

RISING STARS

Bright Futures newsletter
Christmas edition

Season's greetings!

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our Rising Stars Newsletter. As we come to the end of the calendar year, it is a good time to reflect on the hard work that has been taking place in all our schools since the start of the academic year.

This term has shown that Christmas is not the only season of good will! Throughout the Trust, students and teachers alike have been working hard to raise funds for some brilliant causes. Their hard work has been making a difference in the local community and beyond.

You can read about the High Sheriff's recognition of Altrincham Grammar School for Girls later; a fantastic achievement for the students and staff who have been tackling some tough issues head on.

Stanley Grove's recent charity auction also helped to raise money in aid of its new sports facility, raising over £3,500 to show what we can do when we all pull together.

I would like to thank everyone for all their hard work this term and I wish you and your families a relaxing and joyous Christmas break. I look forward to the start of another New Year and to the challenges and excitement that lie ahead.

Dame Dana Ross-Wawrzynski DBE
Chief Executive Officer,
Bright Futures Educational Trust



In The Press

– Gary Handforth, Director of Primary Education, explains Reflective Inquiry to Academy Today's readers.



[Read more](#)

– Dame Dana Ross-Wawrzynski talks to the The Sunday Telegraph about International schools, and how they can help fund UK education.

[Read more](#)



World Cup Fever Strikes at Gorton Mount

England's exit in the group stages might have left the nation a little deflated, but that didn't stop the students at Gorton Mount Primary Academy getting into the spirit this term. In fact, a group of girls from Year 3 got to meet two of England's players in person at a tag rugby session at Eccles Rugby Football Club.

Not only did the girls get to try their hand at the game but they got to ask stars Ben Morgan and Courtney Lawes (pictured) about life as a world-class rugby player!



Watch our Cedar Mount students talking about the dangers of faulty 'swegways' on a recent episode of Newsround. [Read more](#)

Connell Develops Icelandic Links

Connell Sixth Form College was flying the flag for international collaboration in November, welcoming a 36-strong contingent of teaching professionals from Iceland for an inspirational visit. Connell was selected as part of an ongoing initiative in Iceland to look overseas to help develop its educational leadership.

During the visit Connell showcased its modern facilities and high quality learning environment, with students on hand to talk about their experiences and progression within the College. And to complete the cultural exchange, teachers from Connell will be taking up a return invitation to visit educational centres in Iceland in the near future!



South Shore Serves Up Lunch Time Fayre

Photo booths, 'Name the Teddy', raffles and tombolas were all out in full force at South Shore Academy in November for its 'Lunch Time Fayre' event. In a quick fire 25-minute event, students from across the school came together to raise almost £10 a minute for charity!

Cedar Mount Pupils Take to the Decks

Pupils at Cedar Mount Academy have been learning how to DJ at the school's Mancunian Way youth club, thanks to a police funded initiative to improve community relations.

PC Mike McGuinness, a former DJ, has been passing on his skills to the children, aged 11 to 18, for the past year.

Older pupils have been learning how to set up the equipment and the more technical aspects of spinning records. As well as learning to DJ at the youth club, the children can play football and table tennis and take part in other activities.

Charity Auction Proves Big Draw for Stanley Grove



Stanley Grove Primary Academy held a charity auction at Manchester City's Etihad Stadium last month to help raise funds for its new sports facility. The event, which brought together family and friends, including BFET colleagues, raised over £3,500.

Items going under the auctioneer's hammer included signed kit from England captain Wayne Rooney and his Manchester United teammates David De Gea and Bastian Schweinsteiger. As part of a long list of impressive sporting memorabilia, Olympic gymnast Beth Tweddle also donated a signed jacket from the England 2000 Youth Games. The night's biggest prize, however, proved to be a VIP match day experience, organised by Manchester City, which raised £600.

Wigan UTC Students Win JLR Challenge

October saw four of Wigan UTC's pioneering engineers visit Jaguar Land Rover's head offices in Warwick to be presented as the winners of the 2015 Jaguar Land Rover Business Challenge. The Year 13 students had been tasked with designing a new car for JLR as well as a plan to launch the new vehicle to market.

High Recognition for Altrincham Grammar School for Girls

Altrincham Grammar School for Girls has been recognised for its fundraising efforts by the High Sheriff, Sharman Birtles. She visited the school to congratulate the girls on behalf of the anti-trafficking charity SAFE.

Pupils have been working hard to raise funds and relay SAFE's message to highlight the benefits of education in protecting young people from trafficking, grooming and child sexual exploitation.

Mrs Birtles, a former Magistrate on the Manchester City Bench and member of several charitable committees, said:

"The AGGS pupils have done a fantastic job in fundraising to ensure that this education programme reaches more young people."

Great job girls!





Melland Students Make Their Mark

Melland High School students have been putting their study of UK government and democracy into action by taking part in the National Youth Parliament's 'Make Your Mark' campaign.

The whole school voted on which of 10 current issues affecting young people they felt were the most important. The issue that gets the most votes nationally is to be debated in the House of Commons by the National Youth Parliament.

Watch this space!



Alliance for Learning Celebrates Success

Bright Futures' Teaching School, the Alliance for Learning (AfL), is celebrating its continued success helping support schools across the North West and beyond. Sale High School was one of the most recent to benefit after it achieved an extremely positive Ofsted report with AfL's support. The secondary school joined the Alliance in October 2014, when it was requiring improvement in the eyes of Ofsted.

It was already making good progress towards being judged as 'Good' under strong leadership but was given an extra boost when AfL secured funding to commission a fundamental support package to achieve its improvement goals, particularly in Maths.

Since the report, several outstanding senior leaders from Sale High School have successfully become senior leadership experts through the Teaching School and are busy supporting other schools to make the same improvement journey.

Marton pupils given mental health HeadStart

Year 6 pupils at Marton Primary Academy proved a popular case study for the BBC's cameras recently when they visited to film about Marton's HeadStart programme.

Marton is currently piloting HeadStart, a teaching programme developed to help children improve their mental resilience and deal with potentially difficult times. Funded by the Big Lottery Fund and delivered by Lancashire Minds, the programme is expected to be rolled out across other Blackpool schools next year.

Year 6 pupils at Marton have been involved in a 12-week programme that, through one hour sessions, enables them to be more assertive and manage their feelings, as well as their communication and relationship skills.

