

RISING STARS

Bright Futures Newsletter
Winter 2017 Edition

Welcome to the 'Success' Winter 2017 edition of Rising Stars.

It is now almost a year since I took up post as the CEO of Bright Futures. When I reflect on the Trust's successes over that year it makes me enormously proud of our students and staff. As well as some excellent achievements in national tests and examinations, our students have embraced every opportunity to participate in sports and the arts, in technology, cultural exchanges and the excitement of discovery in sciences. I've seen youngsters engaging with such enthusiasm in mathematical problems, applying innovative and

imaginative approaches. They have led campaigns and have given selflessly to charitable causes. I have been deeply impressed by the way in which students - of all ages - have embraced opportunities to lead, doing so with confidence, poise and humility.

Of course, the positive contributions that our students make, the great outcomes they achieve and the confident attitudes that they develop do not come about by accident. They are the result of the deliberate and 'care-full' teaching and support from our talented and committed staff. I am so proud to be part of Bright Futures, working with so many great people



in the service of children, families and communities, and seeking every day to make our vision into a reality: the best *for* everyone, the best *from* everyone.

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



National number one

A huge congratulations to Altrincham Girls' Grammar School for being named State Secondary School of the Year by the Sunday Times in its Parent Power School Guide 2018.

The guide identifies the 2,000 highest-achieving schools in the UK, ranked by their recent examination results. It is widely acknowledged as the most authoritative survey of the country's best schools. Well done to all staff, students and families!

Hat-trick of Successes for South Shore

Another fantastic school rating this term was awarded to South Shore, as it was recognised as the Top School in Blackpool.

This accolade is based on the Department of Education's preferred measurement of student progress, based on the recent GCSE results, which saw 46% of the academy's students achieving a Grade 4 or higher in English and Maths - representing a 12% progression on



last year. In the arts meanwhile, 93% of students gained A-C%, and 89% did in Drama. A successful Ofsted inspection and the move into the brand new building (see page 3) makes it a hat trick for the team at South Shore. Congratulations, everyone!



Well done Cedar Mount

It has been a year of progress and improvement for Cedar Mount Academy. The latest success is the results of the last Ofsted visit, which took place earlier this year. The Ofsted report has highlighted the strong leadership of the school along with extremely good behaviour, a high level of challenge, high expectations and aspirations. We are very proud of all the staff and students at Cedar Mount.

Marton joins the Millionaire's Club

Marton Primary Academy has joined a prestigious nationwide reading club, as part of Accelerated Reader from Renaissance Learning. The scheme helps to stretch children in terms of their reading while being inclusive for all.



The latest scheme successes are Fatima Hashemi, Lilly-Kay Farrow, both Year 5, and Keane Phillips and Zak, both Year 6. They all had to read at least one million words and answer a range of questions to demonstrate their understanding of text. Bravo to all who are involved!

Ofsted Success for Alliance for Learning

The School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) at our Alliance for Learning is just two years old, but its expertise and professionalism has been rewarded with and official 'Good' from Ofsted.

The AfL SCITT was inspected twice this year and the results show that the SCITT is held in high regard by the future teachers it trains as well as the staff of the schools that host the trainees and go on to employ them in the future.

In a report packed with praise there are many stand-out comments, particularly on the high quality of the training and the high employment rates of those who receive the expert guidance and training on offer. Congratulations to everyone involved.

A show of Shakespeare

Melland Drama students have delighted audiences with a musical version of Shakespeare's "The Tempest" this Christmas, complete with traditional festive tunes. Fusing The Bard with the



likes of Slade, the performance has involved pupils at every stage, from creating costumes and characters, to making set props and sound effects, to learning lots of new dialogue and dance routines. Shakespeare has never been so much fun!



Bee Manchester with Stanley Grove

The Manchester Bee was at the centre of a huge art project hosted by SGPA this term, which involved almost 11,000 participants from 18 Manchester schools, 8 libraries and two museums, all creating on a global stage.

'Bee Manchester' saw 20 stop-motion films created to reflect and celebrate Manchester's rich and diverse community. The films were shown through the use of an augmented reality app in 12 venues around the city centre at the end of the month and were launched with a bee-themed event at SGPA in October, with special guests including Qubek, the graffiti artist who created the Bee Memorial

to the victims of the Manchester Arena, along with beekeepers, scientists from both of the city's universities, members of the Belle Vue Bees Rugby team and special guests from a number of museums and galleries.

The project was part of The Big Draw - the world's largest annual art event, held every year to promote visual literacy. Awards are presented for the most original and inventive projects. Stanley Grove Primary Academy has won the Primary School Award for the Big Draw events three times in the four years they have participated - we hope 'Bee Manchester' will secure another win.



Melland Gallery Takeover



Several Melland students took over Manchester’s famous Lowry this term, as part of a UK-wide event, National Galleries Takeover Day (#kidsinmuseums).

The responsibilities were quite varied - the task involved curating and hosting the opening of an art exhibition; organising a special reception (down to dress code and refreshments), writing and delivering a welcome speech, welcoming guests to the reception, protecting the valuable art and providing expertise on varied subjects including CCTV, perfumes and perception! Well done to all the students involved and a huge thankyou to all parents, carers and staff who supported this fantastic event.

South Shore’s new Home

South Shore officially opened the doors to its new school building this term.

A launch event was held for existing and prospective students and their families, with lots of information and entertainment. Classroom activities were hosted across all subjects, with musicians, tasters and even a Walking Tree! A number of local VIPs were welcomed to the event from the worlds of sport, comedy and music – but of course the real stars of the show were the new buildings and the top spec facilities the school can now offer. There has been a great deal of planning, preparation and building work and now at last, the students and staff can enjoy the results.

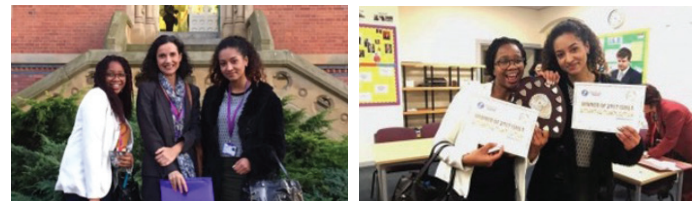
Dancing her way to national success

AGGS student Grace Sproll has charmed the judges of Taking the Next Step, a CBBC competition to win a guest role in the CBBC Show The Next Step. Grace was selected to be one of 150 young dancers invited to the regional heats in Manchester and was awarded a place in the next round - the national heats in London. Bravo Grace - and good luck!!



Connell debating success

Stella Udeh and Glory Enwegbara from Connell Sixth Form have this term won the MFL Debating Competition. There were 15 teams debating, and the Connell team debated against Manchester High School in the grand final with



only 10 minutes to prepare! The adjudicator - an official working for the Spanish Ministry of Education - announced Connell’s victory and awarded the girls a book, a course at the Instituto Cervantes in Manchester and a voucher for a work experience package in Spain. Bein hecho, girls!

Red carpet rolled out for Cedar Mount students

Cedar Mount students from Year 9 and 10 were recently invited to a red carpet event at author Elizabeth Gaskell’s House in Manchester. The event was to premier a play they devised and starred in. The play was the culmination of a project entitled “Her Hidden Histories” and was based on the Suffragette Movement. A standing ovation goes to Esohe Ojo Osagie, Fatou Thiam, Isatou Singateh Cham, Mia Bjedov, Saliem Tesfay Emanuel, Shanena Barra and Sharifa Haji Ali, for their emotive and empowering piece.



App-tastic



Year 6 pupils at Stanley Grove have been creating apps, after researching all the different uses and applications. The apps cover a range of subjects including sports, fashion and animals – the next stage will be creating adverts for the apps, using imovies and podcasts. A very impressive ICT project, well done to all involved!



A good try



More congratulations must go to the Connell rugby team, who enjoyed their first outing of the season in a triangle tournament with Aquinas and Xaverian Colleges. The first game against Aquinas finished 12-10 in favour of the opposition after conceding a last minute try to give them the game. But Connell bounced back and beat Xaverian 14-5. The students gave an excellent team performance with tries throughout the two games coming from Luke Cox (captain), Marco Appiah and Josh Howson.



Rushbrook launches new art group

This fantastic group for year 1 pupils was successfully launched this term and sees a range of activities taking place in lunch hours. Creations are varied and enthusiasm is high - we love these lion pieces!



Charity hair cut



Marton Student Caitlin McMurray from Year 3 held a fundraising event at the school last month, in which she had all her hair cut to raise money for The Little Princess Trust. The hair will be made into wigs for young people who have lost their hair due to illness. Each wig costs between £350 and £500, so Caitlin is trying to raise more money for the charity and the staff and fellow students have been delighted to help. We are really proud of you Caitlin.

More fundraising fun

Over at Rushbrook, meanwhile, the staff and students have held two 'Own Clothes Days'. They wore spots to raise money for Children in Need on Friday 17th November and wore blue for Anti Bullying Week on Tuesday 14th November. In total the school raised over £570 to be split between the two very worthwhile charities.



In the news

Lisa Fathers from our Alliance for Learning comments on mental health for both ITV and That's Manchester TV.



Altrincham Girls' Grammar School success is celebrated across the local media.



Stanley Grove students and staff are interviewed by BBC Radio Manchester at the Bee Manchester event.



Mental health training

Mental health has been at the forefront of the news, with World Mental Health Day falling in October. The Alliance for Learning has seen a surge in enquiries for its mental health first aid training and is delighted to be helping hundreds of staff from all over the region. The Teaching School's Mental Health First Aid programme trains school staff to understand mental health issues and develop knowledge and understanding of how to provide appropriate support to students. Lisa Fathers, Director of Teaching School and Partnerships, has successfully become a National Trainer with Mental Health First Aid England and has secured three area bids to roll out training across Warrington, Bury and Bolton.

<http://allianceforlearning.co.uk>

Winter Wellbeing competition

Congratulations to Lily Witkowski from Rushbrook Primary and Anbar Abdul from Stanley Grove Primary Academy, who scooped second and FIRST prizes respectively in the Alliance for Learning Winter Wellbeing poetry competition! The standard of entries was incredibly high and the judging panel were very impressed - book vouchers are winging their way to these talented young scribes.

