

RISING STARS



Bright Futures Newsletter
Summer 2022 Edition



It's particularly pleasing to be ending the school year with a celebration of so many diverse achievements across the entire Trust.

It is remarkable just how much we are achieving together with children, young people, families and communities. I am so pleased to see the amount of outward-facing work that people are doing, clearly demonstrating the importance of 'community' - one of our core values.

In addition to the many exciting celebrations highlighted in this edition of 'Rising Stars' there are many more rich opportunities for learning being offered day in, day out all across the Trust. There are sporting, drama, dance, music, visual arts, innovative science and technology projects and residential experiences involving hundreds of young people. Then there are all those trips and visits that provide a context for students' learning in the humanities – there's nothing like standing in a glaciated valley to help you understand how they were formed or visiting a country to practice the language.

Such memorable, first-hand experiences are only possible through the dedicated work of staff who routinely go the extra mile to support and enrich students' learning. I hope you enjoy reading about the wonderful opportunities that our students enjoy, and I wish you all a happy, restful and well-earned summer break.



Dr John Wm Stephens CBE

Chief Executive Officer,
Bright Futures Educational Trust

Celebrating Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month

Cedar Mount Academy celebrated Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month (#GRTHM) and took the opportunity to further educate students and staff on both the traditions and culture of this community.

June marks a month of awareness for GRTHM and staff worked closely with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) students to ensure the traditions were accurately represented. There were many student-led events which provided a real insight into GRT life outside of school, and during SCHOLAR time students participated in a number of activities including learning basic Romani phrases. Assemblies concentrated on how damaging stereotyping can be and the importance of being an inclusive school. In Geography, students mapped GRT origins and migration and in Religious Studies, Year 9 learnt about the links between Hinduism and traditional Roma beliefs.

Every classroom and office door displayed posters showcasing famous heroes such as Marvel creator, Stan Lee, and footballer, Eric Cantona.



This was a whole-school event and in the canteen delicious traditional meals such as Irish Stew & soda bread and orez cu lapte (a traditional rice pudding containing sultanas) were offered.

The month culminated in students dressing up in a wonderful array of clothes that represented GRT culture.



Platinum Jubilee festivities at Stanley Grove

Stanley Grove Reception classes dressed up in red, white and blue to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Children worked together to create a collaborative piece of artwork, made their own jam sandwiches ready for the Royal Tea and wore the wonderful crowns they had created. The day ended with some garden games, and lots of fun was had by all.



Lime Tree celebrates TES national award for SEND

Lime Tree Primary Academy won the SEND in a Mainstream Setting prize at the national Times Educational Supplement (TES) Schools Awards 2022.

The school has a real focus on ensuring all children have an ambitious curriculum coupled with high-quality inclusive practices which enable all learners to achieve. Teaching assistants are highly trained and well supported. This means that bespoke interventions are offered which cover academic and sensory needs, mental health, communication, and language emotion (including a therapeutic forest school experience and therapy dog). Lime Tree has a specialist in each key stage to support a range of needs, whether social, emotional, physical, or academic and a bespoke wellbeing team who make regular calls and hold meetings to support families with 'whatever is needed'. The school works closely with outside agencies and the local specialist and secondary mainstream schools, and also supports families on the Trafford SEND Parent Forum.



Margaret Mulholland, judge and special educational needs and inclusion specialist at the Association of School and College Leaders, said: "The unique element of Lime Tree was not just the very detailed case studies of impact over time but, more than anything, the outward-facing role they perform in terms of building partnerships locally to reach both the child and the family and wrap around them, with this notion that it's not just the child that has got a place at the school, but the family." As well as the award for SEND in a Mainstream Setting, Lime Tree was also shortlisted for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Setting of the Year 2022.

Clare Larkin, Head of School at Lime Tree, commented: "We were delighted to have been shortlisted for these coveted awards but to actually win an award is such amazing recognition for the whole Lime Tree family. It really is a team effort here at school and I would like to say a massive thank you to our wonderful students, staff, parents, carers and, of course, the wider community."

"We are truly committed to ensuring all our children are supported with whatever it takes to help them thrive. Through careful nurturing of each child using creativity, innovation, and academic challenge within our school setting, which includes a farm and two Forest School areas, we make this happen. We are so grateful to our local community and partners too who help us to achieve this."

This latest award win follows Lime Tree's success at the Pearson Education Awards where the school achieved Bronze in The Award for Making a Difference – Primary School of the Year.





School Games Gold Award for SSA

South Shore Academy are delighted to have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2021/22 academic year. The School Games Mark is a government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward and recognise schools' engagement (provision and uptake) in the School Games against a national benchmark and to celebrate keeping young people active.



Acre Hall netball champions

Congratulations to Acre Hall Primary School who are the Trafford School Sports Partnership (SSP) High 5 netball winners. It was a tough tournament, with not much separating the teams, but Acre Hall showed incredible attitude and dedication and everyone was delighted to celebrate the win.



Cash for Kids fundraiser

Cash for Kids have previously supported Barton Clough with items at Christmas as well as cash donations which have enabled the school to both buy uniform and provide a breakfast club. So, when Paul Gibson, Forest School and Outdoor Lead at Barton Clough, was asked to accompany the Hits Radio breakfast show team on a fundraising climb up Snowdon (the highest mountain in Wales) the answer was only going to be 'yes'!

It was an early start for Paul as he was interviewed on the radio show, first thing, before making the three-hour ascent with the team which included singer and presenter, Fleur East. Paul described the hike, part of the charity's 5k-a-day campaign, as; "...a very enjoyable experience for a fantastic cause!".

Gymnastics success for sisters

Sisters Hikari and Kaori from Altrincham Grammar Schools for Girls achieved some fantastic results in rhythmic gymnastics competitions.

Hikari (Y10), and her team from June Rendell, participated in the Momentum Contemporary Championship in Bolton. She won gold for Contemporary Group in the under 16s, silver for Solo Improvisation in the under 14s, and bronze for Set Routine Two, also in the under 14s.

Kaori (Y7), and her team from City of Manchester Rhythmic Academy, participated in National Rhythmic Gymnastics competitions. In the Rhythmic Gymnastics English Championship in Bath, Kaori won two bronze medals in Balls and Free Routines in the Espoir group (under 12s), and she also won a silver medal in the Espoir group in Free Routine at the Rhythmic Gymnastics British Championship.

Well done, to both girls!





Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award expedition

A group of 40 students from South Shore Academy set off in the pouring rain from Chipping for an amazing few days on their Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition. Students knew they had a long day ahead of them but were determined that not even the poor weather would stop them. The rain kept coming but they never gave up, their resilience was fantastic. They trekked over fields and ditches, through mud and styles. They ran from sheep and got stuck climbing over walls but arrived safely at camp. Some groups took unnecessary detours but that's all in the fun of the expedition. The weather began to brighten up as students put up their tents and cooked their food and, by the end, the sun was shining brightly. They were also lucky enough to have access to the onsite kayaking facilities which proved to be very popular – some students even went swimming in the lake.

The whole group were amazing and totally smashed their expedition goal which was to improve personal resilience. It was a really successful few days, but both students and staff were exhausted and welcomed the half-term break.



The art of wellbeing

At Rushbrook Primary Academy, Miss Elliott and Miss Abby embarked on a special project called 'Art of Resilience'. They organised for a group of children to visit Manchester Art Gallery over a six-week period to engage with the project and enjoy the experience of visiting a city-centre gallery and its surroundings. Creatives at the Gallery shared their practice and process to help build resilience and wellbeing.

In addition, Rushbrook held Anti-Bullying training for children from seven schools across Manchester and Yorkshire. The school hosted The Diana Award who provide resources and support for those who are experiencing bullying behaviour and those who want to support someone who is experiencing bullying behaviour. The youth charity, founded in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, is passionate about promoting an anti-bullying culture and communities of kindness.



World of Work Week

Year 8 students at Altrincham Grammar School for Girls (AGGS) participated in World of Work (WoW) Week. Seven alumnae delivered a series of talks on what they have done since leaving AGGS. Some talks were virtual, some in-person and one was from a member of staff!

The aim of inviting in alumnae is to showcase to students an array of different careers and opportunities on offer after they leave school and to think about the different skills needed. Students enjoyed hearing from those who were once in their shoes.

Assemblies and form time sessions were delivered during the week to help the girls to think about what skills they already have, and how they can develop and build upon these skills in and out of school for their future careers.





Melland High School have had a busy time further developing their Careers and Work-Related Learning Programme this term...

Annual Careers Week

This year, Melland High School had a jam-packed timetable for Annual Careers Week. They had encounters from a wide range of employers and work sectors such as Engie Construction, Winners Strength and Wellbeing Studios, Aerozone, Barnardos, Kloodle, Education and Semi Professional Football Academy, HMP Styal, AFG Law, Human Resources, Network Rail, the NHS, Greater Manchester Police and the National Careers Service.

There were also a variety of other activities for students to participate in over the course of the week such as a magic show, Manchester Airport Jobs Fair, The Manchester College Taster Sessions in Construction and Hair & Beauty, Sixth Form Café, Step Into Sport Youth Leadership Training, STEM workshops, Job Sector Carousel, Q&A panel with ex-students about life after Melland, Q&A with Sixth Form students about part-time jobs, and students were supported by Melland's Careers Advisers.

There was a busy and buzzing Speed Networking Event where students from Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 had the chance to meet with employers from the NHS, Aldermore Banking, Carefoot Construction, Spike Retail Technology, Career Connect, The Manchester College, Zen Internet, Ernst and Young, Buzz Rocks Caribbean, HideOut, Rider Levett Bucknall, Unity Radio, Mozzington, the Department for Work and Pensions and The Wig Up Podcast.

Pupils gained a valuable insight into different careers pathways and used a variety of employability skills in the many activities they enjoyed. Students developed their 'Skills for Life' and demonstrated excellent communication skills by asking thoughtful and challenging questions during employer encounters. They were pushed out of their comfort zones and showed admirable self-belief by having the courage to ask questions to adults they had just met. Pupils proved they have self-management skills by following a different timetable and being flexible in their routines. Pupils took part in multiple STEM workshop activities which promoted teamwork and problem solving. All students were a credit to the school and excellent role models and ambassadors, well done!

A huge thanks to all involved in supporting the Careers Week, in particular Debbie Mellows who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, arranging employer encounters, and ensuring things ran smoothly. There was also a phenomenal amount of support from Sarah Driver, Enterprise Adviser and Diane Norburn, Enterprise Coordinator who provided many of the contacts for the fantastic Speed Networking Event.



Behind the scenes at Parklife

A group of lucky students had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see behind the scenes at Parklife. The visit was a workplace safari and provided students with a valuable insight into the many jobs involved in setting up and putting on a festival. Students heard from members of staff about health and safety in the workplace, design and construction of the many different stages, first aid and medical assistance, bartending, sound and light engineering and hospitality. Parklife creates over 4,500 jobs, brings over 80,000 people together over one weekend and makes huge amounts of money to boost the local economy.

Students developed their 'Skills for Life' over the course of the day. Communication was a key skill, students listened carefully to all the different people speaking about their jobs and asked insightful relevant questions. There were many different media companies reporting on the tour. Several students showed fantastic self-belief when they were interviewed by Hits Radio, Capital FM and BBC News and a teacher was even interviewed for ITV news!

One of the highlights of the tour was getting to see inside 50 Cent's dressing room, the students were impressed by how spacious the room was and how much of a home away from home it was. Students heard how it is the job of the artist liaison to make sure the dressing room has any home comforts requested (50 Cent likes Gatorade). They must use self-management and organisation skills to book all the different artists and make sure they can all perform at the right time on the correct day.



The group were surprised by how much effort goes into running the bar at Parklife. The bartenders need to be good at problem solving. It requires lots of forward planning to ensure they don't run out of drinks over the weekend, it's important to make sure there are enough limes - 250,000 to be precise!

Students showed exemplary behaviour and were excellent role models for the school. They found the workplace safari interesting, engaging and eye opening with many students now interested in summer jobs working at a festival.

Thank you to Sacha Lord for kindly organising the event, Diane Norburn for providing the opportunity to Melland and Debbie Mellows for helping to organise the trip.





Marton's young poets

The Reception Class from Marton Primary Academy and Nursery entered a poetry competition with Young Writers which culminated in the work being published in a Young Writers book called "My First Riddle, 2022: A Poetry Odyssey". Well done, everyone!

My First Riddle encourages pupils to use their senses and imagination to create their own original riddle written on any theme, from their current class topic to people, places or animals. The aim is for children to become life-long readers by fostering a love of creative writing at a young age.



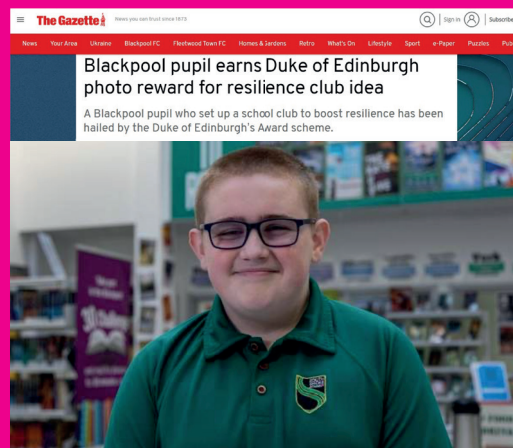
AGGS trio earn their black belts

Congratulations to Arpita, Aisha and Dharini who have each achieved their black belts in Taekwondo. They trained every Thursday after school with Mr Miley, 7th Dan. This is a wonderful achievement for them all!



In the media

Corron, a student at South Shore Academy, featured in The Gazette, Blackpool, when his initiative to set up a school club to boost resilience was commended by The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.



Bright Futures Educational Trust has been named as an Associate College by the National Institute of Teaching (NlOT). Associate Colleges form a network of organisations with exceptional track records and the capacity and expertise required to deepen and extend the reach and impact of the NlOT.



Cedar Mount Academy featured on Granada Reports following their mentoring programme from With Insight Education.



Young Enterprise Fiver Challenge at Elmridge

Elmridge Primary School's Year 6 participated in the Young Enterprise Fiver Challenge which is a six-week project designed to introduce children to the concept of starting up and running a small business. Each team was given an initial investment of £5, and the aim was to make as much profit as possible.

The children were split into groups to devise an idea for their business e.g. what did they want to sell? or, which service did they wish to provide? The groups then created a business name and logo before carrying out market research to decide how best to spend their £5. They then developed a sales pitch which they delivered to the whole school in Collective Worship, prior to the businesses going live. Elmridge businesses included a car washing service for staff's cars, homemade cupcakes, origami figures, secondhand toys, stationery, homemade Play-Doh, friendship bracelets and a lucky dip tombola. The children sold their goods and services at each break for a week and progress was reviewed daily. Some teams needed to take some of their profits back to re-invest in more materials and the children relished the challenge and showed excellent team-working skills.

After the initial investment had been returned to Young Enterprise, the class managed to raise over £600 for Elmridge's school fund which is a fantastic legacy. Thank you, Year 6!



Sports day at The Orchards

Children, parents, carers and staff had an amazing time celebrating Sports Day at The Orchards this term. It was a brilliant event, enabling all the children to demonstrate their sporting skills and, as you can see from the photo, there were lots of smiley faces when it was time to hand out the medals and certificates to all participants.





Inaugural Leadership Conference

Colleagues, partners and contributors from a range of sectors attended the first Bright Futures Leadership Conference, in partnership with Satis Education, and hosted by John Stephens and Lisa Fathers.

The event theme was 'Winning - be better today than yesterday' and there were a number of highly respected keynote speakers in attendance, including: Professor Dame Alison Peacock, Professor Sandeep Ranote, Ali Oliver MBE, Roger Pope CBE and Baroness Sue Campbell DBE, while the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, opened the conference.

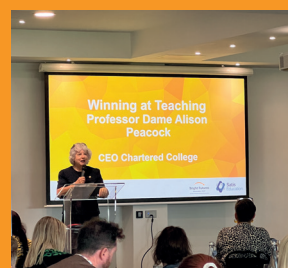
Each speaker explored the theme of 'Winning' - from the world of education and beyond - to challenge thinking and explore how collaboration, motivation and creativity can bring leaders and school communities to a point of 'Winning'.

In organising the event, it was hoped that colleagues, partners, and contributors would feel that they had been challenged, affirmed, encouraged, and helped to move on in their thinking; exploring the things that matter most and how to advance them so that the very best is achieved for all children and young people. Reviewing feedback received both on the day and after the event, this certainly seemed to be the case.

With the venue chosen as Hotel Football, Old Trafford, it was no coincidence that the conference took place on the eve of UEFA Women's Euros 2022, with the excitement brewing. Yet, nothing lifted the spirits more than the performances from two Bright Futures' schools. Rushbrook Primary Academy's Choir raised the roof with their amazing singing and Year 6 students from Lime Tree Primary Academy offered a sneak peek of their fantastic end of year performance of 'Matilda'.



★ Outstanding event!



★ World Class Leadership Conference today by @BrightFuturesET



★ A huge privilege to be invited to @BrightFuturesET Leadership Conference. The speakers were inspiring, and the leaders were passionate about education. The performers were incredible. Thank you #Winning

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER



We would like to wish everyone a wonderful and restful summer break.

Bright Futures
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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