

Trust News

Welcome John Ray Juniors!

Last term we were busy working towards the conversion of John Ray Junior School who we can now officially welcome to the CHANGE Schools Partnership family! John Ray is a growing school which by 2018/19 will be four-form entry. Stuart Ellis, CEO has been working with the school for over a year and we were delighted to be approached by the DfE to sponsor the school. A number of senior staff from across the Trust continue to support the school as it continues on a rapid improvement journey. Stuart Ellis will retain his duties as Executive Headteacher and Karen Harrison has been appointed as Head of School. The total pupil capacity of our Trust will then be over 1400, which makes us a sustainable multi-academy trust and helps us fulfil our vision:

To develop a sustainable, growing organisation that is based upon mutual partnership and shared values to ensure that all children within the Partnership get the best possible provision leading to the best possible educational and wider outcomes.

Non Pupil Day

Cann Hall wonderfully hosted our joint non-pupil day in February where we spent the morning reflecting on 'making it stick' teaching approaches and listening to colleagues share innovative practice. We continually need to find ways to 'teach smarter' to achieve the outcomes for pupils we are all responsible for and there were plenty of tips in what we learned together. After an excellent lunch, we reflected on our Core Values and newly agreed Trust Ethos before having time to undertake some moderation. Thank you for the feedback on the day – you have asked for more time in year group teams, which we will seek to plan in next time we are all together. The Trust Board have agreed an extra non-pupil day in 2017/18 to enable more joint working together.

Trust Based Teams

The new Trust-based teams are firmly established and meet regularly to move the whole Partnership forward in a planned, strategic way and ensure that best practice is in place in every academy. We are currently building and shaping the Central Services team and we can now confirm a number of appointments in Cris Edwards' team:

- Cris Edwards Chief Operating Officer (COO)
- Michelle Glover Lead Officer for Finance & Human Resources (HR)
- Andy Ford Trust Facilities Manager
- [Vacancy – recruiting] Lead Catering Manager

We will communicate further news once appointments are complete.

Success in Grant Funding

Part of the role of the CEO and COO is to generate income for the Trust so that financially we remain sustainable – particularly in challenging financial times. We have been successful in achieving a grant of £60,000 from the Regional Growth Fund which will support the costs of Trust based staff. More significantly we have been very successful in our capital bids to the DfE for improving school sites:

Shalford – funding for a new boiler and fire alarm system

Notley Green – funding to replace the Year 6 demountable classrooms

Cann Hall – funding towards Nursery provision and improvements to lighting and electrics

NEWS FROM OUR ACADEMIES

Cann Hall Primary School

During the Spring Term, Cann Hall's choir joined with over 300 children from local schools as they sang their hearts out to music from all over the world – in the original languages!



Eleven primary schools from across Tendring joined forces to perform songs from the sun-drenched islands of the Caribbean to the snow-capped mountains of Nepal and the heat-baked deserts of the Middle East. Also, closer to home there was music from the Welsh valleys and Scottish Highlands.

having to leave their seats.

More than 1,000 people packed into Clacton's Princes Theatre over two nights to see the performances as they were transported around the world - without even

The youngsters received rapturous applause from appreciative audiences of family and friends.

Notley Green Primary School

On Tuesday 28th March all the children of Notley Green got to take part in making their very first Shakespeare production! Each year group performed in a Shakespearean showcase retelling part of A Midsummer Night's Dream. The story was told in a variety of ways including monologues, freeze frames, dance and drama. Our younger children produced their own props including fairy wings and crowns, while our older children created narration to bring the different sections of the story together



between each performance.

The showcase was filmed by a professional crew from AuraFilmsUK, who used three different cameras to capture the children in action. The children got a taste of what a real TV or film production would be like as they used the clapper board and did re-takes where the performances could have been better.

It was a fantastic way to draw our theme to a close and we hope it will have inspired any budding future performers or film makers. The first edit has been returned to school and includes a musical score. We can't wait to now share the final edit with parents and are really proud of the creativity of both the children.

(Other news is that Claire Russell, currently Head of School, has been promoted to Headteacher from 1 September 2017. Well done, Claire!)

John Ray Junior School



We are a large, expanding junior school currently with 399 pupils. There are 4 classes in years 3 and 4 and 3 in years 5 and 6. We share our site with John Ray Infant School with whom we work with on a regular basis. Approximately 60% of our children move on to Notley High School which is situated next door.

Stuart Ellis has worked with us since January 2016 when there was a need to add capacity to the leadership of the school. Since our OFSTED visit in the same month, we have made some rapid improvements. With support from staff from Notley Green Primary School and other schools within the Notley Family of Schools, we have improved the quality of teaching through a coaching model. In addition, we have been working with Edison and the Aspire programme for some months now and many of the elements of the programme have impacted significantly on learning. Although we know that there is still a long way to go to ensure that our outcomes improve, the quality of work in books is beginning to reflect the hard work of the staff and children. Although we have a large number of NQTs and many staff that are within their first 5 years of teaching they have been enthusiastic, motivated and above all met all challenges head on. I have been Acting Head since September 2016 and I am extremely proud of all that the staff and children have achieved so far this year. Their resilience and flexible approach has really supported the journey to improvement. We are looking forward to being part of a larger organisation and the opportunity to work collaboratively across the Trust with colleagues. Our children are open, say it how it is and relish a challenge - we wouldn't have them any other way!

Shalford Primary School

It's hard to believe that we have only been part of CHANGE Schools Partnership for one term. We have all enjoyed working alongside the other schools in the trust, continually striving to achieve the best for all pupils.

In the Spring term we had a variety of exciting school trips, including The British Museum, The Natural History Museum, The Science Museum and Colchester Zoo. These provided excellent starters and endings to our topics which have inspired the children to produce some amazing work.

We are very proud of the music curriculum at Shalford and have now a peripatetic instrumental teacher, Jessie, who teaches individual piano, flute, saxophone and clarinet to children of all ages. Jessie brings with her a whole wealth of teaching and performing experience and we look forward to seeing a Shalford orchestra develop!

Finally

With a busy term including SATS ahead of us, I wish you every success as we all work hard to *'ensure that all children within the Partnership get the best possible provision leading to the best possible educational and wider outcomes'*

Stuart

Stuart Ellis
Chief Executive Officer