmas scene and incorporates all our logos. We also had two runners up, Yusra from Melland who put together a beautifully detailed hand drawn design (below centre) and Harper from Lime Tree who created a fabulous bright and bold picture with Rudolph taking centre stage (below right). Thank you to everyone who took part, your designs were amazing!



## #BrightFuturesElfEscapades #BrightFuturesFestiveFun

Thank you to all of our schools for welcoming the Bright Futures Elf during December! His antics have brought lots of laughter across the Trust and beyond, which has got us all in the festive spirit.

