

# TRENT ACADEMIES GROUP

## QUARTERLY



Issue 2

June 2016

## A message from the CEO

Since the last Trent Academies Group Quarterly things have remained busy across the trust. The Board has been working hard to develop a three year strategic plan. It is now in place and has been shared with senior leadership teams at each academy. At the heart of it is, of course, the desire to ensure that “ Everyone will be given the chance to shine brightly”. But how will this be achieved? There are 7 strategic objectives which have been agreed and shared. They will be built into the Academy Improvement Plans and the Board will review progress twice during the year. The objectives are, in their nutshells :-

**Maximising Achievement** - based upon great teaching improving achievement.

**Leaders United** - leaders knowing each academy and feeling able to contribute across the trust.

**The most employable young people** - providing skills and opportunities beyond exam results.

**Appreciating talent** - in sport, the arts, community work.....

**Financially secure** - having enough money to keep operating.

**Legally sound** - ensuring we follow the myriad of rules and regulations.

**The TAG Ten** - growing the trust.

A core part of my job is to ensure that each academy embraces the objectives. If we do the future is bright. Having a strategic plan always helps.

Every week I have written a blog which has been shared across the trust through weekly bulletins. A simple click on the TAG website can take you to it. Hopefully there will be something of interest to you. Please check it out every week.

People in organisations the world over complain about a lack of communication. As well as the blog, this newsletter, the website, regular articles in the media **and** an active Twitter account we also had the February INSET day which tried to keep everyone in the loop. I think we may be ahead of most academy trusts in our systems of communication. If you want information it's pretty easy to find. But if you have better ideas please let someone know.

Thank you for your work throughout this academic year and remember the words of Margaret Mead : “**small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever does**”.

Best Wishes  
Phil Crompton

## The Clifton Awards

In May we worked with the Aquinas Foundation to run an Awards evening at the Farnborough Academy. Jermaine Jenas – ex- England footballer and native of Clifton - and MP for Nottingham West Lillian Greenwood presented prizes for excellence in sport, performance and academic work to children from years 5-8. It was really well received. Recognising and encouraging success is at the heart of the way the trust wants to operate.

## Rushcliffe Update



### Pupils

We have experienced a number of sporting successes this year. Amongst them has been a first for any school in the East Midlands. Under the coaching skills of Darren McCann, our year 8 girls took on over a 1000 other school teams to be crowned National Girls' Champions at Handball. We are extremely proud of the whole team.

### TES Awards

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> ten members of Rushcliffe staff travelled to London to attend the TES Awards. Rushcliffe was nominated as Secondary School of the Year. It was a great honour, highlighting some of the great practice that goes on in all our schools. Didn't win but good to be invited to such a high profile event.

### Site

We are delighted to have been successful in our CIF bid for £4m. It is now full steam ahead as we plan for our new Arts and Languages block. The block will be the new “face” of the school and will be ready for pupils by Summer 2018. It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of our multimillion pound expansion of Rushcliffe School. By 2020 we hope to be able to accommodate up to 1900 children. This will meet the growing demand within our catchment

### National STEM Award

Our STEM club won a national award for their “Bright Ideas Challenge” ably supported by Amy Sys.

## Arnold Hill Update



OFSTED came in June to monitor improvements to behaviour. They said encouraging things. "Not yet good but getting there" seems to be the summary. Simon Ward from Rushcliffe has played a major part in the improvement programme during his two term secondment.

Headteacher Sharon Smith left the Academy earlier this term having led it well through a challenging year. She has been replaced by Matt Robertson - who is now Acting Head of Academy. Phil Crompton will spend more time in Arnold and will take the role of Executive Headteacher. The new building is nearly ready for occupation. It looks very impressive and the pupils are excited about what September holds.

## Staff Shining Brightly at Farnborough



**Josh Smith** - successfully completed DSL training  
**Laura Inman** - completed NQT year  
**Sarah Illingworth, Thabo Miles, Emily Duncan** - successfully completed year 1 of Teach First programme  
**Tom McDermott** - passed Masters in Education

## Angela Brown - Finance Director, says:

Over in Finance we have been working with the heads in order to produce next year's budgets following the receipt of our funding statements back in March. The budgets have also been discussed by the local governing bodies and business committees and will ultimately be approved by the Board. There's still work to do to incorporate the latest staffing changes and the final budget will be submitted to the DfE by the end of July. We have used a new budgeting system which has enabled us to produce consistent information across the group and work towards providing an efficient central service. We are now approaching year end and will be carefully watching the finances against budget to ensure we enter the new year in a robust financial position.

Following the departure of the Business Manager at Farnborough the finance support is now being provided by myself and Steve Colley (payroll manager) at Arnold Hill, working towards a consolidated team. Arnold Hill have also been busy introducing online payments for parents, a system used successfully at Rushcliffe for some years.

I'm looking forward to Euro-camping in Spain and France (yes both!) over the summer holidays, have a good one!

## Saeed Latif – Director of ICT, says:

The ICT Technicians have worked tirelessly to ensure swift and comprehensive changes are implemented across the Trent Academies Group.

We have listed a few of the changes put in place over recent months as well as future targets and projects:

**TAG Drive** - this has been rolled out to all English Departments across the trust, who have successfully completed a trial and will be rolled out to other departments shortly.

### Rushcliffe School

**New Laptop** have been deployed, the initial feedback has been very positive with staff agreeing that devices are quicker and more responsive than previously. Docks are being trialled and will be deployed across the school soon.

**Virtual Migration** – We are reviewing the current drive structure over this term and expect to implement some changes to the network setup to make it easier for people to find resources.

**The Orchard Centre** will be connected this summer to the main school's network.

### Arnold Hill Academy

We will be working on the set up to ensure functionality in the new building in time for the start of the autumn term.

### Farnborough Academy

The Iris camera has been discontinued and will be replaced with a Swivl Classroom Camera.

An Impero video will be recorded at the Academy based on online safety and will be promoting the 'monitoring rather than blocking' approach in this short film.

Whilst all these projects are running in the background we as a team, are still hitting our response and fix targets and the majority of staff are satisfied with the IT service provided.

## Staff Shining Brightly at Rushcliffe



Well done to **Shrutee Desai**, AHT at Rushcliffe. She has been awarded NPQH. The course is both challenging and very rewarding. Shrutee has shown great determination. The projects she has completed both at Rushcliffe and her guest school have had real impact.

**Darren McCann** for coaching the Y8 girls who made history by becoming the first school, not only from Nottingham, but from the East Midlands to win the National Handball Finals.

**Amy Sys** for inspiring our STEM club students to national success.

## Marian Beaumont – HR Director, says:

### Wellbeing Survey

Thank you to all who completed the Wellbeing survey. We received 259 responses out of 521 which is 49% participation with a fairly even spread across each of the three academies. The majority of respondents were teachers. It would have been good to have had views from more staff but from those who did respond the headlines are as follows:

**80.72%** of you enjoy your job either all of the time (10.84 %) or most of the time (69.88%)

**82.73%** of you thought that your line manager was effective either all of the time (45.38%) or most of the time (37.35%)

**77.82%** thought that the academy's SLT was effective all the time (13.71%) or most of the time (64.11%)

**45.75 %** of you thought that TAG SLT were effective all of the time (6.07%) or most of the time (39.68%)

**40.89%** didn't know if TAG SLT were effective

**60.64%** of you believe that pupils in your academy behave well most of the time

**37%** of you work for some time every weekend and a further **30 %** of you work most weekends.

The majority of those who responded said that they got support from their peers with **57%** appreciating this and **55%** receiving support from their head of faculty or department.

Of course this is a summary across the 3 academies. Headteachers have a detailed breakdown and will be responding accordingly.

## Moves across the Trust

**Jenni Tyres**, English – Farnborough to Arnold Hill

**Leon Jackson**, Science – Rushcliffe to Arnold Hill  
(one year)

**Abbie Marshall**, Science – Farnborough to Arnold Hill

**Lyndon Crawley**, PE – Arnold Hill to Rushcliffe  
(Fridays only)

**Dave Taylor**, English + SLT (once of Rushcliffe) -  
Arnold Hill for one year

**Simon Burge**, English – Farnborough to Rushcliffe

## The Dutch Experience

When the verdict of the people was announced on the UK's withdrawal from the EU was announced, Jim Dunning, Michelle Tuckwood and Aran Higgs were in Holland. They were extending our links with Edison College in Apeldoorn. Eight pupils from Rushcliffe are Farnborough were with them. A great experience.



David Harrigan from Disney visited Farnborough as part of the "Speakers For Schools" scheme. He was full of praise. "I honestly can't recall a more engaged and well-researched group of students – you and your staff are clearly doing a fantastic job! Even Billie, who has been vocal in the past about the relative merits of the German schooling system, volunteered that she would have no qualms about sending our children to your school." Praise does not come any higher!!



## Farnborough Update



Half term 5 saw staff and pupils working incredible hard to ensure a successful batch of exam results this summer.. Staff have been putting in lots of extra time to support pupils and generally the pupils have responded well. We have pupils completed NCFE courses for the first time and we will look at the performance of those with interest. Thank you to everyone for their efforts.

We have been awarded 'highly commended' award in the DfE Character Awards. The backbone of this has been our careers work, fundraising activities and the sense of pride that has been installed into the pupils here.

Fundraising week was a real success. Over £3500 has been raised for the Key Stage 3 trips. All pupils visited either London, Stratford-upon-Avon or the Peak District. This event has now become a firm fixture on the calendar and highlights the community atmosphere we have. Events included the school band busking, bag packing at Morison's and cake sales at British Gypsum.

## ***BOARD UPDATE—a message from the Chair of the Board***

Over the last month we have continued to focus on settling the long term strategy for the Group.

Part of the mission of the Trust is to help develop all pupils by providing consistently excellent opportunities for children to develop into confident, informed, caring and rounded individuals with the qualifications, skills and ambitions required to lead happy, fulfilling lives.

To achieve this we are to focus on several challenges, including ensuring maximising achievement everywhere, developing senior leaders through out the Trust, and to make the pupils of the Trent Academy Trust the most employable young people.

All this is set against a very challenging financial climate. Central Government has required all Academies to cover costs that had previously been funded by Local Authorities. The result of this is that there is less money to spend on providing the education to the pupils than had been available in previous years. Due to very careful planning each of the three Academies is financially stable, but such are the pressures that an additional Committee has been established specifically to monitor the financial position, and ensure that appropriate plans are in place.

RICHARD JENKINS

## ***Staff Shining Brightly at Arnold Hill***



**Jez MauriceSmith** has developed a link with the children of Chernobyl . His energy and enthusiasm has helped bring a little colour to their lives.

**Tom Watson (PE)** for stepping up and stepping into HoY8 at short notice and having such a positive impact. Also for going beyond the call of duty on many occasions including stepping in at the last minute and giving up his weekend to support D of E.

**Ben Burton (PE)** for saving a Y11 students' life in a PE lesson this year, re-starting the boys heart with a defibrillator, chest compressions and mouth-to-mouth until the ambulance came.

**Andy Craze (Science)** for taking a ride in an emergency evacuation helicopter as it took one of our students off the mountainside and spending several days accompanying the student in hospital while on the school ski trip in Austria after the student suffered an injury

**Emma Collins (Geography)** for remaining behind in Portugal when a student lost their passport and was not allowed to board the return flight. Looking after the student and liaising with the Embassy and Academy to sort out return flight and passport arrangements.

## **Training across the trust**

**18 teachers from the 3 academies spent a day during the Easter holidays and 4 twilight sessions deepening their understanding of leadership.**

**Formation Training has been working with them. Their developing expertise will make a difference over the next few year as will the strengthened links between the 3 academies.**

**Please check out the website: [trentacademiesgroup.com](http://trentacademiesgroup.com)**

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