

# RISING STARS



Bright Futures Newsletter  
Summer 2017 Edition



## WELCOME to the Summer "Variety" edition of Rising Stars.

When I look back over the last few months and the great work that is going on across the Trust, it makes me incredibly proud to see all that has been achieved. At a time when it would be easy to narrow our focus and concentrate only on what some people might call the 'basics', we have continued to offer our students, families and communities a variety of exciting and innovative opportunities for learning.

Of course we need to make sure that our youngsters get the best possible examination results, but the ways in which we do this do not

have to be narrow or utilitarian. In the past few months I have been delighted to see our students thrive by engaging in so many wonderful opportunities to learn about the world through a well thought out curriculum. This edition of 'Rising Stars' is another celebration of all that we are achieving together.

These great achievements don't happen by accident. They are the product of a deliberate, consistent and collaborative effort by everyone working within Bright Futures. There is no better reward for those efforts than seeing the enthusiastic,



positive responses of our students as they flourish in response to the creative learning challenges and high quality care that we provide for them.

**Dr John Stephens, CEO, Bright Futures Educational Trust**

## Sports day successes



Teamwork, drive and determination have been keywords over the past few weeks, as our academies have held their own sports days. Well done to all students (and staff!) taking part. In addition to the individual events, it was wonderful to join together to celebrate our sporting talents at the BFET Trust Sports Day in June.

Held at Sport City Indoor Athletics Arena, the day kicked off with an opening ceremony with Stanley Grove's Samba band, a student pledge from Connell Sixth Form's students and a warm up session with Lynn Wilson from Madfitness.

We were honoured to be joined by Olympians Rebekah Wilson and Diane Modahl, who helped John Stephens to present all the prizes.

Sport and fitness is of great importance to everyone at BFET and this day is a culmination of everyone's hard work - and a celebration of fitness and fun!





## Summer drama at CMA

During the Summer holidays, six CMA students from Year 8 and 9 will be doing two live performances of their own drama called 'Top of the Bill', at Greater Manchester Police Museum.

The play shows the role of women in the police force throughout the years, taking the audience around the museum to create different scenes and scenarios. The final performances are taking place on Saturday 29th July with two showings (1.30pm and 4pm). This is a wonderful achievement by the team, showing real maturity and creativity. We wish them all the best.

## Global business training for Connell students

Learning from a global business is a great experience for anyone - and a lucky group of Connell students can testify to this, having spent a day with KPMG at the financial company's brand new Manchester offices. Students were put through their paces with a range of workshops from studying business etiquette and interview skills, to how to produce a winning C.V. It was an inspiring day for all!



## Fundraising fun

A group of staff and students from South Shore joined forces to beat cancer on Wednesday 5th July. They were part of a group of thousands of people raising money by doing the race for life along Blackpool Promenade.

The atmosphere was brilliant; from the huge group warm up to the high fives around the course. Morale was high and the camaraderie was second to none. A great event for an even greater cause. Well done team and massive thanks to all who sponsored and supported them along the way.



## Melland artwork wins competition for public display

History has come to life through art this term, as Melland Learner Groups 3 and 4 won a national art competition with Graham Construction. The students have been learning all about the history of the region's cotton mills and the regeneration around Ancoats, creating artwork using a range of techniques using LS Lowry for inspiration.

The pictures have been displayed on hoardings in the Ancoats area of Manchester and look really professional.

Well done, everybody.





## Chemistry at work

Pupils from South Shore Academy attended a 'Chemistry at Work' event at Catalyst Science Discovery Centre in Widnes recently.

This involved six different workshops from major companies including SSE, RSCLare labs and Croda - and included activities such as handling recycled aluminium, performing endothermic and exothermic reactions, making sunscreen and shampoo and attending talks on astrophysics, data modelling and how a power station works.

This event was both fascinating and fun - and a great way to introduce students to a range of STEM career options.



## Physician of the year

The Science department at Altrincham Girls' Grammar School has been celebrating as student Jorja Kirk has won a Manchester Schools' Physician of the Year Award. These awards, which celebrate the talent of exceptional students studying physics in the city and surrounding areas, are hosted by the University of Manchester and given by the Ogden Trust, an organisation dedicated to encouraging and supporting the teaching and learning of physics. As a recipient of the Physicist of the Year award, Jorja is now eligible for the Ogden Trust Alumni Association, giving her access to a range of programmes and events.



Congratulations Jorja!

## Musician of the year

Marion's Year 5 pupil Levi Walsh represented the school at Blackpool Music Service's 'Musician of the Year', which took part at Springfield Methodist Church, Blackpool.



The event was open to children from both primary and secondary schools across the region and a total of twelve schools were competing. Levi performed brilliantly and was highly commended by the judges.

Well done, Levi!



## Happy birthday Rushbrook!

On 15th July, Students from CMA, Stanley Grove and of course Rushbrook, joined forces to celebrate the school's 1st Birthday. With a samba band, singers, performances from the Smash Show 'Hairspray' and some amazing drumming, the celebrations were no doubt heard across most of North Manchester!

Activities included crafts, a tombola, a picnic and a BBQ and a fantastic time was had by all. In its first academic year, Rushbrook has created a wonderful school environment - a huge congratulations to all staff and students.



## Recognition for Build a Bridge

The community work of Stanley Grove was recognised by the Times Educational Supplement last month, when its Build A Bridge programme was shortlisted for the title's Community Award.

Since its inception, Build A Bridge has built up excellent relationships with some of the region's leading cultural organisations, to ensure all students have more access to science, art, music, sport and leisure activities. Well done to the whole team - we look forward to seeing what comes next in this ground-breaking and well-managed project.



## Teaching school at AGGS sets benchmarks in mental health focus

The success of The Teaching School's Mental Health training over the last 12 months has been phenomenal. Hundreds of teachers and school support staff have been through its training, after the team was commissioned by Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group to deliver Mental Health First Aid training across all primary and secondary Warrington schools. The Teaching School is also developing new relations with the United Learning Multi Academy Trust and Edsential, who are accessing its Youth Mental Health First Aid programme for their schools on a local and national basis.

Head of Teaching School / BFET Co-Principal, Lisa Fathers has been nominated and accepted to represent secondary school leaders on the new Greater Manchester Health and Wellbeing Board, which brings together health, social care and education with the objectives of improving outcomes for children and young people across the whole of Greater Manchester. The Board is chaired by Jon Rouse, the Chief Officer for Health and Social Care Partnership and we are looking forward to hosting forthcoming meetings at both Melland High School and AGGS later this year. Congratulations, Lisa.



## NLE status for Sue Warner

Congratulations to Sue Warner, Principal of Melland - Sue has been awarded National Leader of Education (NLE) Status. NLEs have to meet a strict criteria to prove they have experience of effectively supporting and leading schools. The National College for Teaching and Leadership has introduced a very sophisticated approach to designating leaders, based on an assessment combining Ofsted judgements, student outcome data and proven leadership qualities, so this is a wonderful recognition of Sue's hard work.



## Primaries SATs success

Bravo to our three primary academies for their Key Stage 2 SATS results. A particular mention goes to pupils at Marton, who have achieved a huge improvement in Maths: 81% of the school's pupils are now meeting national standard, compared to 61% in 2016. Results in other subjects have increased by around 3 percentage points, which is the same for Rushbrook and Stanley Grove. Maths has been a great success thanks to our Trust-wide adoption of Maths Mastery and the focus on Singapore Maths from Y1-Y6. Plus the schools' close collaborative works with The Teaching School & Maths Hub means the subject is fast becoming a recognised strength. Well done everyone.

## In the media

Trust Therapy Dog Cilla has become quite the celebrity, being featured in the local press as well as in Academy Today.



Well done to the students at CMA who gave an intelligent and mature report on BBC's The One Show, discussing the issue of Fake News.



Rajgauri from AGGS was featured in the national media, when her fantastic MENSA results were reported on The Independent Online.

