

PATHWAY

LEADING THE WAY FOR EDUCATION

Maximising our Togetherness

Welcome to this edition of **PATHWAY**, the termly newsletter from the **Primary Academies Trust**.

One of the great opportunities afforded to our family of schools is the opportunity to work in close partnership. I thought it might be helpful for parents and interested parties to understand how we do this.

One of the key approaches we take, in giving colleagues across the Trust a chance to work together, is our formalised networks, these networks operate in a range of areas, subjects and aspects of school life.

We run networks in Senior Leadership, Middle Leadership, Early Years, YR2, YR6, Maths, English, Special Educational Needs (SEND), Early Career Development and ICT to name but a few. Every

network is chaired and facilitated by one of our Heads of School who ensure that all colleagues contribute and benefit from this chance to work together and share ideas. This also encourages Heads of School to not only take responsibility for their schools but to also take responsibility in a particular area for all the schools within our Trust.

You will see below, short pieces from the Heads of School who lead the networks in Early Years, Maths, English and SEND with a comment on what it is like to lead their network. Colleagues that attend the network meetings are encouraged to bring examples of best practice but also the challenges they face in their

own school or within their own classroom in the areas of discussion. The discussions are open, honest and frank. Notes are taken and information is shared both with the colleagues at the meeting but also with all colleagues across the Trust.

In many ways however, the networks are just the beginning of the collaboration journey. We find that the networks only represent around 20% of the collaborative activity in the Trust. It is quite common for colleagues, who have built friendships and professional respect with people doing the same roles in different schools, to informally collaborate on a range of projects, which are

not mandated from any central standpoint or from any particular leader but are actually grown from a need and desire to work together outside of the network meetings. It is precisely this type of informal collaboration that is driving the progress in our schools and has secured the outcomes we have achieved for children over the last year.

We actively encourage colleagues to "maximise their togetherness" and to commit to working with each other in an open, honest and transparent way, sharing their skills, knowledge, experience and resources.

One of the areas that we are seeking to develop this year, is a similar type of networking opportunity and professional development resource for our fantastic Teaching Assistants. We have over 150 Teaching Assistants in the Trust and a key priority for us is to use our combined resources across our group of schools to give these colleagues the very best professional development.



Gary Chown CEO

PAT Networks

Maths

Jan Galloway

The Mathematics Network is currently focussing on how we can help children to deepen their understanding of Mathematics concepts and how we can best support parents to be as involved as possible in supporting their children's Mathematical development.



Literacy

Lyn Brimson

The literacy network discuss next steps within the literacy curriculum, with Teachers bringing samples of pupils work to support schools in setting high standards and expectations. We share good practice by inviting each other into our schools.



Early Years

Louise Oxenham

It is a real privilege leading the Early Years Network. We have focused over the last 6 months on visiting each other's settings and sharing best practice in terms of Early Years. The Primary Academies Trust Schools have a real strength in Early Years and work really well together.



SEND

Ashley Leeson

I am lucky to lead a network of highly skilled leaders of special educational needs. We share best practice and work together to ensure you can be confident that if your child has additional needs, they will receive high quality, well targeted support, in each of our schools.



Message from the Chair of Directors



Hugh Whittaker
Chair of Directors

Welcome to our second edition of the Primary Academies Trust newsletter, *Pathway*. I would like to begin by extending a very warm welcome to the entire school communities of Bickleigh-on-Exe C of E Primary School and St Andrew's Primary School who joined our Trust on 1st September 2015.

For me this term started wonderfully, as I was privileged to attend the Trust non-pupil day on 2nd September 2015, along with some of our other non-Executive Trust Directors. The day began with a keynote address from the CEO in which he outlined the compelling vision for the Trust, the challenges ahead and a review of the performance of the Trust. I am delighted to report that results for last year were once again an

improvement on the previous year. As a cohort, our 238 year 6 children achieved above the national average on every key measure for attainment and progress. Similarly, our KS1 children achieved strongly with all measures above national expectation. The CEO's opening address was followed by a range of networking and training opportunities for all staff. It was great to see our entire staff team working together, sharing their experiences and ideas, the energy and dynamism was palpable as over 400 colleagues shared their thinking, learning and plans for the year. Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Administrators worked together, with colleagues from across all 11 schools, planning a shared project to mark the Queen's achievement in being the longest

serving monarch. As you will see throughout this newsletter, the focus of that day and so much of our work is school-to-school support and collaboration. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing first-hand the high level of professional collaboration, it really was a case of the Trust in action.

As well as the high levels of school-to-school support and collaboration that exists across our Trust, we are also very active as a Trust working across the region. I personally attended a session at the end of November with Sir David Carter – Regional Schools Commissioner, in which he encouraged Multi Academy Trusts to work together. I am delighted to note that we have a range of active reciprocal partnerships with Multi Academy Trusts across the region,

supporting a range of schools in our local area and across the South West region. We absolutely recognise that as a Trust we don't have all the answers and that as well as sharing our knowledge, we can also always learn from organisations that are successfully doing very similar work to us in other parts of the country.

I am looking forward to a really great year in which we continue to strive to build on the successes of the Trust over the past few years. We are determined to deliver on our three key vision drivers of being;

- **An Employer of Choice**
- **An Educator of Choice**
- **A Community Organisation.**

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.



Gary Chown CEO, presenting his keynote address to the staff of the Primary Academies Trust earlier this term.

Curriculum in Action

The Primary Academies Trust schools have been working with Professor Mick Waters on developing a new curriculum framework and approach to learning.

Helen Nicholls, Executive Headteacher has led a comprehensive, developmental review of our curriculum. As part of this review, Helen also led 'The Queen's Day Project' in which all the staff within The Primary Academies Trust designed a teaching sequence about the Queen being the longest serving Monarch. That teaching sequence has taken place this autumn term and hopefully many of your children will have come home talking about their experiences.





Sporting activities



Exploration



Collaboration



Aiming high



Pride



Artistic expression



Creativity



Co-operation



Getting involved



Enjoyment



Wonder



Practical skills



Performance



Storytelling



Problem solving



Caring



Experiences



Concentration



Play

All our schools are committed to developing a vibrant and rich curriculum that will enthuse children with a breadth of experience that reflects and prepares them for 21st Century living.

Our curriculum model aims to promote achievement and well-being of pupils, preparing them for a positive contribution to society. We strive to help children to develop positive attitudes and a strong sense of values as they broaden their knowledge, understanding and skills.

Helen Nicholls

Executive Head Teacher

"It is a pure delight to work with such a passionate team of colleagues to develop and enhance the curriculum offered by our schools, for the children in our care. This exciting work is ongoing and a privilege to see in action."



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Have a Happy Christmas Everyone!

primaryacademies trust

Happy New Year!

