

Flying High Trust Parent & Families Newsletter Autumn 2016



Welcome to the Flying High Trust parent and families newsletter for the Autumn term 2016. The content of the newsletter aims to keep you, as parents and families of children in our schools, informed of forthcoming events and latest news, the content is also informed by feedback from parents we meet as part of our annual Partnership Review. We hope you find it useful—if you have any feedback please email nlayfield@flyinghightrust.co.uk

Children's Parliament: The Children's Parliament ministers met for the first time at Candleby Lane School in November. The parliament has set their agenda for the year. They have chosen to become Ambassadors for Values and will be carrying out audits in their own school and have paired up with another school within the Trust. During the Spring term the ministers will visit their partner schools to carry out learning walks and to meet with the School Council, Headteacher and school staff. Their challenge is to identify the best practice in each school to make recommendations to their Headteacher and Governing Body as to ideas they would like to introduce to further improve their own school, promote the values and positive behaviour.

Annual Trust Awards 2017: On Thursday 15 June, 4:30-6:30pm at the Royal Concert Hall in Nottingham, the Trust will host an annual awards evening. The event celebrates the fantastic achievement and effort of individuals in all schools. The evening will also showcase musical performances from children across all schools. Early in 2017 the nomination process will launch and we welcome nominations from all to identify the winners for your school and for the children's parliament to select an overall winner for the Trust. The evening is a fantastic celebration of achievement and we hope you will be able to join us!

Events for children: Following the success of the music, arts and sports events in 2016, our school leads will be holding a number of events again in 2017 to bring children together, to learn from each other and to celebrate their talents in these areas.

Arts: On the 21 February, Year 3 children from across the Trust will get together to work with a local artist on a joint art installation to be displayed at the annual awards evening.

Music: schools across the Trust will work together on musical performances to provide the entertainment at the end of year awards evening.

Sports: On the 6th June all schools will come together at Harvey Haddon Sports Village for an outdoor athletics event, supported by University of Nottingham students and aimed at some healthy competition and celebration of sporting effort and ability—parents and families will be invited to cheer on the children—further details to follow.

Trust recruitment event: On 31 January, 5:30-7:30pm the Trust and all schools will host a recruitment event for anyone interested in working in our schools—if you know anyone who may be interested please ask them to contact nlayfield@flyinghightrust.co.uk—let's ensure we continue to work together to recruit the best staff!

Finally, a thank you to everyone for their passion and commitment in making our schools the best they can be. We hope you all have a fantastic Christmas!



Annual Trust Evaluation Feedback



Annual Trust Evaluation feedback: Earlier this year we invited parents, children, staff and governors to complete a survey and feedback on the strengths of the Trust and where we should target our ongoing improvement. All schools who were part of the Trust in 2015-16 had the opportunity to feedback. We would like to take the opportunity to share this feedback and the actions the central team and our schools will implement moving forward.

Feedback from children:

Children love the opportunity to meet with and learn from other schools. Children also value the Trust assembly which helps them to feel a part of something special

Children enjoy and benefit from the range of children's events offered by the Trust including sports, arts and music events, the awards evening and the Parliament.

Children understand their school values and what they mean in practical terms e.g. classroom language, personal skills and learning powers.

Children said... We would like more opportunities to visit other schools and learn from them. **We did...** we have worked with the children's parliament to continue events for children in 2017. We have also worked with the parliament to pair schools up to visit each other on focused values visits. This is to enable children as leaders to share practice and make recommendations to their headteacher and governors on ways to continue to improve their school.

Feedback from parents:

Parents notice different strengths depending on the context of their schools and these include:

Heightened standards and expectations.

Improved learning environments.

Opportunities for children to attend Trust events.

The aspirational and motivational impact of the annual awards evening.

The opportunity for parents to be involved in the annual Partnership Review and feedback on how they feel the school and Trust has developed and suggestions for further development.

Parents said... we want a clear narrative as to how our school has improved and the way in which the Trust has had a positive impact on this development... **We did...** following each annual Partnership Review the Trust will write to parents with the headline outcomes of the review in terms of progress, next steps and the impact of the Trust. The next steps will also thread through the School Improvement Plan for each school. Our headteachers, staff and children can articulate the development of their school and the involvement of the Trust—it is important we enable this communication with parents. As well as parent meets as part of the review we also welcome ongoing communication with the Trust—if you have any positive feedback, suggestions or concerns, please contact the Trust on info@flyinghightrust.co.uk—your voice is important and we want to make sure we, working with your schools, continue to provide the best opportunities and experiences for your children.

