

BrightTribeNews



Issue 2

Summer
2016

Welcome to our second edition of the Bright Tribe newsletter, bringing you news and updates about the trust and our community of schools across England. We know that you receive regular newsletters from your child's school but we felt it was important that we give parents more information about the wider network of schools and the team working centrally for Bright Tribe.

If you have any feedback or there is anything you would specifically like us to include in these newsletters, please get in touch – contact details are on the last page of the newsletter.

We really hope you enjoy reading about our good news and updates.

Spotlight on...

Heidi Hoskin, Executive Principal
at Werneth Primary School



Heidi Hoskin –
Executive Principal,
Werneth Primary

Heidi trained as a teacher with the Open University, has a BSc Honours degree in Psychology and has held the position of Headteacher or Executive Headteacher in three previous schools.

Her leadership experience has been in both small rural schools and large primary schools and Heidi has taught across all ages and subjects. However, her significant experience lies in Early Years, Literacy and Special Educational Needs.

Heidi most recently held the post of Principal at Tywardreath School in Cornwall and she is also a licenced Thrivetrainer.

Heidi's experience also includes supporting Headteachers following OFSTED inspections to ensure rapid progress is achieved.

Heidi says: "I consider it to be a great privilege to be Executive Principal for Bright Tribe. Werneth Primary School is full of committed and able staff and I look forward to leading the school into the next stage of its journey towards excellence. I want every child to succeed and enjoy every second of their learning experience whilst achieving their full potential."

Our academies and their leaders

Executive Principal, Secondary
Jeremy Rowe



Alde Valley Academy
Mike Wilson



Colchester Academy
Fiona Pierson



The Whitehaven Academy
Philip Grant



Castle Hill
Infants and Junior Schools
Eileen Allpress



Cliff Lane Primary School
Sharon Daly



Werneth Primary School
Dr Mujahid Ali
Heidi Hoskin (Executive Principal)

Mike Wilson announced as new Principal



This term we announced Mike Wilson as Principal at Alde Valley Academy. Mike has been Acting Principal at the school since January and the academy is delighted that he has now joined the team on a permanent basis.

Prior to joining Alde Valley Academy as Acting Principal, Mike was Deputy Headteacher at Sir John Leman High School in Beccles, a school which is in the top 3% most-improved schools in the country, and in 2015 achieved the highest-possible rating from the Local Authority following its GCSE results.

Mike played a critical role in this improvement and success and is looking forward to playing a long-term role in the on-going improvement journey at Alde Valley Academy.

Commenting on his appointment, Mike said: "It is an absolute privilege to be leading Alde Valley Academy and I have no doubt that the academy will continue to thrive and improve. The students, staff and parents have been extremely supportive of me since my arrival in January and I know that together we will go from strength to strength."

Enterprising Alde Valley students

A team of entrepreneurial students from Alde Valley Academy joined 17 other school teams to compete in the finals of this year's 2016 Suffolk Young Enterprise competition this term.

Students were tasked with developing a product or service, marketing and selling it through a "mini business" and then producing a financial report including a profit and loss account and a balance sheet. The final involved the teams putting together a trade stand, where they were visited and interviewed by the judges; a company report and a formal presentation.

Our team, Ethereal, created an Asian-style sweets and noodles business, which won the Problem Solving/Overcoming Adversity award.

Battle of the Bands

Recently six talented students teamed up to enter an inter-school Battle of the Bands competition at Trinity Park in Ipswich. The band, called Whipped Cream, was made up of members Toby Young (y8), Nathan Hayward (y10), Adam Strowger (y10), Angus Cooke (y11), Joe Strowger (sixth form) and was led by Danny Parry (sixth form). There were prizes available for two main categories; best acoustic act and best rock/indie band.

The competition for best indie/rock band was very tough and the judges were quick to pick up on small details. However Whipped Cream stole the show and won first prize after two great performances of 'Superstition' by Stevie Wonder and 'Diamonds on the Inside' by Ben Harper.

The prize was a tour of Ipswich Radio Station Town 102, with Wayne Bavin, radio host and judge for Battle of the Bands. They also spent time with the station's scheduler to discover more about how to get your music played on the radio.

Congratulations to the band!



Eddy Alcock, who is chairman of Young Enterprise's Suffolk board, said: "Seven months creating and running your own business has to be the best way of overcoming the common complaint from businesses that the modern day school leaver 'is not fit to enter the workplace'.

"In fact, many businesses look for Young Enterprise experience on the CVs of students seeking full-time work placements and there can be no better way of 'Raising the Bar' in educational achievement than through this real life experience."

Congratulations team Ethereal for all your hard work.





ZUMBA reward

As part of the attendance rewards series, the academy invited local fitness instructor Claire MacFarlane to the school to lead an hour of the world famous party fitness class, Zumba. Fifty pupils (both girls and boys) that had 100% attendance went to the hour long event held in the theatre. They all got really involved with the music and moves, and were motivated enough to carry on until the very end, although it was very exhausting.

What did the students say?

"I loved doing Zumba - it was exciting and fun"

"I loved having the opportunity to do Zumba as I had never tried it before, I really enjoyed it"

"Zumba was amazing - it was extremely energetic and rewarding"

"Zumba was awesome - I've never been so exhausted in my life!"

All students also noted that getting rewarded for good attendance is a great incentive to come to school and they are looking forward to more exciting attendance rewards like this in the future.



Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme



The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (or DofE) is an opportunity to do something different.

Students between the ages of 14 and 24 are encouraged to do things that perhaps ordinarily they would not have considered undertaking. A key point is that it is the students themselves who are responsible for the planning, delivery and completion of the various activities that they have elected to do.

Colchester Academy has recently started to offer the programme, and currently has over 15 signed up. One student said: "I am really happy that I chose to do DofE as it is proving to be a very rewarding experience."

This Girl Can

This term the This Girl Can Campaign has been building momentum with a Tug of War competition.

All Year 8 students have been battling it out in their form times to see who is the stronger sex. The competition was tight with the scores in the balance at two wins to the boys and two wins to the girls.

Congratulations to the Year 8 girls who won the battle of the sexes and beat the boys in the Tug of War competition.

Good luck to the Year 7 and 9 girls who will be competing in the same challenge later this term.



Dance workshop



Year 8 Geography students have been working on their own brilliant weather equipment this term, in preparation for conducting a micro-climate investigation.

They successfully made anemometers to measure wind speed, weather vanes to measure wind direction and rain gauges to measure the rainfall.

The students have been on a mini field trip around the school, using their fully working weather equipment to gather and collect raw data. They will now use this data to write up a scientific report on their findings and experiences.

Year 13 Leavers' Dinner



On Thursday, 5th May, the Year 13 students attended their Leavers' Dinner at Whitehaven Golf Club. Though small in scale, the occasion was big on atmosphere and the fun and festivities kept going until the end of the evening. As is customary with these events, the students were resplendent in their attire. There were a few moments put aside after dinner to reflect on their time at the academy, but the speeches were short and the tone of the evening was definitely celebratory.

The Golf Club proved to be an excellent venue and the entertainment, West Coast Entertainment, kept the party going until the very last dance.

The academy was incredibly proud of their students that evening and wish them well in their transition to the next stage of their lives.

Year 8 Mini field trip

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Queen's Birthday Celebrations

This term children and staff had a fantastic day celebrating the Queen's Birthday. Activities took place throughout the day and culminated in a fantastic party for everyone and a feast fit for a Queen!

Silent Auction

This term children, staff and parents have all had the opportunity to take part in a "Silent Auction". The auction made a fantastic £1,362.15 which will be used by the Friends of Castle Hill Infant's and Junior's School to fund events and buy resources.

Good Diabetes Care in School Award

Castle Hill Infant School has been nominated for the Diabetes UK Good Diabetes Care in School Award, a brand new school award scheme which celebrates and showcases schools that deliver good care and support to children and young people with Type 1 diabetes. Congratulations!





Queen's birthday celebrations

Nursery classes and reception came together to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

They had a week of activities ending with a red, white and blue themed party enjoying the biscuits, scones and sandwiches that they made.



Tudor Event

Children in Year 5 have been learning about the Tudors as a part of their History topic.

The pupils treated their parents to a Tudor extravaganza after spending the day dressed as Tudors. They shared writing, D.T. and some traditional Tudor dance.

A big well done to all the children for their enthusiasm during this topic!



Fundraising for CLIC Sargent

Earlier this term some Year 3 Cliff Lane children took part in a charity football match to raise money for CLIC Sargent, a children's cancer charity. The Ipswich vs Manchester United match went on for 12 hours and the children played from 3pm – 4pm. The match ended with a score of 91–89 to Ipswich. All of the children (and adults) did extremely well and helped raise money for a really good cause. In addition to this, the fundraising event fits into Year 3's 'Heroes and Villains' topic, as we are learning about fundraising and supporting charity





Paper Caper competition

Well done to all the children who took part in the 'Paper Caper' competition. We were very pleased to see that so many children collected unwanted paper from home and brought it in to be weighed and recycled.

The money raised will go towards more resources for the classrooms.

The winner of the competition, and the prestigious Eco Award was given to the Reception Green class who collected 57kg! Well done!



Mayoral lunch

The Lord Mayor and Mayoress of Oldham, visited the school recently for lunch with the Principal, Dr Mujahid Ali.

The Mayor and Mayoress were also joined by local councillor Javid Iqbal, district coordinator, Zaiem Khan and Gary Kelly, Director of Schools from Bright Tribe. They enjoyed lunch together, then received a tour of the school, met students and staff and learnt more about the school's vision and plans for the future.



New inspirational signs

During the recent school holidays the corridors at Werneth have been given a makeover. Bright, eye catching inspirational quotes line the walls to give added vibrancy to all who see them – staff and pupils alike!





In focus...

A parents' guide to online safety

TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS

- 1 Set up an account for each user on your PC at home and only give yourself administrator access.**

This will allow you to keep control of the settings and the installation of software. Each user account can be password protected. You can do this in the 'Control Panel'.

- 2 Add a screen saver protected by a password to your account.**

This means that if you leave the PC for 5 minutes you will have to enter your password. You can do this in the 'Control Panel'.

- 3 Encourage your family to use technology in a public part of the house, and not in the bedroom, where it's easier to monitor what your children are doing.**

This applies not just to PCs but also to laptops and games consoles.

- 4 Remember that many games consoles come with family settings.**

For example if you want to disable or limit 'Xbox Live' on the Xbox 360 you can do so by going to 'Settings, Parental controls'. There is also the option to add a mask to voices so that a youngster's voice sounds like that of an adult or even a robot.

- 5 Encourage your child not to open emails from unfamiliar email addresses and to avoid opening suspicious attachments.**

As far as possible you should encourage your child to use the school's email system as this provides a safer environment.

- 6 Set your favourite search engine to do 'safe searches'.**

This will make sure that a search returns content suitable for all ages. For example, to set Google to do safe searches click on search settings on the homepage and then ensure that moderate or strict filtering is enabled.

- 7 Tell children not to give out their personal details whilst online.**

If they want to subscribe to any online services or websites make up a family email address to receive the mail.

- 8 The internet is a great resource for homework.**

Remember to use more than one site in research to get broad, balanced information and always reference your research sources.

- 9 Involve your children in writing your own family code of 'Acceptable Computer & Internet Use'.**

Remember that what's acceptable for a teenager isn't necessarily ok for a primary school-aged child, so get their input.

- 10 Surf together and engage in their world.**

Go online with your child and become part of their online life – add them as friend on a social networking site (once they're old enough), text them and discover what their game consoles can do. Keep up...today's technology is tomorrow's antique!



Final word...

Mary McKeeman

Bright Tribe's Director of School Improvement

Going to school every day is one of the most important parts of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school. There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes. Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Did you know that:

- a child who is absent a day of school per week misses an equivalent of two years of their school life
- 90% of young people with absence rates below 85% fail to achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all
- poor examination results limit young people's

options and poor attendance suggests to colleges and employers that these students are unreliable

- poor school attendance is also closely associated with crime a quarter of school age offenders have truanted repeatedly
- at least 1 million children take at least one half day off a year without permission
- 7.5 million school days are missed each year through unauthorised absence.

GCSEs may seem a long way off for you and your child but all absence at any stage leads to gaps in your child's learning. This in turn can:

- mean that they fall behind in work
- affect their motivation
- affect their enjoyment of learning
- lead to poor behaviour
- affect their desire to attend school regularly
- affect their confidence in school
- mean they miss out on the social life of school and extra curricular opportunities and experiences
- affect their ability to have or keep friendships.

Your feedback is always welcome. If you have any suggestions for stories or would like any further information on anything that has been mentioned in the newsletter please get in touch.

Rebekah Fice-Thomson

Communications & Marketing Officer

Telephone 01872 271175

Email rfice-thomson@brighttribe.org.uk

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