

The Consortium Academy Trust

News@TCAT

December 2021

 @ConsortiumTrust



THE CONSORTIUM
ACADEMY TRUST

Shaping Positive Futures



Merry Christmas





Welcome from the CEO

Welcome to the December edition of our Trust newsletter.

The term has flown by with so much activity and positive impact being made to support our learners. It certainly hasn't been the easiest of terms and I am incredibly proud of the way each and every one of you has responded to the challenges. What a privilege to work in a sector that truly changes lives! Often the difference you make to the life of a learner or colleague is not felt or understood in the moment it is made but have no doubt that those moments of impact happen each and every day.

I have continued to dedicate time to being in our schools and I thoroughly enjoy this time. It has been wonderful to get to know many of you better and I am committed to getting to know even more of you better next term.

This term learner attendance has been affected and a challenge. This not only has an impact on their progress but also on their motivation and engagement – thank you to all of you that ensure learners who are absent still feel cared for and, on their return, are able to positively reintegrate into school life.

This newsletter is filled with some highlights and I say some because there have been too many to capture this term. Two successful Ofsted inspections, inspiring awards evenings, an engaging staff conference as well as school-based initiatives launched with both Hull FC and Hull KR, one sport focused and the other forming part of our reading strategy.

At the end of the conference some facts were shared with us about our Trust which I thought was a powerful way to reinforce how diverse we are as an organisation but also remind us of the scale of contribution our organisation makes to ensuring children and young people, educated in Hull and the East Riding, are well educated so they can go on to achieve great things.

On our return in January, once you have had a well-deserved break and are feeling refreshed, I will share with you an update on our progress towards the strategic priorities I set out in September and the steps we will take to propel us forward.

In the meantime, I want to share with you that we are seeking to appoint to three posts which will support our schools to make continuous progress. These are being advertised externally and will close on the 24th January 2022 and of course, we welcome applications from those interested internally. The candidate packs are on the links below:

Two Directors of Improvement and Standards:

- Early Years Foundation Stage and Primary
- Secondary and Post-16

Director of Governance

Finally, and most importantly, **THANK YOU** for all your hard work and commitment in the first term and I very much look forward to working with you and driving forward our priorities in the new year.

Have a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Enjoy your time with family and friends – look after each other and stay safe.

Kind regards
Lizann

Facts in numbers...

7972

learners we are educating and futures we are shaping.

1806

learners attending our largest school.

2151

learners who are disadvantaged.

1247

learners with additional needs.

247

learners with English as their second language.

189

learners with an education, health and care plan.

55

learners in care.



Christmas message from The Chair of the Trust

As we come to the end of what I know has been another challenging term for colleagues across the Trust, I would like to thank each and every one of you for the work you do to ensure all of our learners continue to have access to high quality teaching and learning.

We are fortunate to have such a dedicated team, in both teaching and support roles, who go the extra mile to make sure our children and young people are able to reach their potential.

On behalf of the Trust Board, I would like to send festive greetings to everyone this Christmas and hope you all enjoy a well-deserved break.



Ian Furlong,
Chair of the Trust



Head's highlights



This term students at Winifred Holtby Academy were excited to welcome players and staff from Hull KR who came in to read with them.

As an academy we have always had a focus on providing

our students with opportunities and access to reading, as we understand the challenges some young people face in accessing the knowledge rich curriculum if they are not fluent readers. We are looking forward to collaborating with schools across the Trust as we continue to develop our Trust in Reading @TCAT initiative.

Mark Brown, Winifred Holtby



Our Academic Awards Evening is held each year to recognise and celebrate the efforts and achievements of Wolfreton students.

This year we held the event for our Key Stage 4 and 5 students in The Forum, in the heart of our school. This made the evening very special, as we acknowledged the determination and resilience of our young people. Staff and parents were equally proud of their success and we were delighted that Lizann, our CEO, agreed to address the audience as our keynote speaker. We intend to hold a similar evening in the summer term when we will take the opportunity of celebrating the success of our younger students.

Susanne Kukuc, Wolfreton





We were proud of our Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy who read out moving tributes to our fallen heroes in WW1 on Remembrance Sunday at St Mary's in Cottingham.

A local historian had researched all of the names on the local cenotaph and wrote a short insight into their 'normal' lives before making the ultimate sacrifice. Each statement finished with the moving line 'This son of Cottingham gave up their life for us.'

Loz Wilson, Cottingham



We're delighted to announce our newly forged links with Hull FC Academy to create a Rugby Talent Hub.



This new initiative is designed to identify and offer opportunities for potential elite athletes, including the pathway to the Hull FC first team. We have a history of rugby talent and we are proud that one of our students is currently one of the top prospects in Hull FC Academy. The Rugby Talent Hub will run once a month with the sessions being a mixture of athletic development and rugby skills. The focus will be on Year 9, 10 and 11 with the potential for some talented Year 8s to join the group. We look forward to supporting our aspirational athletes to realise their potential through the Rugby Talent Hub.

Scott Wilson, Holderness





The development of outdoor learning & play at Keyingham Primary has been a real highlight for us!

The day we risk assessed and introduced the tyres at play and lunch time was amazing! Seeing the smiles on the children's faces and the mud on their hands has been a great reward for us all in this part of our school improvement journey.

Vic White, Keyingham



Technology is important to us at Croxby and is essential in supporting the pedagogy we have in Key Stage 2.

One of the highlights for us this term was receiving our new laptops, which we distributed to some very excited Year 6 children to enhance their learning even more.

Kerry Mason, Croxby



What have our learners enjoyed most this term?

Nurture Unit



"I love doing numbers. I went past two hundred this morning which is really high! Also we bake really nice cookies which we give to teachers and children - they are yummy."



Year 1

"I loved learning about dinosaurs. I liked looking in the dinosaur poop to see if they were a herbivore or carnivore and do you know dinosaur poop can be a fossil too?"



Year 2

"In Maths we learn things we haven't learnt before like counting pennies, crocodile symbols and equals."





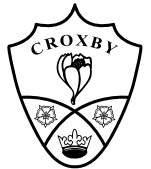
Year 3

"We have enjoyed our D&T lessons the most - we have baked Viking bread, built Viking longboats and learned two new stitches to make a Christmas tree!"



Year 4

"We have really enjoyed maths this half term because it is really fun using LBQ (Learning by Questions) on our tablets."



Year 5

"We have enjoyed working collaboratively in PE lessons, having opportunities to participate in a variety of sports and actively working on our mental health."



Year 6

"We have enjoyed being historians; we now know more and remember more about World War II, The Cold War and other conflicts."



What have our learners enjoyed most this term?



Year 7

"I became the first word millionaire in Year 7: I have read 36 books since coming to WHA!"



Year 8

"I have really enjoyed my PE lessons this term because we have been doing rugby and it's something that I have not done before."



Year 9

"The highlight of my first term in Year 9 has been starting my Duke of Edinburgh Award and getting the opportunity to expand my school experience beyond just ordinary lessons. I have really enjoyed it!"



Year 10



"My Tutor group came top in attendance in the year at 98%. We all got served free hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows, made and served by Miss Hill. It was lovely and a great treat."



Year 11

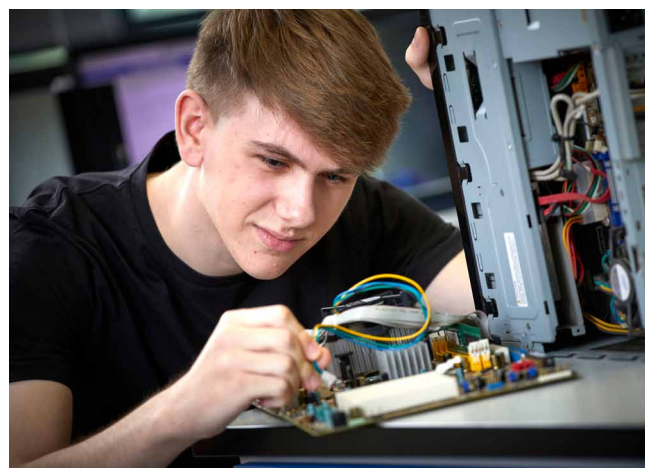
"I really enjoyed reading week, as a tutor group we read over 1000 minutes and won the free breakfast and 30 stamps. It was great."



Year 12



"The Aspirations Group provides a chance to develop critical skills and it's thoroughly engaging as it makes you step out of your comfort zone and approach scenarios from new perspectives."



Year 13

"I really enjoyed seeing all my hard work pay off this term when the first edition of my magazine 'Holderness Headlines' was printed and distributed across the Sixth Form."



Holderness Academy
& Sixth Form College



Sustainability and Climate Change – Strategy for Education and Children’s Services Systems

The government has recently released a draft strategy for the education and children’s services systems – Sustainability and Climate Change (November 2021).

Read the strategy here.

Whilst draft, it clearly sets out their intent on how education providers can contribute. Following a period of consultation, the final version is due to be published in April 2022. The Trust has requested further information on the consultation period and involvement with any user groups.

The draft strategy sets out a route to achieving the government’s vision (page 9) for the UK to be the world-leading education sector in sustainability and climate change by 2030. Action areas include education, careers, estate, supply chain and advocacy.

Initial Teacher Training (ITT) Market Review – government response

The ITT market review report was published in July 2021. The government’s response to the ITT Market Review report was published on the 2nd December 2021.

The reforms introduce a new set of Quality Requirements for all ITT that leads to Qualified Teacher Status, including evidence-based curricula, mentoring and intensive training and practice. The announcement included a commitment to £35.7m of funding over the next spending review period to support implementation.

All providers wishing to offer ITT that leads to qualified teacher status from 2024 must undergo an accreditation process.

The Wolds Teaching School Alliance, to which the Trust is a strategic partner, will be applying for re-accreditation.

In the know...

- Externally

School uniforms – new statutory guidance

New DfE non-statutory guidance advises on developing and implementing school uniform policy. Schools are advised to keep branded items to a minimum and allow high street items. Second-hand uniform must be available, providing cost-effective and sustainable options.

Schools are expected to have taken steps to adhere to the new guidance before parents buy uniform for the academic year beginning in September 2022. Schools should make sure their uniform policy is published on their website and is clear and easy for parents to understand.

The new guidance also requires schools to use competitive and transparent contracts with suppliers. Should schools need to tender to secure a new contract, they have until December 2022.

Summer 2022 Contingencies

The government’s current policy decision is that GCSE, AS and A level exams will go ahead in England during the summer 2022 series. JCQ and the exam boards continue to work, and to support students, schools and colleges, on this basis.



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Post 16 Steering Group

Chaired by the CEO, the first meeting took place on the 23 November 2021. The group will develop a post 16 strategy encompassing all our secondary schools across the Trust with the sole purpose of ensuring our offer is accessible, of excellent quality and leading young people towards positive destinations.

For those schools without a post 16 offer, the group will explore options for developing this alongside opportunities to improve their access to our existing provision including the promotion of it.

In an increasingly competitive post 16 landscape, whilst the group's main focus is not on attracting year 11 leavers from other providers outside the Trust, it will be considered alongside strategies to increase our year 11 conversion rates.

Brand identity, unique selling points and creation of an innovative and consistent extra-curriculum offer are key areas of focus for the marketing team and Heads of Sixth Form.

SENDCo Cluster Meeting

22 November 2021 saw the first meeting of the TCAT SENDCo cluster group. All TCAT schools, from both primary and secondary sectors, were represented, which provided a brilliant opportunity to share ideas and best practice, drawing on a vast wealth of experience.

In this first meeting, the group discussed ways in which they each support our learners with SEND, and devised an action plan for moving forward. It is clearly evident that, as a trust, we offer incredible support to those who need it the most. Future meetings will look at how we can further pool resources, ideas and strategies to strengthen this support even further.

In the know...

- Internally

Sustainability and Climate Change - Let's Go Zero

Let's Go Zero brings together schools working to become carbon zero by 2030. This is a significant challenge but it is recognised that this type of movement can only be positive in sustaining the planet for future generations.

*'With **school-aged children in 42% of all UK households**, our classrooms can inspire progress right across communities. Change in schools is already helping whole families (as well as school staff) see the many benefits 'of thinking and acting more sustainably. Low-carbon schools plant bright ideas in our homes, streets and workplaces.'*
Asden – Climate Solutions in Action.

Currently there are 858 schools signed up across the UK but very few across Hull and the East Riding.

The Trust will be signing each school up in the New Year.

Published Reports from Ofsted Inspections

The reports from the monitoring inspection at Winifred Holtby Academy on the 24 September 2021 and the inspection of Wolfreton School and Sixth Form College on the 7 and 8 October 2021 are now published and available on both the Ofsted and School websites. Links below:

Wolfreton School and Sixth Form College

Winifred Holtby Academy





BEAT – Becoming a Teacher @TCAT Programme

We are really excited to announce our new BEAT Programme is now up and running across the Trust.

Fifteen Year 12 students from Cottingham, Hessle, Wolfreton and Holderness sixth forms with an interest in primary and secondary teaching are being given the opportunity to taste what it is like to be a teacher.

Our programme aims to give students the opportunity to try out the role of the teacher with one of our primary or secondary schools by

completing a work placement. Thus allowing our students to develop an understanding of teacher training and the role of the teacher from our Trust colleagues who are both experienced and ECT teachers. Our hope is that this 'real life' experience will encourage our next generation of teachers and leaders in education.

Students will attend discussions and talks about the realities of teacher training with a Yorkshire Wolds Teacher Training (YWTT) student teacher and the real-life experiences of teachers including the different roles within a school.

Alison Fletcher the Director of YWTT

will discuss the rewards of joining the profession and the skills they look for in a student teacher. Completion of the YWTT 'Get into Teaching' programme modules and the reflective journal will allow students to refer back to and evaluate their experiences to hopefully further their ambitions and help apply to University/ Apprenticeship opportunities and work.

These students will be our first 'graduates' in the summer of 2022 and we are excited to listen to their thoughts and experiences. It is a fantastic way to encourage our talented young people into a brilliant and fulfilling career.

Trust values in action

Aspiration – ‘I am delighted to report on positive staff developments this term within our Finance team. Following an external recruitment drive after the departure of an Academy Business Manager at the end of last year, Rachel van Dyk was successfully appointed to this role, which in turn left a vacancy for a Finance Operations Manager. Di Cunningham was promoted from Finance Officer to this position, and Emma Fox, then a Finance Assistant, successfully applied for the vacant Finance Officer role. To complete the picture, Callum Fox, a recent graduate and Emma’s brother, has been appointed to the Finance Assistant post vacated by Emma! It is wonderful to be able to provide career progression opportunities within the Finance Department at the Trust and to work with such an aspirational team who are all keen to develop themselves and take every opportunity which comes their way.’ - **Matt Cooper**, Head of Finance



Respect – Students at Hessle who are undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Award have demonstrated great respect over the last half-term. The Bronze and Silver participants were asked by a local fundraising group if they could paint the Polar Express in just two weeks! The students selflessly painted through their lunchtimes and even got their friends involved to complete this in just seven lunchtimes.

In addition to this, the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award participants created some Christmas-themed arts and crafts which they will share with residents of our local Hessle community. The dedication these young people, and the staff supporting them, have shown to make the festive period brighter for those less fortunate is incredible!



Integrity – Head of Maths at Holderness Academy & Sixth Form College, Lois Arnett has raised £536 for an incredibly special charity this half term. Miss Arnett donated a large proportion of her long locks to the charity Little Princess Trust. This organisation provides real hair wigs, free of charge, to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment and other conditions. Holderness Academy, as well as her friends and family, supported Miss Arnett reaching her target with the fundraiser surpassing her original goal of £500!

The Little Princess Trust expressed their gratitude saying, *“Amazing work Miss Arnett! Huge thanks for the hair donation and we're so grateful for all the fundraising, too.”*

Responsibility – Helen Burton at Croxby Primary, who is a valued member of our team of support staff, has agreed to undertake the role of Child Protection Officer. Helen joined Croxby in 2016 and has worked in many different year groups. However, she is currently putting her talents to good use in Early Years supporting our Reception children. Helen started her studies for this by using National College to complete the 'Advanced Certificate in Safeguarding' amongst other courses, and then completed the East Riding 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' course.

Congratulations Helen - you will strengthen our safeguarding team at Croxby.



Shaping positive futures

This term we have been able to see our Trust values of aspiration, respect, integrity and responsibility in action at Wolfreton School and Sixth Form College.

James Wilson is a former Wolfreton student. Whilst studying he was heavily involved in the extra-curricular life of the school through Rock Challenge. *(The premise of Rock Challenge was that each school put together an 8-minute dance and drama production on a theme of their choice set to a soundtrack of commercially available music. Over the course of months/weeks schools created their production and finally brought it to an event day held at a professional venue where the day was spent rehearsing and preparing for an evening show where parents, peers, community members, and invited guests attended. During the evening, a panel of judges gave verbal feedback on each performance and also scored each piece based on strict criteria, including*



lighting.) Under the tutelage of an older sixth form student, James learned all about sound and lighting performance requirements and supported these vital backstage operations when the school competed.

After leaving Wolfreton, James enrolled on a sound and lighting course at Hull College as well as working as a mobile DJ. Since COVID hit, James has worked as a member of the cleaning team at Wolfreton but has also stepped up in supporting the facilities staff as required.

He has continued to provide his technical expertise for school events, most recently the sound production at the Academic Awards Evening held at the school in November. We are delighted that, having continued to pursue his aspirations he is now taking his first steps in a career at Hull New Theatre. He will continue to work shifts at Wolfreton alongside his work at the theatre.

James' story to date embodies our Trust values of aspiration, respect, integrity and responsibility and we wish him all the best as he follows his dreams.