

# RISING STARS



Bright Futures Newsletter  
Spring 2022 Edition



The disruption of the last two years has taught us the importance of looking after our well-being. We can't achieve the best of ourselves if we are feeling under pressure or lacking in agency. Many people across the Trust contribute every day to making this a great place to work and to learn.

It was great to see this recognised in our achieving 'highly commended' in the 'MAT Well-being' category of the prestigious Youth Sport Trust Awards. We are seeing real growth in the scope of work undertaken by student leaders. The work of students in leading and promoting good mental health and well-being is increasingly embedded. Recently we have had presentations to Principals as well as to local governors and trustees. Students are involved in staff development and in the recruitment of senior roles. They are actively contributing to carbon reduction

equality, diversity and inclusion. They are supporting curriculum work and helping schools to be places where all students feel a strong sense of belonging.

I am delighted to see in this edition of 'Rising Stars' so many great examples of our students' voices helping to lead and shape the direction of our work. We're hoping to benefit even more from the views of our children and young people by forming a MAT-wide 'youth board' providing a forum for the knowledge and experience of students to be shared and developed. It's important that students find their voices and make them heard – and it's equally pertinent that when young people share their views they feel appreciated, heard and see their opinions represented in the actions we take.



I hope you enjoy seeing the many celebrations of student voices in action across Bright Futures.

Dr John Wm Stephens CBE

Chief Executive Officer,  
Bright Futures Educational Trust

## Lime Tree achieves SMSC gold

Lime Tree has been awarded the SMSC gold quality mark award for demonstrating excellence in Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC), the over-arching umbrella that encompasses personal development across the whole curriculum. Strong evidence shows that promoting SMSC in schools can contribute to raising academic standards and improving children's life chances.

To qualify for this national quality mark, Lime Tree embarked on a self-review of its current provision followed by SMSC verification. SMSC Quality Mark Verifier, Meg Marshall, commented: "It was a privilege to meet with Millie, Kara, Alice, Ram, Angel, Zacharay, Yahya, Ibraheem, Ava and Harper. The children are very proud of their school. 'We have things that other schools don't.' They appreciate every member of the team. 'Mr Morgan fixes everything,' and 'We're so grateful for Mike. He has a very hard job.' 'All the teaching assistants help us learn step-by-step'. They especially appreciate their headteacher, whom they describe as: 'always smiling, enthusiastic, optimistic and always having time for us, even when her schedule is very busy'."



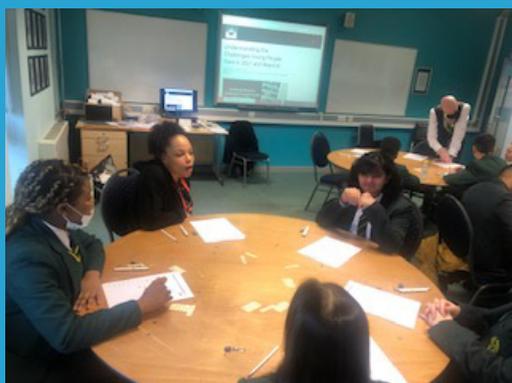
Head of School, Clare Larkin, enthused: "We are all thrilled to receive this award. We have always focused on our school vision, threads and British values which has meant that SMSC is inherently threaded through our curriculum. Over the years our approach has positively changed to reflect the diversity both within our school and within our community and our SMSC Lead, Karen Liu, has played a pivotal role in this."



## Cedar Mount helps the BBC to shape the face of TV

Cedar Mount Academy is working on an exciting project with the BBC to help shape the face of television for teenagers. The BBC are exploring what teenagers are watching and why. Tessa and Danielle, two journalists with the BBC, met with students at the end of last term and began by asking what they enjoyed watching, on which channels and where they accessed their content. From the show of hands and a group discussion, it became evident that YouTube was the clear winner.

The journalists continued with their research to establish what issues affect teenagers and it was felt that education, employment, and mental health are subjects that are not currently tackled enough on children's TV. Students also voiced their view that the BBC should embrace more factual and fictional programming to tackle and highlight the challenges which young people are facing, which has become even more important following the pandemic. A series of fun tasks followed, and students enjoyed 'Rate the Celeb', a survey using emojis to gauge how many faces from the BBC Talent Pool they recognised. The feedback and results will be used by programme-makers when producing shows aimed at teenagers.



The BBC team commented that they found students to be 'funny and enthusiastic' and they loved the SCHOLAR badges which they received as a reward for 'Effort, Achievement & Talent'.

Tessa and Danielle are set to return to CMA for the next round of discussions and students are looking forward to welcoming them back, wearing their badges, of course!

## Barton Clough goes green with help from The City of Trees

In March, children and staff at Barton Clough Primary School were excited to welcome The City of Trees to school, to work together to plant 500 trees in and around the school site. Every child was involved in the two-day tree planting project, and everyone had a fantastic time working in the outdoors. It will be amazing for Reception and Key Stage 1 children to see the trees grow with them throughout their school life. The new trees, which will bring countless benefits, will also complement the growing Forest School environment where the school already has a number of established trees, an orchard and areas for growing vegetables and flowers.



## A 'grand' performance from Marton's Year 5

Marton Primary Academy and Nursery were delighted to take part in Blackpool Music Service's 18th Schools Alive production which presented the first opportunity for schools to celebrate live music-making for almost two years. Following the performance (A Commotion on the Ocean - pictured below during rehearsals) Year 5A teacher, Mrs Shelvi, enthused:

"Wowsers Trousers! What a week! Congratulations Year 5 on your spectacular performance at the Grand Theatre! You truly were incredible and did yourselves, your parents and me extremely proud. It has been an epic journey! We climbed the highest mountain and overcame many difficulties along the way, but we made it! I have been overwhelmed by your determination, collaboration, and sheer enthusiasm to really be the best you could be. Everybody has praised and complimented our performance (even other schools!)."

"Thank you for making the experience an incredible one - I have loved helping and supporting you all to reach your potential and it was an absolute honour to take you all to represent Marton. I am proud of you. Well done!"





# South Shore's Bailey awarded RSC scholarship

Bailey, a Year 9 SSA student, has been awarded the Royal Shakespeare Company Next Generation scholarship after being scouted at a Blackpool Grand workshop. He beat thousands of hopefuls for the drama scholarship having told his mum, while only 4 years old that, "One day I'm going to be on stage!" Bailey has already visited Stratford-Upon-Avon for a costume fitting and to meet the cast, and he will now take part in regular workshops and virtual rehearsals leading up to his first show starting in April - Henry XI Rebellion.

The young actor has previously performed in *Oliver*, *The Sound of Music* and *The Addams Family*, all at the Blackpool Grand. He had never tried Shakespeare though which, in his own words, he finds "strange but fascinating".

Performing Arts subject lead, Mrs Vanstone, nominated Bailey for the workshop and commented: "Bailey is very versatile. I knew he'd enjoy the workshop, and it's a good experience, but it's very rare for anyone to get that far. He's such a talented performer, but they were so impressed by his generosity. They were impressed with how he was helping the younger performers. He's just a really kind performer, and always willing to have a go at stuff."

Each year, the RSC programme takes on 26 young actors who show extraordinary talent and it also forms part of a longer-term project to widen interest in Shakespeare. Year 9 participate in the RSC Associate Schools Project where 20 schools across Blackpool and Wyre each perform a six-minute scene from *Much Ado About Nothing* in a show at the Blackpool Grand. Mrs Vanstone confirmed that Bailey's success had boosted interest in Shakespeare at SSA and there had been many more auditionees for the show.



## #HappySafeFree

Year 2 Wilkinson class at Stanley Grove enjoyed working on their contributions towards the 'Mass Participation' Art project. They created beautiful artworks, using the words 'safe' or 'safety' in different languages or wrote words to describe what makes them feel safe. Children were interested to search for the languages that their families speak or learn some new languages that they were unfamiliar with.

This work is part of a large-scale art project with Building the Bridge where more than 10,000 children across Manchester are exploring empathy for refugees through art.

# Outdoor learning at Elmridge

Grip Adventure have been working with Elmridge pupils on forest school and outdoor and adventurous activities. The company visited the school to work with Year 1, 2 and 3 pupils during curriculum time and also offered an after-school club for Key Stage 1.

In March, Grip welcomed whole classes of Key Stage 2 pupils on Adventure Days at their base in Sale. The pupils, who experienced climbing in the Adventure Cave and canoeing on the canal, returned to school inspired and excited about their fantastic days out. The outdoor activities have come at the perfect time with the pupils previously missing out on many similar experiences due to the pandemic. This exciting new relationship has brought a different dimension to outdoor learning at Elmridge and colleagues accompanying the groups have learnt valuable new skills. None of this would be possible without PE co-ordinator, Robyn Stevenson, who has been pivotal in developing this relationship. Thank you!





# Glorious Glaramara

We enjoyed following the social media updates of the AGGS Year 7 adventures at Glaramara. Here, Zaynab gives her account of the trip:

“During the cold, wet days of the month of January, many Year 7 students and teachers escaped to Glaramara, an exciting residential. The luxurious Glaramara hotel is situated in Borrowdale, Lake District. Whilst the helpful staff vigorously loaded the suitcases on to the coach, the students were sitting inside, joyously singing songs together and chatting away excitedly. The coach was on route to Glaramara. After a few hours, the Glaramara Hotel was in sight. It was surrounded by luscious trees and tall mountains. A lovely start to the experience! On entering, everyone went into the dining room to eat their packed lunches. The dining room was a spacious room containing four tables for the students, and one ‘royal’ table for the teachers. Once unpacked and settled in, the participants were given their activity schedules. The activities were very engaging and required lots of thought, effort, and of course, FUN! There were four main activities; hill walking, rock climbing, climb the mine and ghyll scrambling. Everybody had a great time at Glaramara! The experiences were epic and some of the most memorable moments were spent there! Good luck to all future generations! And thank you organisers for giving us such a special experience.”



# Real-life role-play

Exciting opportunities for Key Stage 2 play and interaction have arrived at The Orchards.

The Orchards has just launched a brand new ‘Role-Play room’ equipped with a real (non-working) kitchen, builder’s yard, art studio and many more areas of fun. This room is to allow older learners to ‘play’ with real equipment in a pretend way.

So many children at The Orchards miss out on those all-important pretend play opportunities because they are just not quite ready to experience it when their peers are. This led The Orchards to design a functional and innovative space which allows for these play experiences right to the end of Key Stage 2.

The room has been a big hit with children and staff who cannot wait to see the longer-term impact from supporting children’s individual learning targets. Children are already requesting, exchanging, and using more spoken language because they are so excited and motivated to play. As Einstein said, “Play is the highest form of research” – there is certainly lots of research going on at The Orchards.



# SSA chosen to promote the DofE Award

A group of Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh’s Award students from South Shore Academy were selected to be interviewed by the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award media team. Students were filmed taking part in their different award sections e.g., cycling along the promenade, volunteering at a local primary, roller skating, drum playing and working out at the gym. These case studies will be used nationally to promote the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award and the positive physical and mental benefits that this award has on young people.

Students were also honoured to attend the Annual Blackpool Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Extravaganza Evening at Blackpool’s Winter Gardens with both the Mayor of Blackpool and Duke of Edinburgh’s Award manager in the audience. The group were asked to present on the curriculum programme and the positive impact it is having on the mental health and wellbeing of students.

SSA were praised on their programme organisation and congratulated on the number of students that are participating in this amazing award, which is thanks to PE teacher, Amy Leach, who provides such outstanding leadership. Look out for even more exciting Duke of Edinburgh’s Award news in the next issue of Rising Stars!





# Student leaders set the standard at Melland

Student voice is greatly valued at Melland High School; the student leader group has provided a forum for young people to be genuinely listened to and contribute to developments and activities in the school such as: responsibility for taking visiting students on tours of MHS, making presentations to Governors and Quality Assurance Consultants, fulfilling specific roles during whole school events and gathering the views of pupils via a range of pupil voice activities.

Students speak with confidence and can clearly articulate their feelings about being a member of the group e.g., "I feel more like an adult" and "I feel honoured and proud".

The student leader group promotes and helps to develop independence skills, capitalising on opportunities for them to take responsibility for themselves and the things they are doing. Developing a range of life skills such as self-management and organisation, teamwork, problem solving, self-belief, punctuality, being good role models, communication and social skills.

The Student Leaders recently visited the high-tech Melland Multimedia Studio for a photo shoot. The Student Leader page on the school website and the profile image on the Trust website both needed updating as the team had new members who had been elected by their respective key stages. The team have also created Student Leader posters which are displayed around school to promote their roles and let other students know how they can get help and support from their Student Leaders. In this photo students were able to show some of their individuality/personality in their poses and as you can see they really enjoyed this task!



## Charlotte's hobby leaves classmates speechless

Charlotte, in Year 4 at Acre Hall, has left her classmates speechless with her daring hobby as a mountain bike racer.

Last year, Charlotte competed in her first mountain bike downhill race. She has since gained numerous places on the podium and claimed her first win in August 2021. For this race year she started with a win and two personal bests in the under 9s category which she has competed in since the age of seven.

Charlotte said: "I just love riding my bike and challenging myself. That's why I enjoy competing because you never really know what the track will be like until the day before the race. When I tell my friends and classmates about my races and what I've achieved with new jumps or faster times they can't believe it, but they are always really happy for me."

She is very committed to the sport and can often be found practising jumps in her garden, as you are only able to join an official club from the age of 12. This presents its own challenges as a lot of space is required to perfect daring jumps and mountain bike techniques.

Charlotte's ability and race performances have won her much admiration and support from not only her peers and other competitors but also from professionals including Rachel Atherton, a British professional downhill mountain bike racer and multiple time UCI World Champion. Charlotte is also lucky to have a number of sponsorship deals including for the kit and safety equipment required to participate safely in the sport.



# Safiyah's public speaking success

At the start of the year, Safiyah in Year 12 at AGGS competed in the Historical Association's public speaking competition, The Great Debate. She gave a five-minute speech detailing the most significant changes to her community in the last 70 years. Safiyah did a fantastic job; her research was sound, and the delivery of her speech was spot on!

After some tough competition from the other contenders, Safiyah (pictured with the judges) went on to win the Manchester heat and is set to compete in the grand final at Windsor Castle.



# Team Rushbrook's day at the zoo

Rushbrook Primary Academy enjoyed a memorable day out together at Chester Zoo. Children and staff loved exploring the grounds of the zoo in amongst the 20,000 animals who live there. It proved to be an invaluable experience and a wonderful opportunity for adventures outside of the classroom, in the sunshine!



# In the media



We have had some great coverage in the press and social media over the last couple months e.g. the Blackpool Gazette, InYourArea Community News and TES, which featured a great article from South Shore about improving reading. Rushbrook Primary Academy also received a rather special retweet from J.K. Rowling!

Rushbrook Academy Year 4 Retweeted

**J.K. Rowling** @jk\_rowling · Mar 3  
You all look wonderful! Especially loving Professor McGonagall 🐾 #WorldBookDay 📖

**Rushbrook Academy Year 4** @rushbrook\_y4 · Mar 3  
4 Bell are all ready for #WorldBookDay 📖 can you guess which book we just finished as our class read?! @jk\_rowling @TeamRushbrook #wearebrightfutures



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**Kate Jones** @Jonesy\_K8 · Mar 11  
A wonderful article sharing our experiences in improving reading @SSABlackpool written in conjunction with @KayeGeek and myself. @BrightFuturesET

Literacy: Can a baseline reading test transform reading? | Tes



tes.com  
How a baseline reading test could transform whole-school literacy  
Five years ago, South Shore Academy in Blackpool set out to boost reading and writing levels across the school - and today, students ...

3 39 51



# Development Network

Well, it is just over a year since we received the double designation of our two Teaching School Hubs. The year has flown and so much has been achieved and we have learned and are still learning lots. We have really enjoyed the journey and are very excited about the future!  
Thank you to all our ECTs, Mentors, Facilitators, and everyone else in our fabulous Trust for your support, the future is 'bright'.

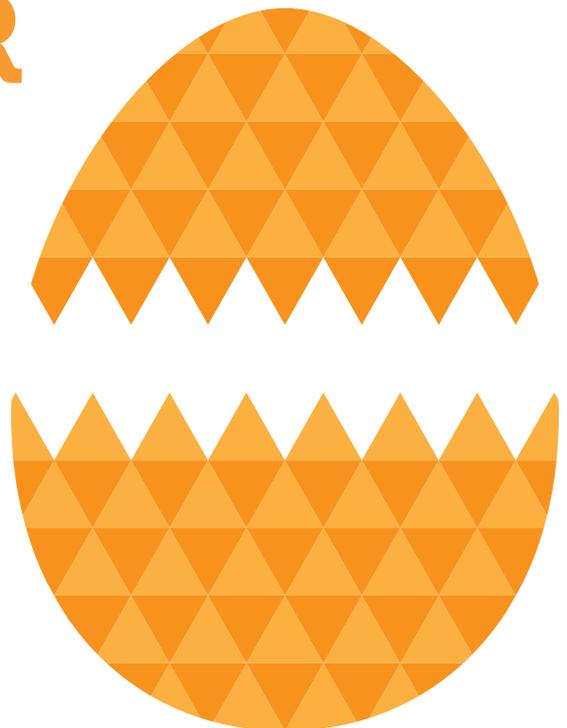
## Bright Futures

DEVELOPMENT NETWORK



# HAPPY EASTER

We wish everyone a restful Easter break.



  
**Bright Futures**  
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

The best *for* everyone, the best *from* everyone