

Message from the CEO, Carol Kitson

Welcome to the first edition of the Abbey MAT Newsletter. As a Trust, which now consists of seven academies, it is vital that we continue to communicate effectively with all. This termly bulletin will enable us to share information; celebrate the achievements of all academies; developments across the MAT; and, the work of the MAT Central Services Team, our Trustees and Governing Bodies. We hope that all connected with Abbey MAT will want to contribute so that we can share together, develop and fulfil our mission to work in Partnership to educate, nurture and empower.

I hope you will enjoy reading this first edition. It is intended to give you a flavour of each academy at the start of the new academic year and further editions will share more news of the academies. Also, subsequent editions will give you more detail of the Central Services Team, their work and the staff who deliver these essential services which support the work of the whole MAT. This communication will also provide an opportunity to share directly with you some of the work of the Trust Board.

The start to the new academic year has been an exciting one. Firstly, I'd like to say a belated welcome to the three academies joining us from the previous LEAF Trust: the newly named Bishop Young Church of England Academy; Manston St James CE Primary; and Holy Trinity CE Primary, Rothwell who all began their formal life as part of Abbey MAT on May 1st. A very warm welcome too to Lightcliffe CE Primary who joined the Trust on 1 August 2017.

Bishop Young CE Academy

As we move into our first academic year as Bishop Young Academy, we have undergone many changes, not only to our name, but to our uniform, curriculum, internal and external building changes and rebranding. We are at a very exciting point in the history of the Academy.

We held a hugely successful Summer School, involving 86 students, over ten days at Herd Farm Activity Centre. Students in Years 7 and 11 enjoyed a range of outdoor adventure activities and a workshop on resilience and leadership. This was a great opportunity for us to get to know our new year 7 students and everyone had a fantastic time.

During the holidays, BYA has undergone a lot of refurbishment to the building, changing the colour scheme and rebranding the site, making structural changes to the Design and Technology department and reception and newly painting internal corridors. As part of our new staffing structure, we are excited to welcome a number of new staff at all levels and following INSET days at the beginning of the first week, we are prepared for and welcome the challenge of the new academic year.

Students entered the school on their first day using a new student entrance, wearing a new smart modern uniform and they have settled really well into their new Academy. Exciting times are ahead and we are looking forward to our Open Evening on 20 September.

Paul Cooper, Principal



Abbey MAT Central Services Team

We welcome Liz Hayden to MAT Central Services as Head of HR. Although Liz will be visiting academies across the MAT she is based at The Moyes Centre at Seacroft should you need to contact her.

A huge thank you to all involved in the busy summer works and IT programme across the MAT.

We wish to remind all staff about the changes to the Trust's payroll and the introduction of electronic payslips.

Ian Harmer, Director of Finance & Corporate Services

Abbey MAT Strategic School Improvement Fund (SSIF) Bid

The DfE has made significant funding available for Multi Academy Trusts to bid for funds to support the development of aspects of school improvement to support the work of at least 4 schools in a project that could be delivered in 5 terms. A requirement of the bid was that it also supported schools outside the Trust. Abbey MAT bid for funding and heard at the end of August that we were successful in being awarded **just over £300,000!**

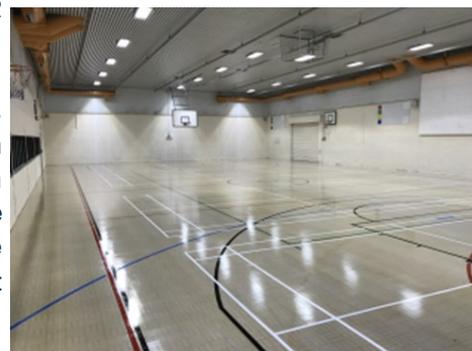
The project run by Abbey MAT, in partnership with Teamworks TSA, is to work from EYFS through to KS4 to improve outcomes for disadvantaged students in English. This will be done working across three strands: school leadership, classroom teaching and teaching assistants. The programme uses an evidence supported approach, both in terms of how to develop and shift teacher practice and learning and in terms of effective practice within English teaching. It is focused in all seven schools in the MAT and three other primary schools. It will impact on more than 4,000 students, 100 leaders, teachers and Teaching Assistants.

Lightcliffe Academy

I am delighted to be able to report that the summer exam results have reflected the hard work of the students and staff who taught them. At Year 13 virtually all students got the grades needed to access their choice of university. Interestingly we have had more students move into work and Level 3 Apprenticeships than previously. Particular mention should go to **Saoirse Hatfield-Teale** who gained **three A* grades** and is to study Drama in London.

From stories in the press you will be aware of changes in the GCSE system, with new grading in English and Maths. Overall we are really pleased with results. We did request a number of remarks in English as we had some concerns about marking. They have started to come back with many being re-graded higher. Most students have moved on to appropriate Post 16 options with over 120 students progressing into Year 12 at Lightcliffe Academy.

Work is now well underway on the main hall roof refurbishment with windows hopefully being replaced over two weekends in September. The Boiler Room roof is now fully completed and Asbestos removal work has started in preparation for the removal of the old coal-fired boilers. **As you can see the Sports hall refurbishment is now complete the walls have been painted, we have new LED lights, the floor has been sanded, sealed and clear court line markings painted.**



Tom Rothwell, Principal

Governor Accreditation Programme

The academies within Abbey MAT are well served by their Local Governing Bodies whose members bring a diverse range of skills and knowledge. As part of the ongoing development of all Governors they are to be required to complete the **Governor Accreditation Programme (GAP)** a competency framework for School Governors. The Programme has 20 competencies delivered in 3 modules which link to the Ofsted inspection framework and core functions of governance:

- ◆ Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- ◆ Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
- ◆ Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

Each LGB will undertake the programme which has been tailored to the needs of the academy at the times listed below:

19 October - St Chads @ 4 pm; Abbey Grange & Bishop Young Academies @ 6.15 pm at Chapter House

23 October - Lightcliffe Primary @ 4 pm; Lightcliffe Academy @ 6.15 pm at Lightcliffe Academy

1 November - Holy Trinity @ 4 pm; Manston St James @ 6.15 pm at Manston St James



Manston St James CE Primary Academy

We've had a positive start to the school year. Smiling, fresh faces, smart uniform and eager attitudes are demonstrable around Manston St James, children and adults alike. I know you might be thinking 'could this be your honeymoon period, Jane?'. Well maybe. As one of the new team members here I am learning a vast range of things about how we work, expectations and well established routines and systems at both school and Trust level. The summer break gave us a chance to do some serious sorting and organising and we continue to be doing that in all areas of school life. On a personal note, I feel totally blessed by the team I am privileged to have inherited. They are determined and committed to doing their very best for the children and families and are being very gracious about, and supportive of, the different ways I am asking for things to be considered. So, yes, honeymoon period it may be but like all wonderful honeymoons I believe we have the relationships and love in abundance for the great adventure ahead!

Jane Kent, Head of School,



Lightcliffe CE Primary Academy

We've had an excellent start to our school year; joining Abbey MAT on 1st August. Over the summer break work has been ongoing to ensure a smooth transition and we are delighted to be part of the Trust and look forward to a successful partnership.

Our Reception children have all settled well into school; our parents evening where we learned all about phonics was well received. Year 6 children are currently preparing for a residential visit to Whitby next week and we all have our fingers crossed for an improvement in the weather!

Charlie Woodbridge, Headteacher



St Chad's CE Primary School

At the end of the summer term we said goodbye to a wonderful Year 6 class; the fantastic Leavers' assembly celebrated how much they had grown and developed during their seven years with us, as well as demonstrating how ready they were for the challenges of secondary school.

The new term has started very well and we are excited about building upon the many successes of last year. Staff have been thrilled to see the wonderful new kitchen which has been installed during the summer break. Last week we were delighted to be informed that we have achieved **Primary Quality Geography Mark**, recognising how geography teaching at St Chad's fosters 'lively and effective geographical learning'.

Everyone is settling into their new classes; the pupils in Reception look very smart in their new uniform and have made an amazing start to their learning journey at St. Chad's. In nursery we are embracing the new 30 hours free childcare scheme for working parents and as a result have an unprecedented number of new children in nursery this term. We also welcome new staff who have already made a brilliant contribution to the team.

Finally, we have been very excited to introduce 'Christopher' our very own school minibus. Christopher started his life at Abbey Grange but thanks to St. Chad's PTA fundraising he has now taken up permanent residence with us. Following a competition organised by the PTA, Christopher has been rebranded; **Martha Whitman (Year 5)** designed the winning logo which included the school mission statement: 'In the Light of God; we care, we share, we laugh, we learn.'

Ashleigh Dunn, Head of School



Holy Trinity CE Rothwell Primary

We have had a busy start to the new academic year and have been invaded by creepy crawlies. Our children in Reception – Year 2 had a visit from Animal Intuition and came up close and personal with tarantulas, cockroaches, millipedes and giant snails. Our pupils were so engaged that we have bought them their own **Giant African Land** snails named **Usnail Bolt, Slo Farah and Turbo!**

Today we have had 150 children undertaking scooter training with most of them going beyond the school gates and onto the streets. Our pupils have loved this and we want to thank our EVC for working hard at relatively short notice to make sure this went ahead. She now needs a holiday or some time lying down in a darkened room!

Darren Foulke, Headteacher



Abbey Grange CE Academy

It was great to celebrate another year of excellent A-level results, this summer, and a record number of students starting their sixth form studies this term. We also had our best ever 5 + A*-C (E&M) results at GCSE, testament to the hard work of students and staff over the last 3 years.

The staff and students who spent the last week of term and the first part of the holidays on pilgrimage at Taizé with the Archbishop of York, had an inspirational time. Our new Year 7 students will soon be visiting Leeds Minster as part of their induction process.

We welcomed a number of new staff, both in teaching and support roles this term, and we hope that they will soon feel completely settled at Abbey Grange.

Jon Norden, Principal



Abbey MAT Board – Who's Who

The Trustees of Abbey Multi Academy Trust Board are:

- ◆ Paul Whitman - Chair
- ◆ Frances Baker - Vice Chair
- ◆ Tessa Mason - Trustee
- ◆ Steve Simkins - Trustee
- ◆ Colin Blair - Trustee
- ◆ Peter Laurence - Trustee
- ◆ Dean Stratton - Trustee
- ◆ Jon Norden - Trustee
- ◆ Helen Pratten - Trustee
- ◆ Reverend Jude Smith - Trustee (Abbey MAT Safeguarding Champion)
- ◆ Carol Kitson - Trustee and Accounting Officer (CEO of Abbey MAT)

We are delighted to welcome a new Trustee to the Board this term - **Gefrin Price** - who will join us at the first Board meeting on Wednesday, 11 October 2017.

Pen portraits of Trustees and further information about the work of Abbey MAT can be found on our website.

www.abbeymat.co.uk