



Education Partnership Trust

EPT NEWSLETTER

SUMMER TERM 2016

CREATING OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS WHICH TRANSFORM LEARNING, LIVES & COMMUNITIES

MEET THE TEAM

Welcome to the EPT Newsletter!

Welcome from the Chief Executive

I am delighted to welcome you to the first edition of the Education Partnership Trust (EPT) newsletter which will be circulated on a termly basis. We will use the newsletter to update you on Trust developments, but also share the positive news stories and excellent practice from our schools. The EPT was established in 2012 in response to a demand for local alternative provision. Our schools now include The Heights Alternative Provision Free School which opened in September 2013 and was judged by Ofsted to be good in September 2014, Eden Special School which opened in September 2014 and Coal Clough Academy which joined the EPT in September 2015. Pleckgate High School converted to academy status and joined the EPT on 1st February 2016. We are looking forward to Shuttleworth College in Burnley joining the trust in the

autumn term and the school is currently in the pre-opening phase of academy conversion having completed the statutory consultation process.

The EPT's central team is now based in the former Pleckgate CLC on Pleckgate Road. The Trust's range of support services are tailored to the needs of each school. Services are managed and delivered by our Central Team. Our new Finance Director, Mike Hart and HR Advisor Nicola McGonagle joined the Trust in May.

The board of directors and I are determined to see a high performing multi-academy trust that delivers the very best educational experience for our pupils with an ethos of collaboration and excellence. Together we can achieve our vision of creating outstanding schools which transform learning, lives and communities.

Sharon Roscoe



Sharon
Roscoe

Chief
Executive



Caroline
Howarth

HR Manager



Natalie
Parker

Operations
Manager



Clare
Baldwin

Clerk to
Governors/
Administrator



Hayley
Parker

HR
Administrator



Brad
Smith

IT Manager

HR Update

VACANCY FILLER

We have recently implemented a new recruitment software into the Trust which should enable each school to handle their recruitment with ease. It is a cloud-based recruitment software package which enables you to manage all the aspects of recruitment online. We have used this for numerous posts within the Trust and so far had positive feedback. If you would like any more information on this, then please contact Hayley Parker on hparker@ept-uk.com

HR TEAM

We would like to introduce you to our team and let you know about some staffing changes. We have recruited Nicola McGonagle as a HR Advisor to support the HR function and advisory support to our schools. She has extensive experience working with schools and the trade unions. We welcome her to the trust and look forward to working with her.

HR POLICIES

We continue to hold our regular policy consultation meetings with recognised professional associations. At the meeting on 29th February 2016, we reached agreement on the Schools Pay Policy and Schools Appraisal Policy for Teachers; therefore they are now available for review and adoption at local governing body meetings.

Our next policy consultation meeting is due to be held on 9th May 2016 and so far we are scheduled to consult on the updated Dignity at Work policy and Sickness Absence Management policy, so watch out for further updates this term.

SUPPORT STAFF NEGOTIATIONS

On 9th December the National Employers made a final two-year pay offer of 1.00% increase in 2016 and 2017 for employees on pay points 18 and above. Initially the GMB members accepted the offer whilst UNISON recommended that the offer be rejected. After UNISON completed a further ballot to see if there was enough support for strike action or whether its members wanted to accept the Employers final two-year pay offer, we can confirm that the increase has now been accepted. All support staff should have received back pay for this in their May salary.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Recent reminders have been discussed around changes to the DBS policy and procedure, following revisions to Keeping Children Safe in Education which now states that contractors who visit schools (even if different schools) on a regular basis, should be subject to DBS checks. By way of good practice, you are still advised to check the identity of all contractors who visit your site.

If you enter into contract arrangements with contractors outside of the approved list, you are responsible for ensuring the appropriate level of DBS clearance is in place for the contractor, if they are visiting schools on a regular basis.

We are also currently reviewing arrangements in schools around Mandatory Child Protection Training for all staff in schools and Safer Recruitment training, which involves reviewing different providers and methods, including on line training. In line with our statutory responsibilities around this area, regular communication will be requested from schools to ensure that training is up to date, including current and new employees. For further information, please contact HR on 01254 790027.

NEW STAFF WELCOME!



Nicola
McGonagle

HR Advisor



Mike
Hart

Finance
Director



NEW HEADTEACHER APPOINTED

A FORMER Commonwealth Games wrestler has been appointed as the new headteacher of Pleckgate High School, in Blackburn.

Mark Cocker, 33, who is believed to be one of the youngest heads in the county, represented England in Manchester in 2002 and placed fifth in Delhi in 2010.

The dad-of-two vowed to deliver an 'outstanding' Ofsted rating during his time as headteacher.

The school is currently graded as 'requires improvement' and converted to academy status in January as Mr Cocker takes up his new position.

He said: "The school has improved a lot over the last 12 to 18 months."

"I was impressed by the vision of the school that was presented to me."

"It's a fantastic opportunity and not something that I could turn down."

"I'm not surprised to have got to this stage as I have never rested on my laurels at any stage."

The former Hollins Technology College humanities teacher was deputy headteacher at Sale High School. He said: "I will miss Sale High School a lot because it was a great place to work, but at the same time I'm really looking forward to starting work here."

As well as attending the Commonwealth Games, he has also represented Team GB at European and world wrestling championships, and competed at numerous national events. After juggling top-level sport with teaching for 13 years, Mr Cocker has said that now his "full focus" is on improving Pleckgate.

He added: "I have found that being involved in sport has helped my career because it has taught me to keep on trying and be determined."



"The discipline has also helped and I'm now looking forward to this new challenge."

CONGRATULATIONS!

Environmental Health made a surprise visit to the Pleckgate school kitchen. They completed their audit and rated the kitchen with the top award of 5 stars!

Also they have been nominated for a Healthy Eating Award for their menu.



WORLD HIJAB DAY

Students at Pleckgate High School have been learning about religion, culture and history by being involved with two national events. Teachers and students celebrated World Hijab Day on Monday and they have also taken part in Holocaust Memorial Week

as the school promotes understanding, tolerance and community.

Pleckgate's staff and students highlighted World Hijab's Day message of 'Better Awareness. Better Understanding, Peaceful World' with some students and staff choosing to wear head scarves as a way of understanding other people's religious choices.



Left:
Students from
Pleckgate High School

WORLD HIJAB DAY

“It was started by Nazma Khan,” said Pleckgate’s Religious Studies teacher Shahiesta Raja. “She moved from Bangladesh to America and she was the only girl in school who wore a scarf at the time and she was bullied for it.

“In 2013, she started writing a blog about her experience and encouraged women to experience wearing a hijab for the day to show understanding, tolerance and empathy.

“It was for Muslims and non Muslims as not all Muslims do wear a hijab.

Fellow Religious Studies teacher Jenny Savage chose to wear a head scarf for the day and said: “I like it and the students love us wearing it.”



For one day it helps raise awareness and it is important.”

Year 11 student Ayman Aasim said: “I don’t usually wear a hijab so it’s nice for everyone in the school to take part. It’s fun and colourful while also sending out a serious message.”

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL WEEK

Students at the school have also been learning about the Holocaust to promote this year’s message of ‘Don’t Stand By’.

The school have already had a visit from Holocaust survivor Joanna Millan, who lost her parents and a grandparent in the concentration

camps and now works for the Holocaust Educational Trust. From that visit, the Year Nine’s are currently presenting assemblies alongside writing, drawing or composing poems about the impression Joanna’s visit made on them.

And four Year 11s from the school – Head Girl Zainab Patel and Head Boy Safwan Hasam along with Anisa Karim and Fatima Kazi – have taken part in an Interfaith Forum at Blackburn Council, along with other schools in the district.

“We can take the lessons of what happened in World War Two into today’s society,” said Head of History Martyn Bajkowski.

“Joanna’s speech really moved the students and they have been composing artwork, poems and speeches about the Holocaust and understanding their message of ‘Don’t Stand By’ - to stand up and make a difference if bad things are happening.

“The message from the Holocaust is still pertinent in today’s society and it’s important to teach tolerance and understanding and to be a community, like we are at Pleckgate, whatever anyone’s beliefs.”

IPADS FOR STUDENTS

The Year Seven students at Pleckgate received their mini iPads as the school continues to make giant strides.



The Blackburn school celebrated their best ever GCSE results in 2015 with a 58% pass rate on five or more A*-Cs, including English and maths.

And new head teacher Mark Cocker is determined to build on this as the new intake at Pleckgate embrace technology.

The students collected their iPads at a special evening at the Blackburn school and are now ready to complement their learning with technology to help them achieve even more.

“I am really excited to have my own iPad,” said one pupil Khizar Choudry. “I can’t wait to use it.”



NEW STAFF WELCOME!

Mark Cocker - Headteacher

Jilani Bux - ICT Apprentice

Anthony Pontifex - Deputy Headteacher

Farva Hussain - Catering Assistant

Rebecca Bury - Science Teacher



A WARM WELCOME TO COAL CLOUGH ACADEMY IN BURNLEY

Big changes are happening at our school. My name is Gary Holding and I've just been appointed as Acting Headteacher of Coal Clough Academy. I'd like to take this opportunity to outline the exciting and positive changes that are taking place. Following discussions with our partners, staff and pupils the school will be making significant improvements to its provision including:

Improving our lines of communication to ensure there is a quick response to all queries and requests from parents, carers, commissioners and partners.

The introduction of a new system to drastically improve and speed up the referral process.

A completely redesigned personalised curriculum that meets the needs of all our young people. It will provide them with challenge, engagement and give them relevant, real-life experiences leading to positive outcomes.

A larger and more effective Pastoral Support Team which will provide enhanced support for all our young people within the school.

Extensive partnership work with families, outside agencies, charities, training providers, colleges and businesses to meet the needs of our pupils.

Improved Pupil Support throughout the school with an effective induction and assessment period. This will allow us to quickly identify the needs of students and create a targeted intervention or personalised programme.

A newly structured High Support Provision to enable us to offer bespoke support programmes for our most challenging students.

A new quick response service to all our mainstream school partners. This will allow schools to refer pupils immediately to Coal Clough and at short notice as an alternative to schools issuing a fixed term exclusion.

We will be launching all our new initiatives at the start of the new term on Monday 25th April.



I look forward to meeting with you and discussing things in more detail over the coming months. In the meantime, check out our twitter feed

https://twitter.com/Head_CoalClough to see all the exciting things happening at Coal Clough Academy.

Gary Holding
Headteacher

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

Catherine Paterson, one of our KS4 students has been voted onto the Youth Council for Lancashire as well as participating in a production of Cinderella at Burnley Youth Theatre. A party of students and staff went to support Catherine in her starring role!

Dojo has been introduced throughout the school and has been well received by both staff and students. Students have had the opportunity, through the School Dollar Scheme, to decide which Rewards are to be included.

NEW STAFF WELCOME!

Noor Miah - TLA Level 3

Jayne Hambley - HLTA

Nicola Rickwood - Assistant Cook

Gary Schofield - Outdoor Education Instructor

Lauren Keenan - Attendance and Family Support Manager

Tracey Green - Catering Manager



WELCOME TO THE HEIGHTS!

Introduction from Head of School

Here at The Heights Free School we are very proud of the provision we offer. This year, we have continued to build on our “good” Ofsted rating and schools have referred pupils in ever increasing numbers, including referrals from across East Lancashire. We continue to be the ‘go to’ provider for advice for new alternative provision across the country.

We have worked in close partnership with our local schools, the local authority and external agencies to deliver highly personalised, innovative learning programmes for our young people. Our staff are fully committed to supporting our pupils to ensure that they achieve through an engaging, enjoyable and challenging curriculum. Unlike many alternative providers we have excellent vocational facilities on site, which means we can offer consistency and a high level of accountability. Pupils note a sense of belonging, one pupil commented recently “I feel like I really matter at The Heights, you make everyone feel welcome, I am really good at construction and that makes me feel good”.



We continue to be committed to providing holistic packages for our pupils from key stage 2 to key stage 4. We offer counselling, anger management, mental health first aid and high quality pastoral support. We have the additional benefits of, Eden School: a school for pupils with Social Emotional and Mental Health difficulties on the campus, bringing a very high level of expertise including educational psychology, for those pupils who may require additional assessments and support.

We relish the opportunity to ensure that every pupil, who has found it difficult, for whatever reason, to be successful in a mainstream school gets an opportunity to make progress and reach their full potential.



Please see our website for further details or contact directly for Secondary and Alternative Provision Hannah Speakman, Acting Head of School at:

hannah.speakman@theheightsfreeschool.org

or for Primary and Anger Management Tina Hulme Acting Assistant Head at:

tinahulme@theheightsfreeschool.org

Many thanks
Hannah Speakman
Head of School

PREVIOUS HEAD OF SCHOOL VISITS 10 DOWNING STREET AND MEETS THE PRIME MINISTER



Last term, Gary Holding and Sharon Roscoe Chief Executive of the EPT, were invited to 10 Downing Street along with other leaders of successful Free Schools to meet with Prime Minister David Cameron.

Here is what Gary had to say about the day, “It was a fantastic opportunity to visit number 10 and meet David Cameron along with other successful leaders of Free Schools and we were particularly proud to be representing The Heights.”

PEER MENTORING

In partnership with Nightsafe in Blackburn, the school has begun a peer mentoring programme. Year 11 pupils will 'buddy' some of our younger students in Key Stage 2 & 3. As well as providing valuable support for those younger pupils, the programme will help the mentors develop a host of transferable skills that will help them during their next steps at college and beyond. The picture below shows Jay Ratcliffe (Nightsafe) launching the programme with our students.



ENTREPRENEURS OF THE FUTURE



GCSE Business Studies Pupils have been planning, developing and participating in their own Enterprise Project. They were really successful and made a profit of £134 from their Tuck Shop business. The group generously donated 25% of their profits to the Save the Children Refugee Crisis Appeal and received a letter of thanks for their support from the charity. Well done, Entrepreneurs of the Future!

EAST LANCASHIRE HOSPICE



In December, the school raised £160 to support the East Lancashire Hospice. The Hospice was delighted to receive the donation and really appreciated the generosity of the school. The Hospice provides wonderful support to terminally ill patients, their family and friends.

NEW STAFF WELCOME!

Adam Hayden - Outdoor Education Instructor

Paul Heckingbottom - TLA

Paul Normanton - Outdoor Education Instructor

David Morris - School Counsellor

Anne Wolstenholme - TLA

Hafsa Tantwala - TLA

FAREWELL!

We bid a fond farewell to Michelle Bracken, our School Counsellor, who is leaving for pastures new. Michelle has played an invaluable role for many years in supporting our young people. She will be sadly missed by pupils and staff alike.





WELCOME TO EDEN SCHOOL!

This year saw the arrival of new staff and new pupils who have settled in well.

We continue to develop new ideas, opportunities and provide the best possible support for our pupils.

Everyone at Eden are extremely excited about moving into the new building in March and welcoming new staff John and Emma.

This term, we have taken part in a number of new activities, faced new challenges and built our resilience in the most difficult of situations. School work remains a priority and progress is good. Pupils have produced some excellent work and their commitment towards making improvements is excellent.

In the coming weeks, our greatest challenge will be to move into our new school building and adjust to the new surroundings and exciting opportunities on offer. We will also welcome new pupils and staff.

A huge thanks to The Heights for accommodating us for the past 18 months, It would not have been possible or as enjoyable without the amazing support and friendly welcome.

Rob Brocklebank

Head of School



NEW BUILDING

Eden pupils moved into the new building two weeks prior to the Easter break and took part in familiarisation exercises, group activities and general organisational tasks to prepare for the new term.

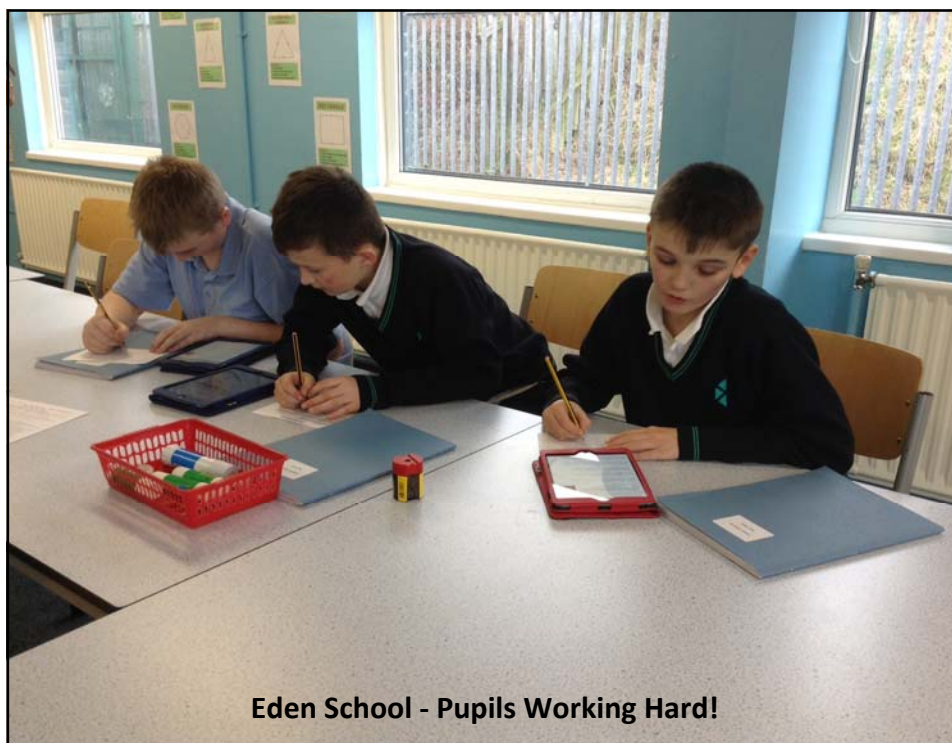
All pupils have responded positively to the move and have respect and appreciation for the new school building. Further developments and improvements will take place in the summer term as our pupil numbers increase and new rooms / opportunities will be available in September.

DfE MONITORING VISIT

We had our final DfE monitoring visit on Tuesday 26th January. We had a very positive report.

The Headteacher and the Executive Headteacher work closely together, and have successfully improved teaching so all teaching is of consistently high quality and is promoting consistently good outcomes for students and pupils.

The quality of teaching is impressive. Lessons are thoroughly planned and students'/pupils' work is marked and information is fed back to the student/pupil in accessible terms after every lesson. Materials and resources are well used as part of this thorough planning so all students/pupils work at their own individual level. As a result, students/pupils make at least good, and often outstanding, progress against their low starting points.



Eden School - Pupils Working Hard!

DEFIBRILLATOR FOR THE SCHOOL

ISG (building contractor) have been raising money to provide the school with a defibrillator. We held an event for all involved and Mr King from The Oliver King foundation provided a moving speech and presented the equipment to Belinda Logan and pupil representatives.



ENRICHMENT!

Enrichment this term has included Outdoor Education at Bowley Scout camp. Pupils have learnt to catch and cook their own food, work as a team and a number target sports.



We have also started a graffiti project in Liverpool city centre in which we have developed skills, understanding and what, when and where it is appropriate to use the art form.



NEW STAFF WELCOME!

John McDonald - KS2 Teacher
Emma Frith - Teaching Assistant

Their wealth of experience will complement our current staff team and allow us to improve even further

NEW EDEN BUILDING



We recognise the need for effective communication across the trust and always welcome your thoughts and suggestions on how this can be further improved.

Please send these to: hrenquiries@ept-uk.com

