



Transforming Lives

Summer 2014

Message from Ian Cleland, CEO



Ian Cleland

During our first two years we have worked closely with our Principals and Governing Bodies to develop The Trust so that it is supporting transformational improvement.

Since conversion, pupils in our primary academies have improved faster than national

expectations in reading, writing and mathematics. Whilst, their counterparts in the secondary academies are rapidly closing the gap with national expectations for progress of pupils in mathematics and English.

This is due to the rapid advancement in the quality of teaching, which is now being judged more than 70% good or better in primary, up from 43% and from 53% to 75% in secondary

academies. Thanks go to all our staff for their commitment to providing an outstanding educational experience for our pupils.

Our pupils now enjoy coming to school more than ever and as a result attendance rates in half our academies have increased to higher than the national average.

We recently had good news of a £1.5m capital allocation which is now being used for building maintenance and improving the quality of the learning environment for pupils across our academies.

We are increasingly being recognised as having a wider vision beyond high quality classroom practice to an engagement with community and ensuring a rounded education for all pupils. We support the development of the whole child within an ethos that enables them to develop to their full potential while enjoying their learning.

Ian Cleland

The Dukeries Academy pupil wins top sporting award



16-year-old Eddie Fenwick from The Dukeries Academy picked up a prestigious award from the Youth Sport Trust in February for his significant contribution to PE and sport in his school and community.

Eddie won their 'Young Person Award', which recognises and rewards best practice and achievements through PE and sport by schools, academies, colleges and young people.

On stage to present Eddie with his prestigious award were Baroness Sue Campbell CBE, Chair of the Youth Sport Trust, and their Ambassadors Darren Campbell and Gail Emms.

Eddie said: "I'm overwhelmed to win this award; it is a real shock and a privilege. The sporting opportunities I've been given have been so helpful, so I really wanted to give something back."

In this Issue...

News from our academies **Page 2-3**

News from The Trust **Page 5**

Staff profile: Nicky Broomhall **Page 6**

Are you interested in becoming a Trust academy?

Academy Transformation Trust, Room 501, One Victoria Square, Birmingham, B1 1BD

Tel: 0121 632 2340 Email: office@academytransformation.co.uk

www.academytransformationtrust.co.uk

Follow us: twitter.com/academytrust





News from across our academies



Pupils get on their bikes at Star Academy

Star Academy has been hard at work with Sustrans, a leading UK transport charity, to build up the skills and abilities of our pupils to ride bikes and scooters to and from their academy.

They were also eligible for funding for bikes and a hub and have bought 17 children's bikes for pupils and two adult bikes for teachers/adults to accompany them on bike rides. Along with all the necessary helmets!

Russell Brand drops in at The Hathaway Academy

Comedian Russell Brand, a former pupil at the Grays School Media Arts College, now our very own Hathaway Academy, dropped by for a visit in April.

During his time there he met with Principal James Howarth and took time to drop in on a number of classes.



The Nicholas Hamond Academy pupil visits Ascension Island

An A-level pupil at The Nicholas Hamond Academy flew almost 4,500 miles to Ascension Island in late February to take part in an expedition organised by The Air Cadets.

Ryan Jackson, 17, is a member of 864DF Air Training Corps at RAF Marham and was one of only 12 cadets chosen. Whilst on the island he got to see first-hand how the RAF staging post, used extensively by the British military during the Falklands War, is managed, resourced and operates.



Lotus Cars visit Diamond Academy

Pupils at Diamond Academy were in for a real treat earlier in the year when they had a visit from a Lotus Cars engineer – and one of their fantastic sports cars!



Dave Larkman came into the academy to give a talk about vehicles and transportation as part of the school's science work on forces and friction. He then showed the car to the excited pupils, followed by a careers talk to years 5 and 6 about being an engineer.

Thurrock's Cyclicious team visit The Hathaway Academy

The Cyclicious team from Thurrock Council visited The Hathaway Academy in March to promote a scheme to encourage girls to cycle to school.

They spent the time informing them of the benefits of cycling and healthy exercise whilst ensuring that they cycle safely and responsibly. The pupils were able to 'cycle' for a smoothie and were encouraged to join the academy's new cycling training scheme.



Admirals Academy pupils strive for 'Destination Democracy'

A recent theatre workshop held at Admirals Academy has helped pupils understand our Parliament and the history of democracy.



This innovative session was provided through the Parliament Education Service, in collaboration with Springboard East, and was called 'Destination

Democracy'. They gave a quick 'Horrible Histories' style run-through of how countries are run and the emergence of a democratic vote, along with a workshop on the Suffragette movement.

Pupils find out how the Black Country builds Britain

Bristnall Hall Academy pupils got a behind-the-scenes tour of one of the Black Country's leading businesses helping to build Britain.

Year 10 pupils visited the Oldbury-based Crown House Technologies, part of global construction giant Laing O'Rourke, in February to see how they build modular plantrooms to heat and cool major building projects in the UK.

Paul Moss, engineering leader, and Mark Moore, lead manufacturing engineer, took 12 pupils around the vast manufacturing site as part of Bristnall Hall Academy's work-related programme.

Community



Mark Hall Academy becomes community partner with Accuro

Mark Hall Academy has become the first Community Partner in the Harlow area of charity Accuro, who provide a range of services for local children and adults with a disability and their families.

Mark Hall Academy's Associate Assistant Principal Martin Budgett said: "Developing ways in which we can support our immediate and wider community is an essential element of the academy's development. The more we can connect our pupils with the world around them the better."

Kingsmoor Academy raises cash for local hospice

Earlier this year, Kingsmoor Academy pupils took up a challenge to double their money, and raise much needed funds for their local St Claire's Hospice, after being given cash by the academy's parent teacher

association. The children organised a wide range of activities including a cake sale, a film night and a 'I'm a Pupil, Get Me Out of Here' bushtucker trial. In the end the enterprising pupils raised £861.

Sutton Community Academy does Opera!

Adult learners from Sutton Community Academy recently took to the stage for a night of opera alongside Magdala, a Nottingham based charity who bring opera to youth groups and schools.

Pupils from three different schools, including Sutton Community Academy, worked separately to come up with their own songs and it all came together for the first time on the night. The adult learners kicked off the play performing a chilling cult-like chant in a magical dream sequence surrounding the prince, before breaking into a humorous song involving fish and chips.

Let's Celebrate

Jubilee and Kingsmoor Academics' pupils sing at Young Voices

In January, pupils from both Jubilee and Kingsmoor academies took part in the Young Voices concerts at the LG Arena, Birmingham and the O2 in London respectively. The pupils sang alongside more than 13,000 children and singer Stacey Solomon.

Top results at Sutton Community Academy

Congratulations to our Sutton Community Academy pupils who achieved record results in their GCSE English exams. The January results showed the Year 11 pupils recorded a fantastic 69 per cent achieving A*- C grades.

Children's authors unveil new library at Norwich Road Academy

Staff, pupils and special guests came together in late March to celebrate the opening of the new library at Norwich Road Academy. The special day featured an official ribbon cutting ceremony by guest authors Chris Riddell and Paul Stewart, the co-creator of the bestselling Edge Chronicles series.

Jo Ryder, Principal at Norwich Road Academy commented: "It was a fantastic day for all involved – especially the children. I am thrilled we have a library to be proud of once again and our pupils will really benefit from this now and for many years to come."





Spotlight on...Forums

Developing best practice across The Trust

Here at The Trust, we are committed to ensuring that all our staff are able to carry out their role efficiently and effectively and to support their own personal development. As part of this, our forums are at heart of this vision and are run at no extra cost to our academies.

Their key aim is to bring our people together to discuss common issues and provide solutions, which can then become best practice used consistently across all academies.

The termly forums we run are:

- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
- English subject leaders
- Mathematics subject leaders
- Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND)
- Achievement
- Technology for Learning.

Each group has been responsible for developing at least one piece of best practice. These include:

- EYFS forum creating a template for the end of year reports for parents of the children in nursery and reception
- English and mathematics subject leader forums developing the 'Subject Leader Tool Kit', which is filled with tips and templates to support the gathering of evidence to judge how well the subject is doing
- The SEND forum ensuring the implications of a new draft SEND Code of Practice are understood by everyone, as well as supporting the development of an audit tool for Special Education Needs Coordinator to judge SEND provisions throughout our academies and suggest next steps
- Achievement forum is helping to develop an Achievement Strategy which includes a timetable for all assessments taking place during the year and has also supported the development of the TIM system.

The forums are coordinated by different members of The Trust team so that their expert knowledge can steer their development. However as the forums grow and progress, the academies are taking far more of a lead, such as the EYFS forum which is now almost totally self-sufficient. Here a member of staff from each academy takes the responsibility to organise the event as and when the forum is hosted at their school.

Now more than ever we are encouraging staff to take the lead in organising and presenting the forums and hope they will continue to grow – embracing the challenges and successes alike.

We've recently welcomed three new members of staff:

What's happening?

- **Ian Barton** has been appointed the permanent Principal at The Dukeries Academy
- **Raj Kaur** has joined the staff in Birmingham as a Finance Assistant
- **Pat Howell** has come on board as the new Governance Officer based in Birmingham.

The Trust's Finance Manager, Helen Steel, is now on maternity leave until September.

Steve Venross, Principal at Bristnall Hall Academy will be retiring at the end of the academic year and we wish him well for the future.



News from The Trust

Governors' Conference 2014

More than 40 Trust Governors from across the UK attended our highly successful conference in late March to discuss outstanding governance and how working together could bring incredible results for all our academies.

The inaugural conference took place at the University of Warwick in Coventry and included speakers from The Trust team. It aimed to bring our Governors together to share best practice and update them on a range of topics, including governance, HR policies, finance and data.



Principals' Conference 2014

We are currently planning for our second Principals' Conference, which will again be held in Birmingham on 24-25 June, and which last year saw more than 40 of our senior leaders attend.

The two day event will see Principals and members of their Senior Leadership team engage in a number of workshops and discussions on

best practice and ICT, and collaborative working alongside playing host to a number of leading guest speakers from the world of education.

This includes confirmed talks on raising attainment through parental engagement and the topic of underachievement by boys in mathematics.

Rock Assembly

We have once again secured tickets for our academies for this year's Rock Assembly, held at Wembley Arena in London.

The end of term pop concert, hosted by Radio 1's Nihal, and organised by The Transformation Trust, will see more than 12,000 pupils from across the country converge on the capital, 1,200 of those being from our academies.



Press coverage

Since February, we have had more than 285 pieces of coverage in newspapers, on TV/radio and online, here are some highlights:



Iceni Academy

Ex-TV presenter brings stories alive at school
- Eastern Daily Press, 07/02/2014

Toni Arthur-Hay, the former Play School presenter from Northwold, was at Iceni Academy yesterday to share centuries-old folk tales with pupils.



Sutton Community Academy

Dragons' Den ideas a firm investment
- Ashfield Chad, 12/03/2014

A campaign promoting healthy relationships has been won by Sutton Community Academy in a Dragons Den-style competition.



Mildenhall College Academy

Schools recognised for helping young carers
- East Anglian Daily Times, 19/02/2014

Mildenhall College Academy has been awarded the Platinum Standard of Excellence by Suffolk Young Carers for their work helping pupils who care for their relatives.



Ravens Academy

Purple Day at Ravens Academy
- Colchester Gazette, 27/03/2014

A wave of purple flooded into Ravens Academy as staff and pupils dressed up to raise awareness of epilepsy.

Staff profiles

Nicky Broomhall



Star Academy joined Academy Transformation Trust in April 2013 under the leadership of Principal Nicky Broomhall.

She came into her role 18 months ago with extensive educational experience, most recently as a Deputy Head at another Stoke-on-

Trent primary for six years. Prior to this, Nicky had been a senior leader at Star Academy when it was still Hollywall Primary and started her career as a PE coordinator.

Nicky said: ***"I am a strong advocate for The Trust as I truly believe in its core values and I am proud to be a leader of the team at Star Academy as it journeys its way to outstanding."***

"I have a real passion for this school and its community, hence my return as Principal, and we have worked tirelessly to make vast improvements. This is reflected in us now being oversubscribed within the foundation stage this September, having fallen significantly and is a real testimony to the progress made in putting Star Academy back on the map."

Outside of work, Nicky loves anything that involves using her grey matter in an artistic way and has recently completed her Master's Degree in Creativity and Critical Thinking. She cites her two greatest achievements as playing volleyball for England whilst at university and being a very proud mum of a beautiful daughter.

Edward Thomas



Edward is Project Management and Data Officer at Academy Transformation Trust and joined the team in September 2012.

Prior to joining The Trust, Edward has a strong background in Project Management. This has

predominantly been within social and economic regeneration including the London Development Agency's flagship business support programme 'Business London' and the 'Simply opportunities for Start Ups' which was a project aimed at the most deprived areas of South East of London.

In his current role, Edward works across several areas including the project management when converting a school to an academy and data and ICT including development of our TIM system.

Edward also looks after the estates management encompassing bid writing and management of The Trusts Capital Maintenance Fund.

Edward said: ***"I'm available to help our academies with a range of issues. This could include ICT and data issues, estates queries, funding stream analysis and bid proposals."***

One thing you may not know about Edward is that he used to be in a heavy metal band for ten years which included having 'severe' dreadlocks! In his spare time, Edward is a keen and lifelong Manchester United fan.

E-safety across our academies

Sutton Community Academy promote safe use of technology

Sutton Community Academy celebrated Safer Internet Day back in February, to promote safe and responsible use of technology both in and out of the academy.

The academy planned a series of Year meetings for pupils on e-safety which were organised by Academy Ambassadors and a workshop was

held by Sexions on the use and misuse of social media.

E-Safety Roadshow at The Hathaway Academy

The Hathaway Academy played host to an e-safety roadshow back in March. The event organised by Essex County Council and Essex Police Force, included pupils being taught the dangers of the web and how to successfully

Sport

Westbourne Academy netball success

Westbourne Academy's U13 Netball team have enjoyed a great debut season by winning a brilliant league and cup double. The team went unbeaten and managed to win all five of their league games alongside finishing first place in a recent netball tournament, again winning all their games. Congratulations to the girls!

The Dukeries Academy's joint County Cup winners



Congratulations to The Dukeries Academy year 11 pupils who are now joint Rugby County Cup holders following a hard fought match in late March. The 20 lads showed a great display of grit and determination against strong opposition from Farnborough School at Mansfield Rugby Club.

Tymal Mills visit Mildenhall College Academy

Essex and England cricketer Tymal Mills, dubbed the fastest bowler in English cricket,



returned to his former school in January. He spoke to Mildenhall College Academy pupils about the hard work required to achieve ambitions as well as answering questions and signing autographs.

The Dukeries Academy pupils win gold

The Dukeries Academy pupils returned home triumphant in late February with a trampolining gold medal from the Nottinghamshire School Winter Games.

Children from across the county came together to compete in a number of disciplines, which started with an Olympic style opening ceremony, featuring dance performances and interviews with wheelchair rugby player Rob



Tarr and canoeing 2012 Olympic Gold Medal winners, Tim Baillie and Etienne Stott.

The two Dukeries Academy teams had to perform the Next Step Trampoline routines and won a well-deserved gold and silver in their two categories.

negotiate the internet so that they remain safe. The 'Walk Online' presentation kicked off with a quiz which looked at how many pupils would report online incidents alongside how to keep safe on social media channels such as Facebook.

Jubilee Academy runs e-safety workshops

Staff at Jubilee Academy ran an e-safety day in March which included encouraging both pupils

and parents to stay safe online.

Parents were given techniques on how to ensure their children access applications and take part in online gaming safely. Pupils then took part in an exercise which showed them the potential dangers of Facebook and the amount the information about them, which can be disclosed online.



Gallery

Images and activities from across our academies

Sport Relief

Our academies raised more than £2,180 for this year's Sport Relief through a whole range of fun activities, including: sponge the teacher, a badminton challenge, a row-a-thon, running/walking one mile round the school fields or tracks, non uniforms days and even one teacher having his hair shaved off!



World Book Day

Our academies joined in the fun of World Book Day in early March by dressing up as their favourite characters, baking cakes and taking part in a variety of book and reading related activities.



Get in touch

We're always looking for stories for our newsletter, so get in touch if you have ideas or suggestions. You can email us at marketing@academytransformation.co.uk



Are you interested in becoming a Trust academy?

Academy Transformation Trust, Room 501, One Victoria Square, Birmingham, B1 1BD
Tel: 0121 632 2340 Email: office@academytransformation.co.uk

 academytransformationtrust.co.uk

 Follow us: twitter.com/academytrust