

# FLYING HIGH TRUST PARENTS & FAMILY NEWSLETTER

December 2015



## Message from the CEO—Chris Wheatley

As 2015 comes to an end we can all look back with immense pride as to what has been achieved this year and I want to share with you some of the key developments and successes across the Trust. These are explored in more detail throughout this newsletter but in summary:

- The Trust continues to go from strength to strength increasing to eight schools with Greythorn Primary School due to make it nine. Each school bringing capacity, strengths and a commitment to continuous improvement and partnership to address areas for development
- As a Trust we are out-performing local and national pupil performance averages
- Ladybrook has moved into their fantastic new build thanks to the efforts of the whole school
- I have had the pleasure of launching the Children's Parliament through Trust assemblies in all schools
- Trust wide development groups have been established to drive improvement across a range of areas through effective collaboration
- We are hosting a Trust wide recruitment event to make sure we continue to attract the very best staff for our children
- We have a whole host of activity planned for 2016 to provide outstanding opportunities for our children to work together to celebrate and showcase their talents!

We hope this newsletter provides you with a flavour of what has already been achieved and events for you all to participate in over the coming months. It is also an opportunity for us to say a huge thank you to all of our staff for their ongoing passion, commitment and determination to provide the very best opportunities for our children and local communities. We would also like to wish everyone a restful break and happiness throughout 2016!

Best wishes, Chris Wheatley

## Trust growth

The Autumn term saw a warm welcome extended to Beeston Fields Primary and Nursery School, Edwalton Primary School and the launch of Bilsthorpe Flying High Academy. Each school brings its own strengths and a passion and commitment to working in partnership to continue to drive improvement and ensure our children receive the very best education and opportunities. We are also delighted to announce that Greythorn Primary School, in West Bridgford, will also be joining the Trust as of 1 January 2016 bringing further capacity, skills and expertise.

## Headteacher recruitment—Hillside

The Trust are excited and pleased to announce that Rhian Richardson has been appointed as the permanent Headteacher at Hillside Primary and Nursery School. Rhian has been Co-Headteacher and Acting headteacher and has made great progress during the Autumn term in instilling her vision across the school, introducing values led initiatives for children and ensuring ongoing and open communication with all members of the school community. We all wish Rhian continued success in her role!



Launch of Bilsthorpe Flying High Academy



Rhian Richardson,  
Headteacher at Hillside



Edwalton carol singers



FHA Ladybrook move into their new build!

*“Look back with pride and forward with confidence”*

## Events for children!

As the Trust has developed, one of the key messages from children has been how much they have enjoyed the opportunity to work with children across our schools and they would like to see more of this. Headteachers across the Trust have therefore agreed that in 2016 there will be three events to bring together children across the Trust and each event will be led by staff within each school. The events will look to bring children together in an inspirational venue related to that particular event to provide children the opportunity to showcase their talents on the big stage! Further details will follow in January but we will be holding:

**Trust Music event—a Rio Olympics 2016 inspired musical extravaganza!**

**Trust Arts event—an opportunity for Foundation Stage 2 through to Year 6 children to get together and produce a Trust art masterpiece!**

**Trust Sports event—the beginnings of healthy Trust based competition via an indoor athletics afternoon!**

Watch this space for full details!

## Children's Parliament

The Children's Parliament launched during 2014-15 with the ministers being instrumental in selecting the Trust Award winners for 2015 and recording a fitting tribute to each winner to be played on the evening. With the growth of the Trust, Chris Wheatley has carried out an assembly in each Trust school to share the opportunities planned for 2015-16 and also to launch the parliament and ensure all schools have a Year 6 girl and boy as ministers to represent their schools. The Children's Parliament is true to our ethos of developing children as leaders and as such they will be supporting Chris as CEO in the development of the Trust in key areas such as values, behaviour for learning and once more supporting the awards evening. Each school has democratically elected their representatives and the ministers are already demonstrating their leadership potential for the future and we look forward to introducing them to you at the awards evening in June!

## Flying High Trust Awards 2016

Following the success of the first annual Trust Awards in 2016 we will be holding the second Flying High Trust Awards Evening 4:30—7pm on Tuesday 28 June 2016 at the Trent Vineyard Conference Centre. The awards showcase the amazing contributions and successes of our children, staff, parents, families and wider school communities. The awards are based on the Trust values of **Aspiration**, **Confidence**, **Creativity**, **Enjoyment**, **Perseverance**, **Pride** and **Responsibility** plus the values individual to your school. The evening celebrates achievement across all Trust schools and is brought to life through performances by each school. All children, staff, families and community members are welcome to attend the event and full details will follow in due course as to how to nominate individuals for awards and information about the evening—but please put the date in your diary!

**A special mention to all at Flying High Academy Ladybrook:** Staff, children, parents and governors have worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth transition to the new school. You have created an outstanding environment for learning and the school is a credit to you all and epitomises your values as a school and those of the Trust. A huge thank you for all your hard work!

## Your voice...

Our Headteachers, staff, children, parents and governors have all contributed to the ongoing development of the Trust and the activity detailed in this newsletter—it is vital that we continue to gather your views on further development so if you have ideas, questions and feedback please contact Nick Layfield, Project Manager on [nlayfield@flyinghightrust.co.uk](mailto:nlayfield@flyinghightrust.co.uk)



Flying High Trust Awards  
2015



Date for the diary: Tuesday 28  
June 2016—Second Annual  
Flying High Trust Awards



Celebrating success!



Inspiration, aspiration and  
pride

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*Wishing everyone a restful and peaceful break and happiness throughout 2016*

## Trust recruitment event

To ensure improvement is sustained across all of our schools it is essential that we continue to recruit the best teaching, support, office and site staff. It is no secret that nationally recruitment in education is a challenge and collectively we are meeting this challenge creatively and strategically. To put our schools ahead of the game we will be holding a recruitment event at the National College for Teaching and Leadership. The event will take place Tuesday 2 February 2016 from 5 until 8pm. The event will showcase the benefits of working for the Trust and the opportunities within each of our schools from September 2016. The event is for potential trainee teachers, teaching staff, teaching assistants, senior leaders, office staff, site staff and supply staff. This will be a high profile event to attract outstanding individuals and ensure the right skills and personalities for the right school. A full marketing campaign will launch in January but please share this opportunity with anyone who may be interested and encourage them to contact Nick Layfield, Project Manager, [nlayfield@flyinghightrust.co.uk](mailto:nlayfield@flyinghightrust.co.uk) for further details and to register for their place!

## Fast-track to leadership, staff CPD and retention

Being the best schools in the universe is not just about attracting outstanding staff it is also vital we invest in, develop and retain them through supporting them in achieving their career goals. To enable staff to do this we have launched:

**Fast-track to Leadership:** A bespoke programme for individuals showing real potential for leadership to ensure as a Trust we are growing our own leaders of the future and recognising their aspirations. Having launched the programme on the 10th December we are hugely excited about the potential of this group and the impact they can have across our schools!

**CPD Bursary:** The professional development of staff is a key focus in all schools and to support attendance at national events the Trust has agreed a budget for staff wanting to attend training and conferences where the expertise gained can then be shared across all of our schools. Staff interested in applying should obtain an application form from their Headteacher.

## Trust development groups

One of the key reasons for joining the Flying High Trust is the ongoing opportunity for staff to work together to drive improvement across all schools. To enable this the Trust and Strategic Headteacher group have launched several networks and groups to address collective priorities. Each group has a representative from each school to contribute to development and to embed agreed best practice within their school. Groups include:

- Excellence in Teaching and Learning
- Assessment and Moderation
- Behaviour for Learning
- Parental and Community Engagement
- Maths High Attainment and Mastery
- English
- Maths
- Early Years



Trust recruitment event, 2 February 2016 at the National College



Ghostly performance at Candleby Lane!



Our children debating the big issues!



Live on air at Peafield Lane!

If you have any comments, questions or ideas to share; please contact Nick Layfield [nlayfield@flyinghightrust.co.uk](mailto:nlayfield@flyinghightrust.co.uk)

*Wishing everyone a restful and peaceful break and happiness throughout 2016*