

# RISING STARS



Bright Futures Newsletter  
Spring 2018 Edition



Occasionally I get stopped by adults in Manchester who greet me like an old friend. It takes me a while before I realise that they are ex-students, people that I taught perhaps twenty or more years ago. They often have children of their own and go to great lengths to describe to their (slightly embarrassed) children that I used to be their teacher. What always strikes me is that when these people become animated about a shared memory from school, they never refer to the wonderful lesson I delivered on the use of the Oxford comma or the subtle effects of the subjunctive (although I really hope that all of them make proper use of the apostrophe to denote possession!)

What they remember, what really lights up their faces, is how school made them feel. They remember taking part in a

drama production, winning a competitive match and singing in a massed choir at the Bridgewater Hall. They remember friends, laughter, mischief, playfulness and the times that they got told off. They never forget the first time they went on a school residential or experienced another country on a school trip. The emotions of success, of setbacks, of new challenges and building resilience, of being liked and supported by adults who care about you leave a lasting imprint – and not just on children. We all need to experience that sense of belonging. This spring edition of 'Rising Stars' is full of examples of those novel and exciting things we do that help to make great memories. Those potent and lasting feelings that our work can evoke in our students provide an equally powerful 'back drop' to the more formal



learning that we engage in. Those rich experiences help to bring learning to life.

I hope you enjoy sharing in this wonderful celebration of the many varied and diverse successes across the Trust.

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

## Ofsted successes for Connell, Melland and Marton

Our Trust has been celebrating a Hat-Trick of Ofsted results over the last few weeks, with fantastic feedback for Connell, Marton and Melland.

Marton Primary Academy and Connell Sixth Form College both received a GOOD rating following their latest inspections. Marton was particularly praised for pupils' progress in writing and mathematics as well as for the happy, inclusive environment.

Ruth Coupe, Principal of Marton, has been praised by Ofsted for her drive and determination, with the report observing: "The Principal and senior leaders are passionately committed to inspiring all pupils to learn and achieve, focusing strongly on enabling pupils to overcome any barriers to learning."

At Connell the team invited Ofsted in, as they were so sure of a GOOD rating - and they were right. The report noted

that students have access to effective and impartial careers information, advice and guidance, which has led to almost all students progressing to higher education, apprenticeships or employment. Leaders and managers were praised for implementing a strong and inclusive culture of learning in which students from diverse backgrounds work successfully with each other to embody the college values of hard work, integrity and passion, trust and respect.

Meanwhile, over at Melland, Ofsted awarded an OUTSTANDING - for the fourth time in a row. The report here noted that leaders, governors and staff are relentless in their pursuit of excellence in every aspect – with "excellent relationships" being key to success. Highlights included the fact that staff are quite rightly proud to work at the school and that pupils relish the wealth of extra-curricular and



enrichment activities, including trips and visits, which complement the school's core curriculum. In conclusion, the report noted that Melland is held in high regard by colleges, schools and the local authority.

We are delighted that inspectors have recognised the great work that we see at these three schools every day. This is the result of the work and commitment of our talented students, staff and governors. Well done, everyone!



## TSA pushes pilot scheme to deliver mental and emotional wellbeing in schools

Our TSA (Teaching School Alliance) joined the Youth Sport Trust and some world-class athletes a few weeks ago, to launch a pilot scheme, endorsed by the Mayor of Greater Manchester, to deliver mental health and emotional wellbeing support in northwest schools.

Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership, the body overseeing the devolution of the area's health and social care budget, is launching this rapid schools pilot, to support the emotional wellbeing of pupils.

Over 30 schools across Greater Manchester will be the first to benefit from specialist support for both pupils and teachers; athletes such as world champion Thai boxer Rachael Mackenzie and former England hockey star, Charlotte Hartley, will be working with pupils across primary and secondary schools together with special educational needs schools



and pupil referral units. Students will be supported to build their confidence and reach their full potential; coached in key life skills such as growing their self-esteem, learning creative thinking skills and coping strategies for challenges.

The aim is to roll this out in all schools and colleges across Greater Manchester,

as part of a £134m four-year action plan to help to transform mental health in Greater Manchester.

Lisa Fathers, Director of the Alliance for Learning attended the launch event, joining the Youth Sport Trust, Place2Be and 4nd Street.

## "Together We Are Here"

As art is cut back in schools all over the UK, BFET took a stand - with over 200 of our students taking part in a creative day entitled "Together, We Are Here".

The premise was a day of creative workshops, held at Z Arts Facility in Hulme. It involved a great mix of

children meeting for the first time and getting to know each other through play, workshops, art and music.

We were treated to physical theatre by the students from Altrincham Girls' Grammar School, art and dance from Cedar Mount Academy, drama from Connell Sixth Form College, animations and drama from Melland High School, mosaics from Marton Primary Academy, patchworks from Rushbrook Primary Academy, parades from Stanley Grove Primary Academy

and songwriting from South Shore Academy.

The activities were designed and hosted by the students themselves and were, quite simply, fantastic. We believe that this type of event signifies just what being in a Multi Academy Trust should mean. Our pupils represent the real UK. It was a fascinating, enlightening day celebrating all the diversity of the Northwest. Well done and thank you to everyone involved.

## Hockey successes

There have been some serious hockey successes in recent weeks at BFET.

Stanley Grove has played in two major tournaments, the first being held at the school itself. One of our teams made it to the Citywide finals, which were held at Manchester High School for Girls. The quality of play was very high but after winning the first game 6-1 and drawing the second game 2-2, the team won their semi final 3-0 and then drew against St Anthony's in a nail-biting final, which ended up going to Golden Goal. The opposition scored after ten minutes so Stanley Grove brought home the Silver. Well played everyone!



The U16s hockey team at AGGS, meanwhile, have also had a busy few months and we are delighted to congratulate them as they have retained the title of U16s County Champions. Well done!







## Melland makes news

Students from Melland have taken part in the BBC School News Report with the school's dedicated news team creating a full report and the whole school joining in activities. Hundreds of schools took part in the annual News Day, simultaneously creating video, audio and text-based news reports, and publishing them on their school websites, linked from the BBC's website. With a visit to MediaCity and talks with news presenters Louise Minchin and Dan Walker, it was an experience to remember.

## World Cup draw at CMA

There was a buzz of excitement and anticipation this week when Cedar Mount had the honour of hosting the fourth round of the Women's FA Cup draw. Pupils packed into the theatre to watch the live event unfold. Year 9 pupils Blumartha and Jainaba completed the envious task of drawing the numbered balls from the infamous velvet bag while Keira Walsh and Georgia Stanway from Man City Women waited anxiously to see who they would face in the next round.

An inspiring Q&A session was followed with a training session with the girls' football team who offered advice on how to tackle, kick, dribble and score a goal. A fantastic day.

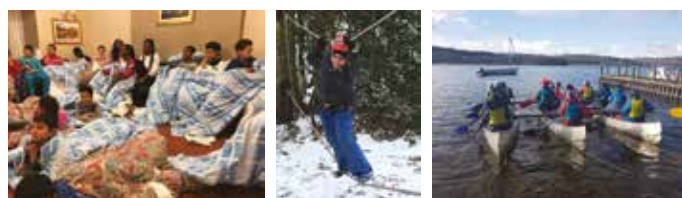


## South Shore does The Toon

A number of students from South Shore Academy enjoyed an experience of a lifetime on Sunday 11th February. They were chosen by the PE Department to attend the football fixture between Newcastle United and Manchester United and a full day of activities hosted by Newcastle United. The students were greeted by the Newcastle United Academy coaches who had organised some excellent



activities, before heading off to St James' Park for some lunch in their hospitality area. Seven of our students then headed off to be ball boys for the day. Not only were they rubbing shoulders with some of the "most expensive footballers in world football", they stood on the pitch during the opening ceremony and were then placed around pitch side during the entire 90 minutes. A fantastic trip.



## BFET goes to Gyll Head

Gyll Head Outdoor Education Centre in Windermere was taken over by Rushbrook, Stanley Grove and Cedar Mount recently, when our students arrived for an action-packed few days. As "The Beast from The East" arrived, our team wrapped up warm and took part in rope walking, zip wires, canoeing, hill walking, movie nights, caving, nightwalking – and of course snowball fights. A fantastic time was had by all.





## Kate Thistleton brings her book to CMA

Cedar Mount Academy welcomed CBBC TV and radio presenter Katie Thistleton to its halls recently.

Last year pupils had the honour of speaking to Katie during the period she was gathering material for her book 'Dear Katie', as she wanted a greater understanding of the day to day problems young people face.

A year on and the book is finished and focuses on real questions from real young people, providing honest advice. After a lively Q&A, Katie signed copies of her book and posed for selfies. At the visit Katie commented: "You are amazing Cedar Mount, thank you SO much for today and for helping me out with the book throughout the whole journey! The staff and pupils at your school are a joy."

## Shakespeare at AGGS

In February, AGGS hosted the regional final of the ESU performing Shakespeare competition, in which 20 students from schools across the region performed monologues and dialogues from Shakespeare to win a place in the National Finals in London. AGGS had four participants and Caitlin Hardie in year 9 successfully won one of two places so took her monologue from King Lear to the final in a West End at the end of March.



## World Book Day



This year's World Book Day saw an array of brilliant outfits across The Trust. It is inspiring to see so many get involved in bringing much-loved characters to life; bravo everyone!

## South Shore sees Jekyll and Hyde

50 Year 10 students from South Shore Academy recently enjoyed a trip to Preston Guild Hall, to watch an adaptation of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, as they are learning the text at GCSE. The students thoroughly enjoyed the performance - especially the slow motion killing of Sir Danvers Carew! All the staff were extremely proud of how well behaved the students were; they represented the school magnificently.

## In the media

**Connell in the MEN**  
The Good Ofsted rating was covered by our leading local newspaper



**Sports stars back project to help Greater Manchester kids stay mentally healthy**



**Education Today**  
The trade title joined a series of media in covering the launch of the AFL mental health pilot scheme.

