

TRENT ACADEMIES GROUP

QUARTERLY



Issue 4

December 2016

A word from the CEO

A little taken aback to realise that it's time for the second TAG quarterly of the academic year. Tempus fugit.

Much continues to happen across the trust. Being invited to national finals of the Chamber of Commerce Awards has been a highlight. We were invited because we had been awarded the East Midlands prize for Engagement with Business. The national prize went to a trust from the Bristol area- and it was thoroughly deserved. However, we are on the right tracks and the Trent Academies Group is gaining a national reputation in this field.

We continue to engage with Speakers for Schools - a charity set up by Robert Peston with a view to guiding successful people to state schools so that they can share their experiences. Over the last two years we have been visited by Lin Homer (CEO of the Inland Revenue) and Baroness Tina Stowell (Leader of the House of Lords). This term Rushcliffe and Arnold Hill heard from Keith Atwood (IT entrepreneur) whilst Farnborough had a visit from Richard Burrell (BBC). Private schools have regular contact with outside speakers and it broadens horizons. We will continue to engage with Speakers for Schools.

We are blessed with 3 very supportive Members of Parliament. Ken Clarke is the Rushcliffe MP. Steve Lewis and I spent an hour with him expressing our concerns about the proposed expansion of Grammar Schools. He listened and seemed to sympathise. Vernon Coaker remains a strong supporter of Arnold Hill. He visited in October and I spent some time in London discussing the progress being made at the academy. Always helpful. Lillian Greenwood has made several visits to Farnborough and is always keen to promote the work being done at the academy. Lillian has recently become a member of the Education Select Committee. I spent some time giving her my views about what's happening and what needs to be done. She listened patiently !

Thanks for your commitment to the Trent Academies Group. Your work is appreciated.

Best wishes

Phil Crompton

INSET day at Arnold Hill : Monday 20th February

Please be aware that we will assemble to Arnold Hill on the first day back after the half term break in February. Parking is limited so buses will be booked from Rushcliffe and Farnborough. If you live near to Arnold Hill it might be possible to find a parking place but please ask the Head's PA (Jayne, Julia or Jayne) .

The event will be organised as follows :-

8.45am - 9.30am
Arrival and refreshments

9.30am - 10.00am
Phil Crompton : An update

10.00am - 12.30pm
- Support staff work with guest speaker John Dabrowski
- Teaching staff work with guest speakers re: raising achievement - to be confirmed

12.30pm - 1.30pm
Lunch

1.30pm - 2.45pm
Teams continue work on morning themes

New and Aspiring Middle Leaders' Programme

Following the success of last year's course it has returned by popular demand. If you have been teaching for three years and would like to develop your leadership skills please let Jayne Dury know by contacting her on Jdury@trentacademiesgroup.com.

Rushcliffe Wins Lord Lieutenant's Award

Pupils at Rushcliffe School have won the new Lord Lieutenant's award after participating in 2500 hours of voluntary service over the last year. A third of our 1500 pupils have been involved in a wide range of projects supporting national charities and the local community. The voluntary work included cooking Christmas dinner for the residents of a local care home, supporting a disabled centre, nursery and school in Malawi, constructing a sensory garden for a local church's nursery group and carrying out volunteer work in Ecuador for the local community.



Every year group chooses a charity (Help for Hero's, Alzheimer's Research UK and Teenage Cancer Trust have recently been chosen) to support and organise fundraising activities for.

Vice Lord Lieutenant, Colonel Timothy Richmond, and Deputy Lord Lieutenant Arthur Sandford visited the school to present the award.



Combined Cadet Force (CCF) At Arnold Hill



The academy is excited to announce that they will be launching a Combined Cadet Force (CCF) unit in the new year. The CCF is a youth organisation that offers young people a broad range of challenging, exciting, adventurous and educational activities. Each CCF is supported by the Ministry of Defence and help with uniforms, logistics and specialised training and equipment. We have been partnered with Nottingham High School who have run a successful CCF contingent for decades, with over 120 cadets currently enrolled.

Our staff have been training with Nottingham High School in their CCF detachment for the last 6 months as well as attending officer training at the Cadet Force Training Centre in Surrey. In January we will be taking 12 cadets from Year 9 to join the Nottingham High School training program for the rest of the academic year; joining them on parade each Monday and attending a number of field days and camps with them over the year.



In September we will launch our independent unit but will still retain strong links with Nottingham High School as our partner school for the foreseeable future. Any year 9 students that are interested in being part of the initial group this year or part of a group joining in September are encouraged to speak to Mr Craze and visit the CCF website to find out more (www.combinedcadetforce.org.uk).

Maria Collins - Executive Assistant Head, MFL, says

One of my key responsibilities as Executive Assistant Head is to work with our MFL colleagues across the Trust developing the teaching of languages, raising its profile with students and the wider community and creating opportunities for teaching staff to share good practice and resources. This last 12 months has seen a number of exciting developments:

In October 88 year 8 students from both Rushcliffe school and the Farnborough academy travelled to Paris, accompanied with teachers from both schools, to apply their mathematics in real-life settings and to learn a little about French culture as well as practise their language skills. Over 4 packed days students climbed the Eiffel Tower, cruised down the Seine for a guided tour, visited the Musée des Sciences as well as Euro-Disney, whilst completing Maths challenges at every opportunity. Friendships blossomed with students learning about each-other as well as French culture and language. Two schools became one group as we headed home and all teaching colleagues were keen to continue this next year.



Year 10 students from both Rushcliffe and Arnold Hill academy as well as French teachers from both schools have just returned from a superb Christmas trip to Lille in northern France. With a packed itinerary and blessed with mild weather, students and staff had a wonderful time in Lille and with each-other.

Ms van der Velden, trip organiser wrote that "... Arnold Hill students were truly amazing, very keen to participate and so polite.....

Of course I was also very proud of our Rushcliffe staff and students and it would be fantastic if we can continue to build on this partnership because I feel both schools have so much to benefit from this.

Mrs Smith (Head of French at AHA) also commented;.... "I feel so inspired by these pupils who are nothing but nice to each other, not because they have been warned or because of some kind of reward, but because they want to be".

In addition to these 2 wonderful trips abroad, teaching colleagues across the TAG have supported the employability focus by creating opportunities for year groups to work on small business projects such as creating a brochure in German about Nottingham for a local hotel and preparing a language survival pack for Notts Forest Academy players posted abroad. Developing resources and sharing teaching strategies are also enhancing the TAG identity for MFL and supporting colleagues as they face many curriculum changes.

Employability Skills in TAG Schools

We are continuing promoting employability skills in all of the TAG schools. Our work in this area began during the last academic year and is something that we see as vital to producing “the most employable young people” when they leave the TAG schools; this is our aim. We were delighted to have our work recognised by the Chamber of Commerce and we won the Employability Skills Award for the East Midlands which meant that we proceeded to the finals in London on 24th November. Unfortunately we did not win the national award but we were delighted to have got through to the top eight institutions in the country.

Development continues in all three academies. Here are some of the latest projects.

Arnold Hill Academy

- The Maths Department has just completed their work with Experian and understanding credit scores.
- The DT Department are planning a pewter casting project.
- Geography are going to run a project with IKEA on sustainable furniture: KS3 students will create an advertising campaign which representatives from IKEA will judge in an assembly.

Farnborough Academy

- The Year 10 Food Technology groups visited the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The pupils met the Head Chef and also took part in a tour of the hotel so they had the opportunity to see behind the scenes and experience what it would be like to work at a hotel. They are pictured here on the visit.



- Lead by the Music Department, there was an assembly for Year 9, by ‘Nusic’ (a local music organisation) providing information to pupils about careers in music.

- The PE department hosted the Royal Marines! They ran a team building session with year 9 during one of their PE lessons. The session helped the pupils focus on key skills such as; supporting each other, following instructions and team work. Pupils considering a career in the armed forces got a small taster of how

important discipline is and how strong both physically and mentally you need to be.

Rushcliffe School

- The Innovations Department have got exciting new projects in development for Year 10 students who are following a course in construction. It will link with employers such as Laing O’Rourke and Workshop Prefabrication Concrete Factory, with a view to actually taking on apprentices when they leave school.
- The Music and Modern Languages Departments are going to collaborate working with a French composer. Students in years 7 to 9 will learn songs in French and then perform them at a concert at the Concert Hall in April.

Marian Beaumont - HR Director



It has been a really busy term with a lot of changes in staffing across the three academies.

We have tried to ensure that new colleagues have settled in well and are being supported in their work.

This term we engaged Rachel O’Connor of Wise Self to run a series of workshops to which all staff were invited. The focus has been on well being and developing work life balance. Whilst the workshops were not as well attended as we hoped they would be, the feedback from those who did attend has been very positive.

These sessions and opportunities are not a gimmick, but a genuine attempt to give people access to tools and techniques which can support them in balancing life.

Coming up next term .. as a large employer we will be subject to the new Apprentice Levy which means we have to pay a percentage of our pay bill into a pot and then we can claim back the cost of recognised training. I am seeing this as an opportunity to be able to meet a wider range of training needs. Look out for more information on this in the new year.

Angela Brown - Finance Director



In November Karen (Finance Manager Arnold Hill) and I went to the Academies Show in Birmingham. The show includes presentations from a wide range of educational leaders. We attended various sessions covering MAT Development, financial best practice and how to make the most of our Budgets. One of the sessions we attended was around entrepreneurial thinking and how we can attract more money into our schools beyond our government allocation! **If we don’t ask we don’t get!** Lots of you ask the Finance Team for extra Budget – we quite regularly say No, because we don’t have it. But if you have a specific project you wish to undertake there may be funding out there – Google it! Can a local retailer provide it? Look in your professional magazines or at the National Lottery. The finance team can support applications for funding – but quite often the push and the narrative needs to come from Project leaders with the enthusiasm and ambition to deliver it. **Go for it!**

Ben Chaloner - Headteacher The Farnborough Academy



A big thank you to all the staff at Farnborough. I really appreciate their commitment. Can I extend that thanks across the group. I continue to enjoy seeing how the Trent Academies Group develops its support of each other. Over the last term we have had Clive Brookes on secondment from Rushcliffe to lead our PE department. Maria Collins and Tina Barraclough have been regular visitors working in MFL and Geography. Caroline Thomlinson works across our careers provision. I've also noticed more and more visitors from Arnold Hill and staff from Farnborough going across to there. The work is really started to flourish. There is also a special mention for Angela Brown, Robin Harrison and Lee Roberts. They have brought expertise to finance and site management – keeping the place running!!

Highlights this term have included sporting success – table tennis and rugby lead the way. Tomorrow night the rugby team play Rushcliffe. There is always an extra edge to a TAG derby v Arnold Hill or Rushcliffe!

A group of Year 11 pupils have reached the national final of the Lionheart Challenge. This is an enterprise project where they work in a team to create, develop and promote a concept. The brief is kept hidden until the day. They definitely work well under pressure!!

I am always proud of Farnborough – great things happen!

Saeed Latif – Director of ICT, says

We have seen an alarming surge in the number of attempts to infect computers with ransomware this year via emails. Emails can be dangerous. Reading the contents of an email should be safe, but email attachments can be harmful. Our email servers perform virus scanning and remove potentially dangerous attachments, but you can't rely on this.

How do I avoid infecting my computer with ransomware?

Never open an email message or attachment unless it is verified to come from a known safe source. ***Warning*** - email addresses can be spoofed. For example, a message may appear to come from your bank, the Police, a well-known retailer or an acquaintance. The following tips will help you protect you from these threats:

- Do not open or respond to emails that look suspicious, unusual or from someone you don't know that generally ask you to make an action such as giving information, credit card details, making a payment, etc. Do not open an attachment you weren't expecting or click on a link in an email unless you are 100 percent sure it is safe to do so.
- Don't be fooled by phishing attempts. Someone somewhere will try to get personal information from you. Never give out details by email or fill in forms that pop up when you open an email.
- Also on the phishing front, never open or interact with messages from businesses you haven't already given your address to. Also be wary of messages from companies that already have your address. If you get a notice from your bank stating you need to upgrade your details or change your password, don't follow those instructions, but instead go the company's website, sign in and see if your account is in order. If there is nothing on the site, give the bank a call.
- Emailed calendar invites are a fairly recent threat. If you get one from someone you don't know or one that looks suspicious, don't accept it.
- Your work email account should be separate from your personal one... and never use the same password. Try not to post your work email address on forums, websites and blogs unless really necessary.
- Do not download any software that has not been approved by the IT department.

If you think that you have opened an email with a malicious attachment or clicked on what might have been a malicious link, then immediately Press and hold the power button on the computer until it is shut down your machine and inform IT. We will be able to isolate that machine from the network and carry out the necessary scans and remediation.

Please check out the website: trentacademiesgroup.com

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