

RISING STARS



Winter 2022 Edition



There were times over the past two years when I wondered if we would ever return to a 'normal' way of doing things. Like most of us, I guess, I had always taken for granted the ability to go out and meet up with people without the fear of being too close and picking up a respiratory infection. We have all become much more aware of the risks associated with just being together in groups, and I was worried that we might end up in some kind of dystopian existence where routine social contact was conducted exclusively via digital technologies.

I think this is why it is more pleasing than ever to see in this edition of 'Rising Stars' so many great examples of wonderful work across the Trust that brings our staff and students together in shared endeavours. The term has seen so many sporting successes with

schools once again free to enter into friendly competition with one another. We have had activities for the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, concerts and opportunities for students to enrich their learning by visiting places of interest both at home and abroad.

It is so encouraging to see the return of such rich opportunities for learning – a reminder indeed of the central message of Christmas. The last two years have been a period of limitation, separation and concerns about health. As we have gradually put behind us the necessary restrictions on contact, our staff and students have risen to the challenge and have shone brighter than ever. Far from being forever limited, the restored freedom and confidence seems to have brought even greater opportunities, many of which are included in this edition of 'Rising Stars'. It is in the joy of

these many diverse achievements that we also see the light, the life and the love of Christmas – light that shines in the darkness and which can never be put out.

Wishing you - and those close to you - a happy Christmas and a joyous, healthy and fulfilling New Year!



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

BBC back at Cedar Mount Academy

Year 9 students were delighted to welcome back the BBC to deliver the first of four workshops for this academic year. Cedar Mount are one of five UK schools taking part in the workshops which have been created by BBC Education and influenced by students' content/data input from last year's focus groups.

The first workshop was titled: 'How to tell if you're being biased'. Students discussed headline stories from TV, newspapers and online, looking at the bias/balance to the articles by analysing the words, tone, perspective, and pictures. In many instances, students were able to carefully consider 'the other side of the story' and in one case, they identified racial bias within an article, which supports the school's work on anti-racism and awareness.

Tess (Senior Producer), Daniella (Researcher) and Versha (Producer) went on to discuss their career paths and roles. Students enjoyed a Q&A session about the many career and apprenticeship choices at the BBC.

Tess spoke of the BBC Young Reporter (link: www.bbc.co.uk/teach/young-reporter) whereby winning stories are published on BBC Broadcast - on the Young Reporter page and other BBC pages and platforms e.g. – if the story is about disability, it could also be published on BBC Ouch.

Students thoroughly enjoyed participating in the workshop which help the BBC to connect with young people. Word spread through school quickly with many others wanting to know how they could get involved. The BBC were extremely impressed with student knowledge and their understanding of the topics raised.





A new sports stage for Rushbrook

With works on Rushbrook new astro-pitch complete, children have enjoyed starting to use this amazing facility. From early morning girls football training to the hockey team honing their skills, children are really benefiting from this new asset. The school are also delighted with their smart new sports kit, sponsored by Black Cat Building Consultancy who took the lead on the project to build the new pitch.



Rushbrook recently welcomed nursery children and their parents, along with children from local nurseries, to an afternoon of sport on the new pitch with the Diane Modahl Sports Foundation. Unfortunately, the weather was against them and, at the last minute, they had to move the event inside. Despite the change of plans, and in true #TeamRushbrook spirit, the children still had a fantastic afternoon and Rushbrook enjoyed welcoming new families into the school to show them everything the school has to offer.



Communication counts at Marton

Marton Primary Academy and Nursery has been awarded Elklan Communication Friendly Setting (CFSe) accreditation. This is as a result of the school having trained and supported all staff in communication and language development.

Colleagues attended sessions on everything from developing interaction to encouraging expressive language and narrative development. Congratulations to the team at Marton on this achievement which will have a positive impact on children at the school.



Elmridge Globe Trotters

A new initiative has been launched at Elmridge linking in with The Daily Mile, which aims to improve the physical, social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing of children – regardless of age, ability or personal circumstances.

As a healthy school, Elmridge believe that developing children's understanding of the importance of physical activity is essential and have chosen to launch 'Elmridge Globe Trotters'.

During the school day, children participate in The Daily Mile, jogging or walking at their own pace in the fresh air. This has helped children to focus and concentrate in the classroom making them more 'learning ready' and, most importantly, they really enjoy it. Children will be able to track their progress and celebrate their achievements. The more laps they complete, the further around the world they will travel, receiving certificates as they build their miles. Children will be able to plot their journey around the world and they will also know how many miles they have accumulated from first embarking on the challenge.





Success at SSA through the DofE Award

At South Shore Academy, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) is held in high regard, and the school is so proud of students who have achieved it.

To gain this award, students completed four different sections including:

Physical – Where students do physical exercise for at least one hour a week for six weeks, this can be within or outside of school.

Skills – Where students choose something they are interested in learning about, whether that be a new language, cooking skills, sewing skills etc.

Volunteering – Students are asked to do some volunteer work, again this can be within the school setting or outside.

And last, but not least, Expedition – Here students complete a two-day trek, where they plan a route through the countryside to a designated point.

Here is what some students and staff say regarding the Award:

"I took part in the Bronze DofE and found it very fun as I learnt new a new skill - knitting, which my family also took part in. DofE also helped boost my confidence as I volunteered at Marton Primary Academy in the Mosaic After School Club. I enjoyed taking part in these activities as I also spent time with friends at the DofE Sports Club after school."

Charlotte

"This whole experience has led me to do things I would never have thought possible. I have now completed my referee qualification and I am also Head Boy of South Shore Academy."

Dylan

"The Duke of Edinburgh's Award encourages pupils to embrace what they love but challenge themselves to try something new. It promotes a healthy lifestyle and encourages teamwork and resilience throughout – brilliant qualities to have and develop as a young person."

Miss Leach



Double marks for Barton Clough

Barton Clough is extremely proud of achieving the Silver School Games Mark for its efforts in promoting PE and Sports throughout the school. Children participated in a variety of sports clubs, competitions, and challenges to achieve this feat. The superb Year 5 Sports Leaders have also been instrumental in this achievement, through their excellent leadership in pupil-led playground activities and competitions. The group recently designed and launched a whole-school World Cup competition and are keen to encourage children to participate in a variety of other sports throughout the school year.

Barton Clough is equally excited to announce that it is now a Music Mark school too! The school has shown it is willing to engage in whole-school developments around music teaching, provide high-quality music lessons to pupils and is committed to providing extra musical opportunities within school for all children to access.

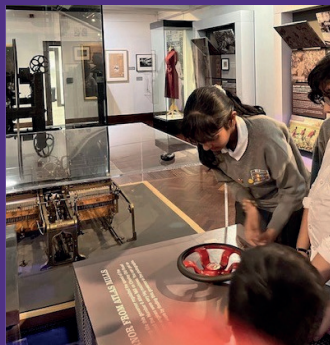
This term, Barton Clough enjoyed a woodwind instrument demonstration run by Trafford Music Service and have been so inspired that children have signed up for group lessons.





A day at the museum

Year 6 children from Stanley Grove had a fantastic time at Bolton Museum this term. They viewed the Art Gallery and the Aquarium, and they also attended a workshop all about Ancient Egypt! It was a fantastic enrichment opportunity, and the group learnt lots of interesting facts which will help them with their current topic!



One pupil from 6 Khan said about the trip: "Bolton Museum was full of things to learn. My favourite part was seeing the real mummified body! I also really enjoyed making a timeline and learning about the process of embalming. I would definitely go back!"

Celebrating Diwali at Elmridge

Elmridge Primary School enjoyed celebrating Diwali with the support of its Hindu school community. Parents came into school and decorated the corridors with vibrant decorations and statues. Parents held a whole-school assembly and class workshops which included Bollywood dancing, dressing up and making cards and lanterns which provided the children with a real insight into how the Hindu festival of light is celebrated.



English School Cross Country Success for AGGS

Having qualified in first place in the North West Regional Finals, Altrincham Grammar School for Girls participated in the English Schools Cross Country Cup in Leeds. Out of 27 team in Intermediate Girls (Years 9 and 10) and 170 runners, from up and down the Country, AGGS managed to successfully finish in 12th place. This is a fantastic achievement as the majority of the team were competing against students a year older than themselves. A further congratulations to Izzy who finished in 13th place.

In the media

Chief Operating Officer, Edward Vitalis, spoke at MATPN Midlands about MAT growth, with more than 100 MAT leaders sharing insight, knowledge and experience, as widely promoted online. Lisa Fathers, Director of Development, Partnerships and Teaching School Hubs, is due to speak at the North event in the new year.

Lisa Fathers FCCT @LisaFathe... · 6h
Great to see our brilliant COO Edward Vitalis speaking on a panel discussion @MATPartNet last week about mat growth! I believe it was a great event. Looking forward to attending the next one myself ❤️ #WeAreBrightFutures



Cedar Mount Academy's renowned Black History Month celebrations caught the attention of many, including author, Natalie Morris, who enjoyed a Q&A session at the school.

Rushbrook Primary Academy also received a special 'shout out' from author, Onjali Rauf, recognising the school's passionate young readers who had been reading The Boy at the Back of the Class.





Human Appeal help from Lime Tree

Lime Tree recently had a visit from Nawshin, a representative of Human Appeal, a British international development and relief charity supporting local communities and further afield, based in Manchester. This year, they are reaching out to get schools involved and work with young people to empower them to act as advocates for those in need in their local community and beyond.

The children were very welcoming to Nawshin, participating enormously and sharing what charity means to them. Staff were very proud of the children's kindness and thoughts of others.

Children and staff learned about the Wrap Up 2022 (donate a coat) appeal, an award-winning charity campaign that aims to keep the most vulnerable people in the UK warm during the winter. Lime Tree were excited to be invited to get involved to help make a difference this winter and be a 'warmth drop-off point' for school and the local community



The Lime Tree Wellbeing Ambassadors worked very hard to raise awareness of this fantastic cause, making available a collection box in each classroom, in the hope that each box could raise £10 to purchase a new coat/jacket from Human Appeal's chosen supplier to donate on the class/school's behalf.

In addition to this, pupils took it upon themselves to sell their bake cakes and their artwork, or to visit family and friends with the collection box, spreading the word and extending the reach of the appeal, which resulted in a phenomenal number of coats received.

Donations were collected by Nawshin and her team from Human Appeal in November, and it is fair to say, they were blown away by the generosity and efforts of pupils and the community.

The donations will be distributed to the homeless, refugees, and children and families living in poverty before Christmas and ensure everyone is kept warm.

The school community look forward to finding out how many coats were donated/purchased by money raised and collected from their 'warmth drop-off point' and which good causes Lime Tree and its families and friends supported during the Wrap Up 2022 appeal.

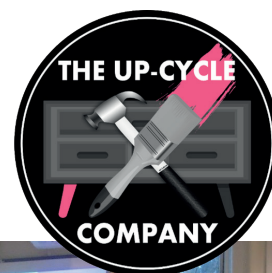
Melland Sixth Form Upcycle Company

During Design Technology lessons, Melland students have set up their very own upcycling company.

The first stage of the project was for students to learn about creating a brand. Students spent a few lessons researching names and looking into logos of already famous companies they knew, not necessarily linked to furniture design. Students then worked together to brainstorm ideas and agreed on the name 'The Up-Cycle Company' through a democratic vote. Students also put their creative side to work when drawing ideas for the company logo. There were some fabulous designs and ideas. The winning design was created by Year 12 student, Steafon. Students then decided on a USP for their furniture, and they opted to paint the furniture in dark colours such as black.

During the second stage of the project the students were upskilled in a variety of techniques to help them become independent furniture 'upcyclers'. Students developed a new skill each week, such as sanding, using electric and manual hand-sanders, painting using different types of brushes and rollers and using screwdrivers (some also learnt to use a drill). The project has enabled them to develop their 'Skills for Life' including teamwork and self-belief as each week their techniques have improved. Once students had developed their techniques, they then began to use those techniques to upcycle the furniture.

The final stage of the project was to sell the furniture at the school's winter fair. This was a huge success. All the furniture was successfully sold. Year 13 student, Isac, used all his sales techniques and worked hard on the stall to sell each piece, he was a fantastic salesperson, and he clearly possesses the 'gift of the gab'.





It's 'all go' at Acre Hall!

In October, work began to install a new multi-use games area (MUGA) at Acre Hall. The new pitch will enable children to participate in a wider range of sports, which form a major part of the PE and PSHE curriculum, as well as many extra-curricular activities, all-year round.

Mr Catherall, Head of School, enthused: "This is a very exciting time for us all here at Acre Hall. The new multi-use pitch is something that has been planned for some time, and now, thanks to Bright Futures, it's finally going to happen."

A special sporting mention goes to Alfie in Year 3 who won a bronze medal at the British Taekwondo National Championships. What an incredible achievement. Well done, Alfie!



MU Foundation at The Orchards

The Orchards has partnered with the Manchester United Foundation to help students develop new skills and offer opportunities for all our children to access. A trained SEND Officer from the Foundation, Ian, is now based at school to work alongside staff and he is already having a positive impact.

Courtesy of the Foundation, one lucky student had the opportunity to go and watch Manchester United. He had the most fantastic time and everyone at The Orchards is excited to be involved in more community activities in 2023.



Christmas card creations

Students from across our Trust created wonderful designs for this year's Christmas Card competition.

We really enjoyed reviewing the designs, from jazzy colourings of Father Christmas to calming, peaceful portraits of deer, by our talented artists.

The overall winner was Azka (Year 5) from Stanley Grove Primary Academy. Azka's striking design is based around a traditional winter scene. We also had two runners up: Ethan from South Shore who produced a lovely, detailed design with a clever sentiment 'May your future be as bright as your Christmas' and Kayan from Elmridge who created a beautifully bright and bold robin.

Thank you to everyone who took part, your designs were all amazing!



Bright Futures Elf antics

Quite unbelievably, the Bright Futures Elf was invited back to class this December and again brought lots of fun and laughter across the Trust, and beyond. Thank you so much to everyone who helped look after the Elf and get us all into the festive spirit!

#BrightFuturesElfEscapades
#BrightFuturesFestiveFun





All things Early Years!

We are delighted to share the news that our Early Years partnership has been designated by the Department for Education as an Early Years Stronger Practice Hub, the first in the Northwest (Bright Futures NW Early Years Stronger Practice Hub). The programme, part of the DfE's Early Years Education COVID-19 Recovery Package, aims to support settings to address the impact of the pandemic on young children, by sharing effective practice and building lasting local networks.

We would like to thank our partnership supporting the application who were:

Trafford Local Authority, Lime Tree Primary Academy, Stanley Grove Primary Academy, ESSA Primary Academy, Little Oaks Nursery, Wellfield Infant and Nursery School



Professional Development Institute

With the addition of the Early Years Stronger Practice Hub and to reflect the strategic scaling up of the 'Development' directorate we have re-named the Development Network to 'Bright Futures Professional Development Institute'.

This is the home of all people professional development activity and the school improvement resources across Bright Futures. We feel that our new name better captures what we do – which is all about professional development!





Forest School at Barton Clough

Year 6 are currently studying the changes in warfare throughout British History. They have been lucky enough to carry out some investigations during Forest School sessions. Students covered themes such as changes in communication, camouflage, and weaponry.

They also researched life in the trenches and then got to build a smaller version to show how the trenches were connected and why. They will now compare this to how castles were used, linking to strategy and how armies used landmass to support their battle decisions.



Junior Mathematical Olympiad awards at AGGS

Congratulations to Year 9 pupils, Manni and Wendy. Both were selected to take part in the 2022 Junior Mathematical Olympiad on the basis of their performance in the Junior UK Mathematics Trust challenge. Only the top 25% of 1,200 pupils participating in the Olympiad were awarded distinction with the top 200 awarded medals. Manni and Wendy were awarded silver and bronze medals respectively. Congratulations!



Introducing Lime Tree's Wellbeing team

Pupils, staff and families at Lime Tree are loving all that the Wellbeing team have to offer. A safe space to talk, time with the school's therapy dog - Kir, Therapeutic Forest sessions, outdoor resilience and teambuilding activities, SEND support, guidance and links with outside support groups, parent workshops and always with a smile! The Wellbeing Ambassadors feel they have a strong pupil voice and represent the school with new ideas, such as quieter lunchtime zones with chat and chill spaces.




Bright Futures
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

The best for everyone, the best from everyone

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