

The Consortium Academy Trust

News@TCAT

February 2022

 @ConsortiumTrust



THE CONSORTIUM
ACADEMY TRUST

Shaping Positive Futures

Education and Learning
Covid Recovery

Health and
Well-being

Our Rights
and Democracy

Poverty

Jobs, Money,
Homes and
Opportunity

Shaping Positive Futures



United Kingdom

Youth Parliament
MAKING OUR MARK



Welcome from the CEO

Welcome to the February edition of our Trust newsletter.

This term, once again, has flown by with so much activity and positive impact. Each edition of this newsletter only provides a glimpse into all the outstanding activities taking place and it is always a joy to discover more about the amazing initiatives that colleagues are involved in. Recent highlights have included a successful Ofsted inspection at Croxby, Year 11 Mock Interview Days and student engagement in Make your Mark and the UK Youth Parliament.

In the last newsletter I shared with you that we were seeking to appoint to three posts to support our schools to make continuous progress.

I am delighted to inform you that as a result of a recruitment and selection process, Dave Waterson has been appointed to the position of Director of Improvement and Standards (EYFS and Primary). Dave has significant leadership expertise in this phase of education which will be of huge benefit to our Headteachers and their leadership teams.

I am also extremely pleased to announce we have appointed Lottie Thompson as Director of Governance.

Lottie has significant experience of leading strategic governance in the education sector and is also a practicing solicitor with a background in employment law. In this role, Lottie will report to the Trust Board and work closely with the wider leadership team to support our ambitious plans for the future set out in our strategic plan.

The Director of Improvement and Standards (Secondary and Post-16) will be re-advertised with a closing date of 14 March. Applications are very much welcomed from internal applicants so please do get in touch with me if you would like to find out more about what the role entails. If you have experience of improving outcomes for learners and achieving sustained improvement in subject areas or departments, this could be a great opportunity for you.

As we move towards the Spring term, our overarching development priorities continue to be:

- Ofsted readiness for some schools. Whilst we will not suddenly do things differently during an Ofsted inspection, there is a need to be ready for when the call is received. Given the number of inspections we have had in the last 3 months, we are well practised!
- Developing a comprehensive plan for the development of Trust in Reading@TCAT and developing our school improvement offer.

- Developing management information systems so data is used Trust wide to identify good practice and areas for development to target improvement. This development also targets a reduction in workload for all.
- A 5 year estates plan is being developed and will be presented to the Trust Board before Easter. This supports the Trust's strategic priority of having 'outstanding environments'.
- Developing the detail behind the strategic priorities to form a 3-5 year strategic plan and a strategy for growth. This will be ready for presentation to the Trust Board in May 2022 and shared with staff across the Trust for feedback prior to it being finalised.

It just remains for me to say thank you once again for all your hard work and everything that you continue to do to support our learners. I hope you manage to have a well-deserved break over half term and enjoy time with family and friends. For those not taking a break, I hope the pace slows for you so you get the chance to recharge whilst still on the go.

I look forward to continuing our work together next term.

Kind regards
Lizann



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Message from The Chair of the Trust

As we look ahead to Spring and lighter days to come, I would like to thank you all for your efforts over the last half term in ensuring our learners receive the very best teaching and support to enable them to achieve their potential.

In this edition of the newsletter I read with particular interest the article about the UK Youth Parliament and Make your Mark. I'm delighted that our young people are engaging with the electoral process and having the opportunity to discuss the topics they feel are the most pressing issues facing young people across the country today. This is just one example of the opportunities that our schools provide which ensure our young people become well-rounded citizens ready for life in the wider world.

Thank you for the positive impact you make on a daily basis and, on behalf of the Trust Board, enjoy your well-earned half term break.



Ian Furlong,
Chair of the Trust



Head's highlights



The children at Croxby have been competitive this term not just entering sporting events, but with their maths too!

Team Croxby entered a competition for the NSPCC using the app Times Tables Rockstars, which helps the children to learn their times tables. Competing as a school, out of 187 local primary schools we came first - a real team effort.

Kerry Mason, Croxby

Hedon Museum has been open for 25 years and, to celebrate, the Society held competitions so everyone in the community could get involved in the anniversary celebrations.

For secondary age students the competition was to design a logo or emblem for the museum. A grant from the Humber Museums Partnership funded the competition and we were delighted to host the presentations at Holderness. Students gathered in our exhibition space to see their entries displayed and the presentations being made by a number of local dignitaries including members of the museum, the local mayor, local and regional councillors and our Chair of Governors, alongside members of the press. We're delighted to announce that the winner was Holderness student Lila Fox! She wrote an acceptance speech in which she thanked Hedon Museum for 'keeping Hedon's history alive' and explained she took her inspiration from Hedon's history as a port.



Scott Wilson, Holderness



Holderness students receiving their awards



Mark Brown, Winifred Holtby

On 1 February 2022 Winifred Holtby Academy proudly became a certified Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Centre.

We have a brilliant team of staff who have volunteered to support students through the award; many of whom have completed the DofE Silver and Gold awards and will be able to pass on their skills and experiences. This year, our Year 9s and 10s will be able to embark

on their Bronze Award and we'd like as many of them as possible to sign up and benefit from this opportunity. We are hoping to deliver the Bronze Award between April and October of this year and looking forward to working alongside our first WHA Bronze DofE cohort of students. We'd like to thank Damien Garth from Cottingham for giving us some pointers on how to move forward with the programme and hopefully we'll team up with him and his students when we get to the expedition section.

Last month 22 of our students ranging from Year 7-11 were involved in the Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme online training provided by the Diana Award.

The students involved were all members of the House Council and completed the training as an extension of their roles.

The training was extensive and thorough and allowed the students to understand all different types of bullying and how to help the perpetrator as well as the victim. The training covered a lot of scenario-based work and was a practical workshop with students invited up to the screen to offer opinions on how to act in different situations. All students who completed the award are now fully trained ambassadors and will now start to work on their whole school Anti-Bullying campaign, raising awareness in school.



Susanne Kukuc, Wolfreton



Gary Cannon, Howden

At Howden the Environment senate group have been working in partnership with ERYC to promote safe, sustainable green transport.

This work has been about promoting walking and cycling as healthy options for transport. The partnership has already led to visits to the school from the Bike Doctor to

offer free repairs and maintenance. We ran a Cycle Academy with r-evolution from September developing cycling skills and delivering engineering workshops free of charge.

We are proud to announce we have recently opened our new bike storage facility and in the next few weeks we will be installing a bike service station at the front of the school for community use.



As part of our work on sustainability and climate change, we asked our learners...

What do you think we can do to help save the planet?

EYFS



"We have to look after all the things we have, so they don't break. We need to put all the rubbish in the bin, so we can keep things clean."



Year 1

"We could turn lights and televisions off when we are not in the room."



Year 2

"We need to recycle so that our planet does not suffocate."





Year 3

"Don't chop down trees! Recycle your mail and put your rubbish in the right bins! "



Year 4

"We should raise awareness about deforestation so that fewer trees get cut down – we need them to survive! "



Year 5

"It is all about the carbon footprint; we need to reduce fossil fuels, invest in wind and solar energy, recycle and just be more thoughtful in the choices we make every day."



Year 6

"It is really important to reduce our waste and recycle. We also understand it's necessary to plant lots of trees to help reduce global warming."



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Year 7

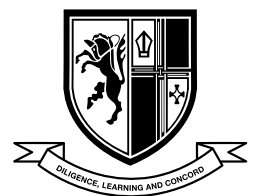
"I would encourage everyone to make sure their litter is disposed of and not left littering the environment."



Year 8

"In schools, we can reduce the amount of plastic bottles used and introduce recycling bins."

Remember, reduce, reuse, recycle."



Year 9

"Saving the environment requires unity and commitment amongst people and planet."





Year 10

"To save the planet I think we should cut down carbon emissions and try to find a more sustainable and renewable way to generate electricity."



Year 11

"Use bikes and public transport instead of driving."



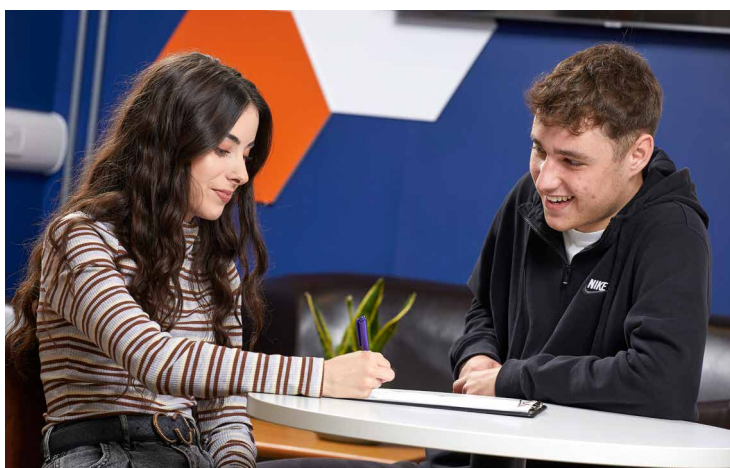
Year 12

"Encourage a world effort to produce a larger quantity of food on less land, where it's likely to thrive, whilst encouraging people to shop locally."



Year 13

"Learn more from the mistakes of those who have gone before us. Recycle and reuse, and dedicate our spare time to developing our own knowledge more."





Wonderful News

In the know...

- internally



Following an inspection on Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 January 2022, Croxby Primary has been judged by Ofsted to be 'Good' in all areas.

This is wonderful news and very well deserved. A huge thank you to the school leadership team, teachers and support staff and to our wonderful children and their parents and carers for being excellent advocates for the school.

Whilst we already knew Croxby was a good school, to get this endorsed externally is just wonderful and an important development towards our growth plan.

Acting Headteacher Kerry Mason said 'We are delighted with the outcome of the inspection which we believe acknowledges the continuous hard work and dedication from all our staff and children. We are looking forward to building upon the success we have already made and thank everyone in our community for their continued support.'

Inspectors carried out 'deep dives' in early reading, mathematics, history, geography and modern foreign languages. For each deep dive, inspectors met with curriculum leaders, spoke to pupils and teachers and visited lessons. The views of parents were considered from responses to the online Ofsted Parent View questionnaire, with parents describing their children as feeling "happy and valued."

We are looking forward to building upon the success we have already made and thank everyone in our community for their continued support.'



What do we do well at Croxby?

"Leaders have developed the 'Croxby Way' curriculum over the past three years. The curriculum is well planned and ensures that teachers teach the right things in the right order. As a result, pupils are achieving well."

"Curriculum leaders support their colleagues with training and advice. Consequently, teachers have strong subject knowledge. They know what has been taught in previous years and build on it effectively."

"In lessons, teachers have high expectations for pupils' conduct."

"Pupils understand that all people should be treated equally and with respect, regardless of their differences."

The report also gives us even more reasons to be extremely proud of our pupils. The inspectors noted that our children:

".... are keen to take part in the school's graduate awards programme and gain their graduate badges. Pupils contribute to their community by raising money for the local care home and hospice."

Of course, there are always aspects to improve which you will see written in the report.

Some highlights to share from the report are:

"Leaders and staff have high expectations of pupils. Together, they have successfully improved the school. Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the school."

"Pupils behave well in lessons; pupils know and adhere to the two school rules 'be kind and work hard'."

"Leaders provide opportunities for all pupils to develop wider talents and have ensured the school has high-quality pastoral care."

"Staff are very proud to be members of '#TeamCroxby'."

Well done Team Croxby!



Sustainability and Climate Change

It's great to hear from our learners about their thoughts on what we can do to help save the planet.

From a pupil at Penshurst who worries that if we don't recycle our planet will suffocate, to a student at Winifred Holtby who identifies the need for unity and commitment to make a difference, it is clear that our learners have recognised the need for action.

In signing up to Let's Go Zero, our schools join a campaign of 1095 schools across the UK working together to commit to carbon zero by 2030. Whilst this is incredibly ambitious, the journey must start.

Our Director of Business, Clare Thorley, will be co-ordinating working groups consisting of staff and learners to tackle these priorities, together with our Trust sustainability leads:

Cottingham - Bernie Phillips

Croxby - Cath Oldale

Hessle - Vince Groak

Holderness - Julia Lovel

Howden - Paul Harris, Dominique Morris

Keyingham - Mike Copley, Lucy Richardson, Vic White

Winifred Holtby - Mark Brown

Wolfeaton - Beth Morton, Dave Rockett, Lauren Warnett

Please contact Clare if you would like to get involved.



Post -16 Sixth Form Survey

As part of the Post-16 Steering Group's discussions about sixth form provision across the Trust, we commissioned a survey which we invited our sixth form students to complete, canvassing their views about why they had chosen to stay on with us for their post-16 studies. The feedback was clear – it was because of you!

When asked what they liked most about sixth form, comments included:

"I have a strong connection with the majority of my subject teachers and this helps me as I am able to talk to them about things and I am able to approach them for help."

"There is a good range of subjects, teachers are very supportive and passionate about their subjects. "

"I like the freedom I get as a sixth former in my ILS periods, the sense of community as it is a much smaller year group and I have closer relationships with my teachers so I feel more comfortable asking questions and participating in class discussions. The extra-curricular events are also exciting too."

In terms of why they chose our sixth forms rather than another college, the responses again were all about the trust they had in their teachers, the support that was in place, the sense of community....

"I knew the staff well and knew I could trust them with both teaching and with other things like mental health. At a new college I wouldn't know who I could talk to or if I could trust that person. "

".....the classes are smaller so you could get more support from teachers. Also, I could still get the experience of going somewhere new by potentially going to another Consortium Sixth Form for certain subjects."

"Attending another college would have meant I wouldn't get an almost one to one lesson with teachers and that I would feel like a number rather than an individual."



Trust values in action

Aspiration

NASA Space Walk Children at Keyingham had a very exciting moment where they went into space! NASA TV broadcasted a live space walk from the International Space Centre which the whole school watched. Looking down on earth from where the cosmonauts were working was a real highlight for the children and sparked some real interest!

Respect

Schools across the Trust celebrated the beginning of the Lunar New Year on 1 February in many ways. This year marks the change from the Year of the Ox to the Year of the Tiger. Howden School's Chinese Choir and Chinese Class celebrated with gifts like decorative chopsticks and donuts that were iced in the Chinese flag's colours of gold and red. Pupils at Penshurst Primary School thoroughly enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year. They created Chinese dragons and then performed a dragon dance.

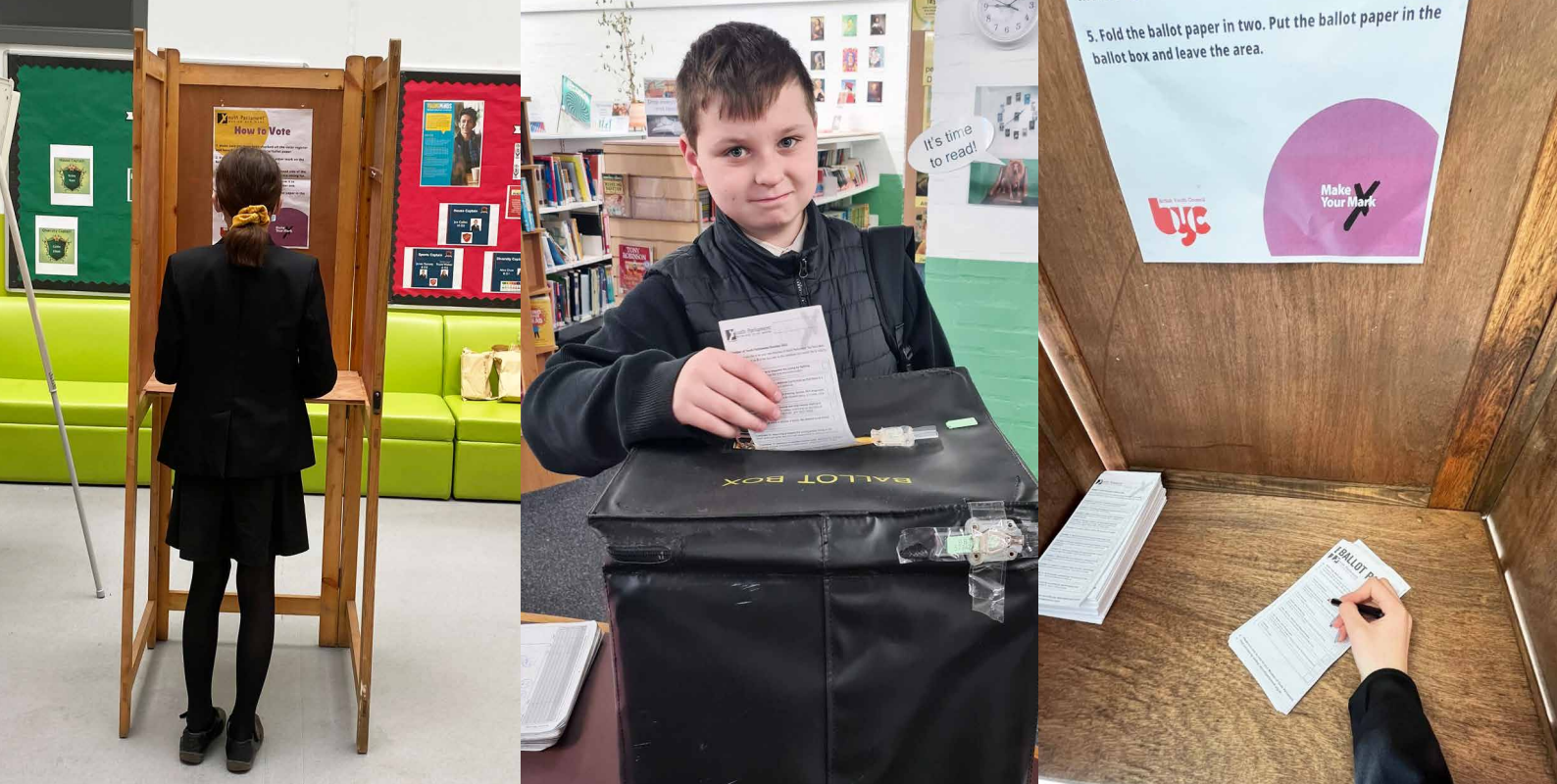
Integrity

Students at Wolfreton have upheld the school's legacy through interior design in a collaboration with Lovell Homes' latest development, The Sycamores, in Kirk Ella.

The new homes are built on school's previous Upper School site which was designated for redevelopment when the new school building, designed by Ryder and built by BAM, was completed in 2016. To ensure the site's history was honoured, Lovell Homes enlisted art students to design their own sycamore leaves, which have been incorporated into the theme of the show home. Wolfreton's Subject Leader for Art, Andrew Richardson-Medd explained that the opportunity to be involved in real world projects such as this is always exciting as it reminds students of the importance of design and creativity to our economy. It also gives students an opportunity to work under tight deadlines and produce high quality work.

Responsibility

At Croxby we had an extra focus on our children's mental health through celebrating Children's Mental Health Week. The focus of the week was 'Growing Together' and our pupils completed additional lessons around supporting emotional growth and thinking about how they have grown and how they can help others to grow. We aim to develop our children's ability to talk about their mental health, build resilience and provide them with strategies to manage their emotions throughout the year.



Shaping positive futures

For the first time in 2022 Make your Mark and the UK Youth Parliament elections have taken place at the same time.

Learners from all of our secondary schools across the Trust have taken part in the democratic process and voted twice, firstly having listened to video manifestos from candidates hoping to be elected to the Youth Parliament and then secondly for Make your Mark.

UK Youth Parliament enables young people to use their energy and passion to change the world for the better and provides opportunities for 11-18 year olds to use their elected voice to bring about social change through meaningful representation and campaigning.

Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) are elected every two years across the UK. Once elected Members of Youth Parliament meet with MPs and local councillors, organise events, run campaigns, make speeches, hold debates and ensure the views of young people are listened to by decision makers. The most important aspect of any Members of Youth Parliament's job is to make sure they represent the views of the young people in their constituency.

Make Your Mark gives all young people aged 11-18 in the UK the chance to have a say on the biggest issues facing young people and they are asked to vote for which topic they care about the most, from a list including: Covid Recovery; Education and Learning; Environment; Health and Well-being; Jobs, Money, Homes and Opportunities; Our Rights and Democracy and Poverty.

Feedback from students on why they felt it was important to be involved was extremely positive:

"Having a chance to vote in the Youth Parliament elections made me feel like I have a voice and a chance to make changes."

"I want the law to change to allow 16 year olds to vote."

"It was really interesting to see an actual polling station and understand how it works and how we need to behave in one."

"I have an autistic brother and he was on a waiting list for over three years before he was seen – we need this to improve so that people get access to both physical and mental health support much quicker. "