



CHILTERN  
LEARNING  
TRUST

# Latest News From Across The Trust

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January 2018

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## Introduction from the CEO

Welcome back after the Christmas holidays and to the first edition of the Chiltern Learning Trust newsletter for the 2017/18 academic year. I hope you all had an enjoyable, restful and well-deserved Christmas and New Year break.

The first term flew by and during the Christmas break we reflected on the many successes our schools, members of staff and students have achieved this year.

The first term got off to a great start with our fantastic GCSE results in August 2017. The hard-work and dedication of our staff and students was clear to see with our schools being placed first, second and fourth in Bedfordshire for the amount of progress our students made; a great accolade! Congratulations and thank you to all for your hard-work in achieving these results.

We have also strengthened leadership across the Trust with some new appointments at Marston Vale Middle School, Dallow Primary School and appointed a new headteacher, Mr Ian Douglas, as headteacher of Chiltern Academy.

A New Year brings new opportunities for us all and I look forward to seeing what we can achieve together,

across our schools during the remainder of the year. As a Trust, our plans for The Chiltern Academy, a new secondary school, are on track for its opening in September 2018, and we're also in talks with other schools in the area to join and strengthen our Trust during the next couple of terms.

Thank you for the support you continually offer our schools, and let's continue this excellent work for our communities into 2018.

Yours faithfully,

**Adrian Rogers**  
Chief Executive of Chiltern Learning Trust (CLT)





Our Trust has grown and developed over time, but remains committed to a clear vision and values. While each school operates independently and has established relationships with the local community, it is important to know that the vision and values is what unites our schools in partnership and allows to offer more support and opportunities to our communities.



### Our Vision

Our vision is to educate, empower and inspire generations of children through a network of outstanding schools that are recognised at a local, regional and national level as being the absolute benchmark in teaching and learning.

Our schools will be recognised as the most forward thinking and innovative organisations within the communities that they serve, and all children will leave our care as well rounded individuals who have achieved high levels of academic success and are well prepared for life in modern Britain.



### Our Values

The Chiltern Learning Trust is characterised by its passionate and unrelenting drive to ensure that every one of its students makes extraordinary progress, achieves exceptional standards and realises his or her huge potential within schools where best practice is commonplace, and which pride themselves at being at the cutting edge of innovation and next practice.

The Trust is committed to developing the whole person so that young people know what they care about in life and what drives them; know their strengths and aspirations; know how to remain optimistic and bounce back from setbacks; know how to deal with their emotions; know what makes them happy and how to stay that way; know the importance of humour; know how to look after themselves and live healthy fulfilling lives and know how to support others and how they can contribute to making society a better place for themselves, others and future generations.

The Trust will do this by offering them a first class education within each individual academy, and by offering outstanding enrichment opportunities which will offer them unique experiences and see them truly stand apart from others.





## Marston Vale leadership team make early impact

As a Trust, we are very strong at working together to share resources across our schools and this has been apparent at Marston Vale Middle School. Our new senior leadership team are making a real impact at the School and we are incredibly proud of the progress made in the first term of the academic year.

## Trust celebrates two decades of governance at Dallow

We would like to say a massive thank you and congratulations to Graham Ryan on his 20 years of Governance at Dallow Primary School.

The support and guidance he's given the school has been invaluable. We celebrated and thanked Graham for his commitment to education in our community with a round of golf with our Chief Executive Adrian Rogers and Business Development Intern Sam Simkins.





## Mr Parmar scoops coveted award at Luton Community Awards

The Luton Community Awards in November also provided a cause for celebration. Chiltern Learning Trust was a proud sponsor of the event, as the community is at the heart of everything we do, and it was a great night celebrating the vibrant community we are part of. At the awards, Mr Parmar from Challney High School for Boys won teacher of the year, where his dedication to his profession and his innovative teaching methods was rightfully recognised; well done Mr Parmar!

## Trust leadership team share best practice

We're always looking at ways to improve at Chiltern Learning Trust and each term our senior leaders across the schools come together for joint training. Our central team also received specialised training and visited Step Academy Trust and their inspirational CEO, Mark Ducker. The central team received training from Michael Pain and Forum Education, to guide us with our direction and vision so we can continue to provide the high quality education our community deserves.





## Challney High School for Boys update

At Challney High School for Boys, we have been delighted this term with the addition of fourteen brand new, state-of-the-art classrooms, including ten English classrooms, two specialist art rooms, and two science laboratories. The new block, known as the SEA block, was built as part of a joint project between the school, the Trust and Luton Borough Council to accommodate an additional 375 boys over a five year period to help meet Luton's growing demand for school places. The new classrooms are fitted with the latest in AV technology, providing a bright, comfortable and stimulating learning environment for students.



October saw our annual Challenge Partners Quality Assurance Review. The visiting team comprised senior leaders from partner schools and was led by two Ofsted trained inspectors. The review confirmed the governors' self-evaluation of the excellent provision at Challney Boys, noting real strength in the depth and quality of teaching and learning, leadership and outcomes for students. The team validated the school's area of excellence as being Safeguarding, in particular mental health and well-being. The team concluded that 'the school has received extensive verification of its work in the area of mental health and well-being' and offers 'outstanding provision'.



Finally, we are also delighted to be one of five schools working with Luton Council to establish the Business and Education Skills Partnership (BESP). Our SLE for CEIAG, Debbie Hearne, was one of the speakers for the launch event, which was extremely well attended by businesses across Luton. It was a fantastic networking experience for the student ambassadors who attended. BESP Luton are working to create a business breakfast model where employers can engage with students in Year 10 and 11, who are interested in their sectors of work. Challney Boys will be holding the first ever BESP Luton Breakfast Meeting in February.



## Challney High School for Girls update

We held our annual Race for Life in school this term and once again, the students excelled themselves in raising £7800 for both Cancer Research UK and the Breast Cancer Unit at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital. The girls were really enthusiastic and the buzz in and around the school on the day was simply amazing. The generosity, passion, care and consideration that our students demonstrate to help others makes us very proud. We extend our thanks to our families, who supported this event and encouraged students in their fundraising campaigns. This will be split between our two charities and we look forward to visiting the hospital soon, to present them with their cheque. We are already looking forward to next year's event.



We also had the first of our Enrichment days in school where our students had the pleasure of working with Zoe Jackson MBE and her talented team. Our girls were a little star struck as some of the team are well known from TV shows like Britain's Got Talent and the X Factor. Our theme for the day was looking at different dance styles and cultures from all over the world. The girls



worked across year groups and were taught a specific style of dance, ranging from Bollywood, Scottish, African, Hip-hop, Bhangra and Flamenco. We prepared for a flash mob, with students learning their particular section and an extended group section on the day.

Preparation took place all morning and the school was alive with collaboration. In the afternoon, a professional videographer came into school and the students performed their dance. Everyone was so proud of the part they played and rightly so! Staff also had the opportunity to learn and perform a staff section for the video. We eagerly await the delivery of the DVD and are excited to see all our hard work in action.



### Denbigh High School update

This year, Denbigh celebrates its 50 year anniversary as an all-ability co-educational school after changing status from Luton High School for Girls in 1967. We will be planning and sharing a range of educational events to celebrate our heritage over the next year.



We were also delighted to recently discover that our 2017 GCSE pupil progress was recognised in the top category of 'well above average' in the DfE performance tables. We were also the National Runner Up and East of England Champion in the Department for Education's Pupil Premium School of the Year awards.

In September we received the results of our Challenge Partners Quality Assurance Review 2017 Report, which said "pupils make exceptional progress", "there are excellent relationships between staff and pupils", "leaders are fiercely ambitious for their pupils" and "there is a pervasive learning culture within the school". Additionally a review team of senior leaders from other schools visited Denbigh. They agreed and concluded that our pupils make exceptional progress and observed that leaders are fiercely ambitious for pupils. They found strong evidence to support Denbigh's standing as an outstanding school.



### Marston Vale Middle School update

A new senior leadership team was unveiled this term at Marston Vale Middle School. Adrian Rogers is still our Executive Head followed by our Deputy Head Carl Belle. Carl is responsible for data and assessment, pupil outcomes, pupil reports and curriculum. The senior leadership team also includes Christina Guiney (SENDco) Anna Burnham (Assistant Head), Russell Pitts (Senior Teacher), and Victoria Ayres (Senior Teacher). Recruitment for a new Headteacher will begin in the new year.

We were also delighted for our student, Callum, who competed at a UDO Street Dance Competition, Under 12 Advanced Category against fourteen others. Callum came third which has qualified him to represent England at the World Street Dance Championships 2018.





## Putteridge High School update

We have had a great start to the new academic year at Putteridge High School and our students continue to surprise us with their achievements. Our resident cricketer, Muhammad Haris Ali was selected for the Bedfordshire Under 17 County Cricket team. Bethany Phillips was nominated for the prestigious Luton Community Award for Sport and attended the awards ceremony, alongside some of the best sports people in Luton.



This term, our Year 10 linguists enjoyed a visit from Luton Sixth Form College (LSFC) language tutors and a few of their students. Students chose to learn either Greek or Spanish for the afternoon, giving students a broader education and exposure to other languages that they may wish to continue with later on in life.

In October, a group of our Year 9 students enjoyed a trip to Milton Keynes Theatre to watch the production of 'Blood Brothers', a musical by Willy Russell, which is studied by our students at KS3. For some, this was the first opportunity to watch a theatre performance and, according to those students, it was an extremely enjoyable and educational experience.

A few weeks ago our students joined 200 students from other vv schools and LSFC to learn looping skills from singer-songwriter Rachel K. Collier. In partnership with music software/hardware manufacturers, Ableton, LSFC invited Rachel for a special 'one-off' morning of live performance, and a discussion of creative process and music industry advice. Our students really enjoyed the experience and felt incredibly inspired!



## Dallow Primary School update

We have four new Assistant Headteachers at Dallow Primary School this year, two of which are on secondment from Denbigh High School and Challney High School for Boys. Each of the Headteachers started in September and has already begun to implement new, fantastic ways of learning including our ePraise system and Accelerated Reader system. We also have four new teacher trainees this year for the first time, three of which are from the Chiltern Training Group, who have also started their placements well.

Our students have been on lots of trips this term to enrich their learning and understanding of a variety of topics, visiting places across the country from Cadbury World to the National Space Centre. Our students have also been focusing on their reading and we are delighted to have had lots of parents in school reading with their children as part of our new reading clubs.

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CHILTERN ACADEMY  
INSPIRING MINDS • BUILDING FUTURES

### Chiltern Academy update

A new headteacher has been appointed for our free school, Chiltern Academy. Mr Ian Douglas, who is currently a senior deputy headteacher at the Chiltern Academy's partner school, Denbigh High School, will lead the school as it opens its doors to its first group of students in September 2018.

We are delighted that Mr Douglas will be extending the excellent support, hard work and outstanding practice he has provided to Denbigh High School, to this new school in the Trust. Mr Douglas is a well-known and respected senior leader among the community and has worked at Denbigh High School for the past fifteen years.

The £20 million purpose-built Chiltern Academy will be located on Gipsy Lane and will accommodate up to 1200 students by 2022, becoming the seventh school in the Trust. In its first year, the school will be located in the former Studio School buildings on York Street in Hightown, before relocating in September 2019 to its new buildings and permanent site on Gipsy Lane.



