



**Education
Partnership
Trust**

**EPT
NEWSLETTER**

SUMMER TERM 2017

CREATING OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS WHICH TRANSFORM LEARNING, LIVES & COMMUNITIES

EPT Newsletter Summer 2017

Update from the Chief Executive

Welcome to the Summer Edition of the Education Partnership Trust (EPT) newsletter. Many thanks for your contributions which allows us to share all the excellent practice taking place across the Trust. I would like to congratulate Mark Cocker, Headteacher and all colleagues at Pleckgate High School for being awarded Secondary School of the Year for the second successive year. This award is much deserved and is a testament to the hard work and commitment shown by staff and pupils. The school also received a very positive report following a quality assurance visit by the Department of Education which recognised the significant progress being made by the school and its pupils.

The Heights Burnley continues to make progress and I am pleased to announce that funding for the new school building has been confirmed as approximately £5.4million. The proposed opening date is now Easter 2019.

I was really pleased to be able to attend Coal Clough Academy's Leaver's Assembly. It was a very humbling experience knowing the many barriers to learning these young people face and yet they were still able to achieve their potential with the support and commitment of all the dedicated staff.

My thanks to Hannah Speakman, Headteacher at The Heights Free School for her role as Safeguarding Lead for the Trust which was described as robust and best practice by Ofsted. This collaboration across the Trust and its schools is something we will be developing with plans for a Teaching & Learning Group being established from September. This term also included our first ever employee engagement survey which was led by our HR team.

Over 70% of staff took part in this survey providing us with a robust and comprehensive suite of results – these have now been passed on to each Headteacher to be communicated to all staff.

I look forward to hearing about the actions for improvement that come from this. I am sure you will all agree how important it is that this survey is undertaken on an annual basis so we can ensure year on year improvement, demonstrating how we will act on the findings and make changes were necessary.

Many thanks to you all for your ongoing commitment and contribution to achieving our vision of creating outstanding schools which transform learning, lives and communities. I would like to wish you all an enjoyable and restful summer break.

Sharon Roscoe

Chief Executive

HR Update

Mock Tribunal

On 29th November 2017 (8.30am – 11.15am), we are working in partnership with Forbes to deliver an interactive mock tribunal based on education. For those that have been to a Forbes Mock Tribunal will know that they are informative, and gives you the perspective and points that an employment tribunal will consider. It will demonstrate a realistic insight into the workings of an Employment Tribunal case in relation to performance management and misconduct in a school setting. Unless you have done it before, it's difficult to imagine what it's like to be examined and cross examined, to present a case cogently, and supply evidence to a judge and panel. The Mock Employment tribunals are designed for anyone with staff management responsibilities, including, head teachers, senior leadership teams, School Business Managers and School Governors. Please can you contact hparker@ept-uk.com to book a place on this fantastic development opportunity!

7-a-side Football

As a thank you for taking part in the Orphanage cup, the EPT football team were invited to take part in a small 7-a-side tournament at the CANW headquarters. This was a great success and our team managed to get to the semi-finals!

Well done to all the players involved. Hopefully next year will be our year!!



EPT Netball Team

Employees at Coal Clough Academy are looking at creating an EPT netball team. There is a league which plays in Burnley on Tuesday nights and runs throughout the winter and summer months. If you would be interested in being part of the team, please email Hayley (hparker@ept-uk.com) for more information



Grievance and Whistleblowing Policy

Following consultation and agreed with all the recognized trade unions, a revised Grievance Policy and Whistleblowing policy have been adopted by schools within the Trust. They are more streamlined, and in line with ACAS guidance to ensure that the process is clearer and roles and responsibilities are clarified.

Employee Engagement Survey

As you know we recently invited all staff to complete our first 'YourVoice 2017' Employee Engagement Survey. Thank you to all those staff who took the time to complete the survey. With 188 responses, and a participation rate of 75%, it means that we have a reliable picture of how you feel about working for the Education Partnership Trust and what we need to do to become an even better and more effective place to work. We are committed to acting on your feedback and keeping you updated. The main results show a positive overall picture, with the vast majority understanding our goals and are committed to going the extra mile for our pupils. Thank you. There are some clear areas for development. In particular we need to ensure that all staff have opportunities to realise their career ambitions within the Trust, improve collaboration across the school and within departments, and ensure that outstanding performance is always recognized. In relation to next steps, we will be working with the head teachers and senior leadership teams to ensure that improvements are made and action plans will be published.



Pleckgate

HIGH SCHOOL

Aspire and Believe, Act and Succeed

Ewood Park Football Final– Year 9

“An amazing experience” summed up how Pleckgate High School’s Year Nine football team felt after playing at Ewood Park.

Despite losing 6-2 to Darwen Aldridge Community Academy in the Blackburn with Darwen Year Nine final, the Pleckgate pupils heralded their day in the spotlight a success.

Asad Ali scored both their goals at the home of Blackburn Rovers and, while it was runners-up medals, it did little to dampen the spirits on the day.

Captain Bilal Vaid said: “It was a great feeling to play at Ewood Park, to think which players have played on it in the past.

Manager and PE teacher Stuart Cadman said: “Everyone was a bit nervous before the game, even me, but it was a superb experience for them.



“They got to change in the home team dressing room and experience playing on a former Premier League football pitch.

“They have a lot to be proud of. It’s a massive achievement getting to the final.”

Yes Lad

It’s not every day a boy band drops into school but pupils at Pleckgate High School were wowed by Yes Lad.

Yes Lad, who appeared on **X Factor**, all hail from the North West and came into school to perform a series of songs, including their recent release ‘Walk Away’.

“Yes Lad came into school to let our pupils experience a live performance,” said Mr Pontifex, who organised the event.

“For some pupils this was the first time they have seen a band live and they absolutely loved it. They really enjoyed all of the performances and couldn’t wait to get autographs and photos with the band afterwards.

“At Pleckgate we want students to get a well-rounded education and the pupils got to experience something they might not have had the chance to before. It certainly caused a buzz around school!”





Pleckgate

HIGH SCHOOL

Aspire and Believe, Act and Succeed

New Youth MP for Blackburn with Darwen

Pleckgate High School student Ummaih Shah is the new Youth MP for Blackburn with Darwen.

Year 11 student Ummaih, 16, was elected recently and will take over from Hamza Khan and her first task is to focus on encouraging work experience for students.

"I have been deputy youth MP to Hamza for the last year and I have learnt a lot through that," said Ummaih, who is expected to get top grades in her GCSEs and admits she is 'sports mad.'

"It was a tough election process as I had to come up with my own manifesto, speak to the young people of Blackburn with Darwen and hand out posters and leaflets to all the youth clubs in the area.

Ummaih's manifesto consisted of encouraging more work experience for young people, raising awareness of bullying and encouraging more 'exhilarating opportunities'

for young people such as trips and residential.

Ummaih will now attend youth events and get feed back from the young people of Blackburn with Darwen to take to the council.

"I am extremely honoured to have this position and I know it will be a big year, especially with me doing my GCSEs as well, but I am proud to be the voice of the young people in Blackburn with Darwen.

"Ummaih aims to go onto St Mary's College to study A-Levels once she has completed her GCSEs.

Follow us on twitter for all the latest school news and updates!



@PleckgateHigh





Entrepreneurs run market stall

Students turned up bright and early at Burnley Town Centre in May to sell their enterprising products at Burnley Teenage Market.

Students took part in the Burnley teenage market to gain experience of business situations, and to sell their products they had manufactured to the public. Sarah Thomas, PSD teacher, commented: "The day was a huge success it was used to show people what we have achieved at Coal Clough Academy. Students were a credit to the school. The staff were very proud of the students. The money will be used to reward the students who took part." The students' hard work raised £54.



Memorial

A Memorial tree has been planted in the grounds of Coal Clough Academy in memory of

the victims in the Westminster terrorism attack. Students decided they would plant a tree in remembrance and to show support for the victim's family and friends. The tree commemorates the people killed in the attack and was planted April this year, in a flower bed near the staff car park, where poppies already grow. Thoughtful messages of sympathy and support from students at Coal Clough now hang from the branches.

Grandparents Visit School

In March, the school teamed up with Age UK so we invited pensioners and our own grandparents to a war-themed social. Pupils led held activities including a quiz, bingo and sing-a-long. Students also spent time preparing a buffet of traditional wartime food. English teacher Alice Walters said: "It was a huge success for the students and our visitors and we hope to do another event in the near future."



Outstanding Teacher Award

Katie Smith, P.E Teacher, who only recently joined Coal Clough Academy Katie Smith has won a special award. Katie won the outstanding teacher of the term award from Hays Teaching Agency for making fantastic contributions and organising so many fun filled activities. Katie said: "The award was presented just after the staff briefing and I felt really emotional and proud."



Rewards for creative quartet

Gifted students were all rewarded with £50 vouchers after serving a delicious afternoon tea party which expressed their culinary and creative talents.

Their efforts were rewarded when our school



was placed second out of the 15 mainstream schools groups that took part in an event organized by North Lancs Training Group. Next year, the school hopes to achieve first place and win!

Charlotte, Year 10 pupil, said: "It was great because it made us work together, and improved our teambuilding skills".



Bike Ride nets £200 for Macmillan

Year 10 boys completed a wonderful fund raising event. They set themselves the target of cycling 100 miles, but they smashed it by completing 156 In Xercise4less the students were allowed to use the spinning suite to raise money for Macmillan. Katie Smith, PE teacher, said: "We couldn't have done it without the help of one of our students, Tyler, who helped to organise the event.". By smashing the target, the students managed to raise a whopping £200 for Macmillan."



Election fever arrives at school

Whilst the nation were thinking about who to vote for in the General Election, Coal Clough Academy had its own mock election. The Mock Election gave pupils an insight into how the



democratic process works. The school was able to recreate the excitement and drama of a real election. Students were able to get into the campaigning spirit by running as candidates, creating manifestos, canvassing support, delivering speeches and designing campaign posters as well as casting their first votes on polling day. They also helped organise and administer the election to ensure it was free and fair.

Isabella, Year 9 pupil said: "I think it was a fun learning experience and it gave students' confidence to stand up in front of others and speak. I didn't know what you did to vote before, but this has given me the confidence to vote when I am legally allowed to do so."

Pet Power

Whenever you feel 'ruff' don't worry because Laurel and Bramble will be there to cheer you up. On a regular basis, the school plays host to therapy dogs to provide comfort and affection to our young people. This therapy dogs program has provided many benefits to our students. School can be an extremely stressful settings for some students. Therapy dogs, Laurel and Bramble, have provide an inexpensive way to assist our students in focusing on their education. Research has demonstrated that therapy dogs properly managed in the school setting can not only make a measurable difference in terms of gaining various skills such as reading enhancement, but also in contributing critically to emotional and relational development. Staff are finding that the presence of a therapy dogs at Coal Clough Academy has decreased anxiety and enabled students to work through issues such as anger management, bullying tendencies and other psycho/social problems.





Alex James Ellison Performs at The Heights

On the 16th May 2017, The Heights was visited by singer Alex James Ellison who is currently on a Drug Education and Life Skills themed schools tour.



Alex performed for the pupils delivering a drugs and peer pressure awareness message supporting the programs developed by charity D.A.R.E. Alex is a singer/songwriter from Brighton. Alex attended the BRIT School (where Amy Winehouse trained) and has been tipped by BBC's Radio 1 as the next big British male singer being compared to Olly Murs. Alex has been singing and playing guitar for the last 10 years, and currently has two releases out on iTunes. After supporting McBusted on tour he will soon be heading off to LA to work with some huge songwriters. Alex's performance was received very positively by all and students and staff even got up and joined in the singing!!!

Year 11 Leavers



This year's Annual Leavers Assembly took place on the 18th May with parents attending to celebrate the successes of our Year 11 students. Students received their Records of Achievement and trophies and then went for a meal at Frankie and Benny's.

Teens and Toddlers

This term, some of our students have been given the opportunity to work with Teens and Toddlers on their flagship project which has seen our young people attending sessions of work experience in a Nursery setting as mentors. Pupils will achieve an NCFE Entry Level 3 Award in PSD and will also develop valuable life skills. The aims of the project are to raise the self esteem and self awareness of young people and to raise their aspirations.



Head Boy and Head Girl

Following the year 11 leaving, The Heights new cohort of students all started. We have run an Election Process for Head Boy and Head Girl with pupils putting themselves forward for consideration and staff voting. We are pleased to introduce Jordan Tanner as our Head Boy and Claudia Thomson-Wilson as Head Girl. Their Deputies are Christian Fallows and Leonie Easen.





New Arrivals

This term The Heights has experienced a baby boom! Congratulations to Dan, Rob and Anthony who all became new fathers. Dan to Iris Mary, Anthony to Maddison Betty May and Rob to Saul Reuben Buzz.



Army Residential

In May, some of our pupils had the opportunity to take part in a 5 day army residential. They completed night missions, a 2 mile run and a variety of other activities. They also won best section competing against 2 other schools as they won every task over the 5 days! Thank you to Dave and Paul for organising what we hope will be a yearly event.

New Staff

Joe Wilcock has joined The Heights team as an apprentice based in Construction. We have also appointed Jen Ashworth as Deputy Head and Charanjeet Rai as Pupil Welfare Officer, both of whom will start in September.



Parent Partnership

As part of our ongoing work towards the Leading Parent Partnership Award

Thursday 5th June saw Dave, our outdoor education instructor taking a group of students



and parent / carers out for a full day of team building activities. The day was a great chance for staff to spend time with parents / carers and for them to see the fantastic work staff do. The group spent the day at Malham Cove walking, looking at the waterfalls and gaining knowledge around limestone . Luckily they had the weather on their side.



The day was a great success everybody had a fantastic time and it was great to see students and their parents / carers working together and this is something we will continue to develop in the future.



Outdoor Education

Pupils have been on a number of outdoor education days, where they have to use the skills of working as a team, being an individual, overcoming fears and also enjoying themselves. They have visited venues/areas such as Rivington, Tockholes, Darwen Tower, the beach and White Coppice. Pupils have walked, built shelters, jumped in puddles, played in the sand, walked up a gorge, laughed, built upon their own skills and developed new ones. Other pupils have visited Woodsage at Bowley Scout Camp. The pupils have undertaken activities like making their own lunch, fire starting, archery, paracord making, air rifles and crate stacking. Pupils have learnt to take turns, work as a team and learn some real life skills. Hopefully, after the summer these great opportunities will continue and pupils will relish the skills learnt.

Ofsted Inspection

Ofsted inspected the school in May and found some great strengths within the school. Since their visit the school has put into place many action plans in order to address the points of improvement that Ofsted had made.



New Staff Welcome

We have welcomed three new members of staff to Eden this term. Teresa Dabbar has been appointed as HLTA, Alison Whittaker has been appointed as HLTA and Suzanne Brown as TLA2. All women have valuable experience which we hope to utilise within the school.

Teresa kindly gave us an insight into her first few weeks within her new role at Eden.

"Since arriving at Eden I have felt immediately welcomed as part of the team. All staff members have been incredibly supportive and encouraging from the onset and have ensured that I have the smoothest transition into my new role. Meeting all of the students has been an adventure and challenging at times, but it has also been very rewarding as I have gradually got to know them a little better and develop positive working relationships with

Every day is different and although new difficulties can arise for the students, the unique curriculum here offers many different learning opportunities for them to discover the outdoors, encourage team building skills, try new sports and creative tasks which all contribute to their social and emotional development. It's really a fantastic thing to be part of. I have had the opportunity to support students in lessons on an individual and group basis, assist with outdoor education, team teach and teach some of my own subject specific material which is usually unheard of for a new HLTA in most schools, so I am very thankful for the opportunities I have been given so far. I am looking forward to the plans to develop the school further and I am dedicated and enthused to continue my career path with Eden into the future. This place has most definitely 'hooked me in' and I already feel part of the Eden family. It's a great place to work." T. Dabbar (HLTA)

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

