

NEWSLETTER

The latest news from South Bank Academy Trust

ISSUE 4: June 2018

Welcome to York High School

Working together... **Better education**

As we move into summer, we are delighted to officially welcome York High School into the South Bank Trust.

The school converted to academy status on 1st May 2018 and joins us as a sponsored academy, with South Bank leader Trevor Burton taking on the role of Executive Headteacher across York High and Millthorpe Schools.

Mr Burton is ably supported by Head of School Rod Sims. Staff from York High have been working closely with the South Bank Trust since September 2017, prior to their conversion.

The school has embarked on an improvement journey that will be completed over the next few years and is designed to bring improvements for all of the students at the school.

The journey will of course be a two-way process, with benefits for both secondary schools in this new partnership arrangement. Teachers will be able to take part in the Learning Networks for senior leaders and SEND straight away and we look forward to embarking on further partnership work between the staff of the two secondary schools from the start of the new academic year.

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Additional funding

Working together... **Better finances**

The national picture for school funding is currently a very depressing one - staffing costs are rising rapidly as a result of national pay awards and changes to employer contributions for National Insurance and Pensions. School income remains unchanged, however, leading to significant challenges for all schools.

Although the Trust cannot alter this overall position, as academies, we have been able to bid for additional funding to support

specific projects.

We are pleased to announce that we have received the funds for four separate projects: three for our schools and one for the MAT itself.

Three of our schools put in successful bids to the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) for a range of building works and this has brought just over £2 million of additional funding into the Trust:

Woodthorpe has received

£700,000 to fund re-roofing work; Knavesmire has received £370,000 for re-roofing and window replacement work; and Millthorpe has received £998,000 for re-roofing work.

The Trust itself was also successful in making a bid. We have received £26,000 to pay for a Central Business Manager for the next academic year. This role will include a focus on procurement work, seeking to make further cost savings on contracts, goods and services.

A Musical Extravaganza

Working together... **Better opportunities for pupils**



Following on from the success of last year's musical performance, held at Scarcroft School, a similar event was organised this year.

Pupils in Year 3 from both Scarcroft and Knavesmire performed pieces that they had been learning through the City of York Class Music scheme. This year the performance was hosted at Knavesmire, and the hall was full of family and friends from both schools who came along to listen and cheer their children on.

There was a performance on Ukuleles and brass instruments from pupils at Scarcroft, and several performances on violins from pupils at Knavesmire.

Specialist Music Tutors Diane Martin and Les Vaughan were both thanked for all that they contribute towards the enjoyment of music at both schools.

Event organiser, Jane Woolgar, was also thanked for all her hard work in pulling the event together. She led the children through a rhythmic and vocal warm-up to kick off the event, much to the amusement of the audience.

The event concluded with a song learnt by all the children at both schools and directed by Ms Woolgar. The quality of the singing was impressive and the obvious pleasure that the children gained from joining their voices together was uplifting to watch and to hear.



Award for Scarcroft School

Working together... **Celebrating successes**

York Youth Council has awarded Scarcroft Primary School the first ever 'Minding Minds Award' in recognition of the school's commitment to improving pupils' mental health and wellbeing.

The Minding Minds Award has been created by York Youth Council to support and recognise schools which actively work to improve their students' mental health and wellbeing. Schools are asked to work with pupils to identify areas which could have a positive impact and develop plans to bring about those improvements.

Pupils and Teachers at Scarcroft School decided to put in an application for a Bronze Award, working with the school's Inclusion Leader Carole Dickson, supported by the Council's Wellbeing Worker Louise Wall. The areas the pupils identified were the school's *friendship bench* (by analysing its impact); *friendship skills* (including looking at setting up a skills group to help others build friendships); and looking into establishing a *quiet area* of the playground.

The project is being led by the pupils in the School Council, who are very proud to have been the first school to have received this award.

A new Headteacher for Scarcroft

Scarcroft Primary School's Headteacher, Anna Cornhill, is retiring this summer after 32 years in education and 18 years at Scarcroft as Head.

Governors at Scarcroft, supported by colleagues from within the Trust, carried out interviews for the post of Headteacher in May.

They have appointed Paul Edwards (no relation to Jo Edwards—see right!) as the new Headteacher and he will take up his new post on 1st September 2018.

Paul is currently Headteacher at Fangfoss C of E Primary School in the East Riding of Yorkshire and until recently, has also been a Trustee at South Bank MAT. He has now stepped down from his role on the Board, to ensure that there is no conflict of interest.

The school and the Trust look forward to welcoming him.

GET IN TOUCH

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South Bank Multi Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 10067116 whose registered office is at Woodthorpe Primary School, Summerfield

South Bank MAT welcomes a new Trust Principal

External interviews for the permanent post of Trust Principal took place in April and Jo Edwards was successfully appointed into this role. Jo will join the Trust on 1st September 2018, working from the Woodthorpe central office 3 days per week.

Jo has a background that encompasses both primary

and secondary education: she has been Headteacher, School Improvement Lead within an Academy Trust and more recently, an Educational Consultant in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Trustees and Headteachers look forward to welcoming her to the South Bank Trust.

In capable hands



Meet the Trust's Finance Committee Chair

Reuben Barrett has until recently been the Managing Director and owner of award winning York estate agents Coalters. Prior to estate agency, he worked in finance for American investment banks Merrill Lynch and JPMorgan in London. He brings financial, marketing and people management expertise to the South Bank MAT Trust Board.

Reuben has a Masters in Electronic Engineering from the University of York and an MBA from INSEAD. He lives in the Tadcaster Road area of York with his wife and 2 children, both of whom attend Scarcroft Primary School. In his spare time, he can often be found on a bike.

Reuben oversees the Trust's financial performance, including making use of externally commissioned Audit Reports. He takes a lead on ensuring financial compliance and stability.