

# RISING STARS

**Bright Futures newsletter**  
Summer edition

## An Introduction from Dame Dana Ross-Wawrzynksi DBE

Welcome to the summer edition of our Rising Stars newsletter. The summer holidays are fast approaching but things are by no means slowing down across our schools. As we gear up for new intakes in September, Bright Futures' academies continue to make positive headlines and we're extremely proud to be able to bring you another round up of those successes.

Not only have we seen individuals and schools rewarded for their hard work, passion and dedication, our schools have been actively ensuring

that their students receive a diverse education. With that in mind, the past few months have seen visits to our schools from Premier League footballers, stars of stage and screen, and some of the tech world's brightest minds.

I'm also delighted to say that this term has also included the official unveiling of Wigan UTC as a Bright Futures college. The college is already taking great strides to develop the UK's future engineers, and we look forward to nurturing their progress further in the coming years.

In other exciting news, building work is also underway on the new Rushbrook Primary Academy in Gorton, which we will continue to update you on as this exciting project develops into a purpose-built, state-of-the-art facility.

I hope you enjoy reading about our wonderful students and staff, and have a fantastic summer break!

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



## Manchester City star opens Connell Arena

FA Cup winner and Manchester City star Bacary Sagna was on hand for the ribbon cutting of Connell Sixth Form College's new state-of-the-art multi-use game arena (MUGA) in April.

Thanks to the College's close relationship with Manchester

City's 'City Pathways' programme, Sagna laced up his boots to play the first game on the new facility with players from Manchester City's Elite Development Squad and women's team, as well as a group of lucky students.

As well as having the opportunity to test themselves against professional opposition, the students also had the chance to interact with the players, with one budding linguist showing off his French by interviewing Sagna in his native tongue in front of TV cameras.





## News flash: Melland shortlisted for TES Awards

A big congratulations to the staff at Melland High School, which has been shortlisted by the Times Educational Supplement (TES) for its Alternative Provision of the Year Award. The TES Awards recognise the top schools in the UK, with Melland being shortlisted in the renamed Special Educational Needs category.

Fingers crossed for the big announcement on 17th June!

## Vamps guitarist congratulates MCMA on anti-bullying award

Manchester Creative Media Academy (MCMA) has been named the inaugural 'School of the Month' by the Diana Award's Anti-Bullying Programme, receiving a special message from The Vamps' guitarist, James McVey.

MCMA has trained up 14 students from Years 7 to 11 this academic year, and was picked from over 900 schools within the programme.

After being named 'School of the Month', Vamps guitarist James recorded a video message for the MCMA ambassadors congratulating them on their hard work supporting their fellow students.



## Apprenticeship Bus Visits Cedar Mount

**Key 103's apprenticeship roadshow visited Cedar Mount in April as the school continues to drive awareness of opportunities available to students moving on from secondary education.**

More than 50 Year 10 students took part in the event and were invited on board the bus to make a podcast with the Key 103 team, and learn more about apprenticeships available to them!

## Carol Powell Named Montessorian of the Year

Gorton Mount Principal Carol Powell was named Montessorian of the Year earlier this term by the Montessori Schools Association. Carol's commitment to the Montessori method teaches children behaviours for learning such as perseverance, risk taking and self-regulation. As a result, children grow in confidence and develop a lifelong love of learning.

### Speaking about the award, Carol said:

*"I'm extremely proud to be recognised as Montessorian of the Year but, more importantly, I'm proud to see the impact it is having on the children at Gorton Mount. A child's formative years are vitally important to their overall happiness, and it is extremely rewarding to see our children become independent and confident learners."*



## Stanley Grove wins international art prize

Stanley Grove Primary Academy has been named as a winner as part of this year's 'The Big Draw', the world's largest drawing festival. Responding to this year's 'It's Our World' theme, Stanley Grove hosted an art installation event entitled 'The Story of Manchester – Past, Present and Future', taking home the Creative School Award for an unprecedented second year.

The installation involved students from across the school working together to create a miniature paper city using images from Manchester past and present, as well as pictures of current Stanley Grove pupils to represent the city's future.

A fantastic achievement and a world first to boot!



## Gorton Mount to become Rushbrook Primary Academy

We are delighted to confirm the new name of the relocated Gorton Mount: Rushbrook Primary Academy. Building work has begun on the new school with a view to students making the move across to the new state-of-the-art facility in 2016.

Watch this space!

## Community key at Marton

Marton Primary Academy recently opened its doors to over 70 children from local nurseries for a springtime Early Years event. Through an interactive session with Pets@Home, the children learnt about snakes, rabbits, hamsters and other reptiles.

Here's hoping we'll have some budding vets joining the school in September...

In other news, Marton's 'Let's Get Cooking' club took home a £2,000 share of the BIG Cookathon's prize pot after being named as one of the competition's top three schools in terms of participation numbers!



## AGGS orchestra adds national string to its bow

The String Orchestra at Altrincham Grammar School for Girls has secured a place at the final of the National Festival of Music for Youth.

The 15-piece String Orchestra beat off competition from similar ensembles across the country and will perform at the National Final on Friday 10th July at the Birmingham Conservatoire's Adrian Boult Hall.

**Stephanie Gill,  
Principal at AGGS, said:**

*"The National Festival of Music for Youth is a highly prestigious competition and it is testament to the talent of the girls, as well as the dedication of their director Janet Janes and our music department, that they have done so well."*

**Music to our ears  
– good luck, girls!**

## AfL stars for Challenge Partners

Members of the Bright Futures Alliance for Learning (AfL) took centre stage at the Challenge Partners North West Hub Conference, held at Gorton Monastery in March. The event was opened by the Trust's primary lead Gary Handforth, who highlighted the importance of collaboration, engaging with research and networks such as Challenge Partners.

The conference welcomed delegates from 45 different schools – as far afield as Cornwall – to hear from senior figures at AGGS, Melland High School, Stanley Grove and Connell Sixth Form College, who shared ideas and debated the effectiveness of standard practices. The day finished on a high, with a samba band featuring pupils from across our different schools performing.

**We're also pleased to welcome Lisa Fathers from Flixton Girls' School, who will be taking over from Sarah Boyse as Head of AfL in September!**

## South Shore go 'Pole to Pole' for Blackpool Zoo

South Shore's GCSE students have been working with the commercial team at Blackpool Zoo to deliver an enterprise project as part of the Zoo's contribution to the international 'Pole to Pole' campaign.

The team of budding graphic designers were asked to design a board game and animated wall light that could be sold in the Zoo's gift shop to raise awareness of endangered polar animals and melting ice caps.

The best projects will be featured in the Zoo's gift shop this summer!



## Google boffins gather at Wigan UTC

Google's Education Roadshow was in residence at Wigan UTC last month, as local educators had the opportunity to see how the college had integrated Google technology into its classrooms to become a Google Lighthouse School.

And while visitors had the chance to see the technology in action, the students were treated to a lesson in coding and digital skills by engineering presenter Fran Scott. Scott's acclaimed computer science show, '#ERROR404', saw students creating controlled explosions amongst other coding experiments.