

Palladian Academy Trust

NEWSLETTER



Issue 2 | Feb 2019

Dear parents, carers and friends

Welcome to our spring newsletter - keeping you up to date with developments and events in the Palladian Academy Trust.

Introduction from Alison Watts, Headteacher, Widcombe Infant School

In our spring newsletter we are delighted to share news of the exciting events pupils and students across the Palladian Academy Trust schools have been involved in. It is a key aim for us that there are advantages for the pupils and students attending a school in our Trust. The events planned are for all children at the Palladian Academy Trust schools and it is wonderful to see them excelling in this way.

Update from Tim Withers, CEO

PAT life

My younger daughter recently asked me to say what it was that I actually do, as CEO of an educational trust. I probably just described some of the activities and meetings that I had been involved with that week.

In fact, my role as CEO is as interesting and varied as life within the Trust in all its richness and complexity. Some of the most joyous events are of course when we see children excelling, performing, developing and enjoying their work. All of the Christmas performances that I managed to get to were wonderful, celebratory events. I know that you will have enjoyed them too.

This term I have really enjoyed working with the new chair of the Trust Board, Professor Chris James of Bath University, and I can tell you that he really wants to achieve much more than to 'mind the shop.' In Combe Down Primary School we have seen the enormous potential of

a MAT to offer innovative and supportive solutions to management conundrums. I am extremely grateful to Dave Goucher and Paul Jacobs for stepping into the breach while headteacher Jane Gascoigne has been in convalescence this term, and for the opportunities they see themselves for growth in this, that the challenge and rewards of working in an educational community are as strong as ever.

It has been a real pleasure to work with the two Wiltshire schools which are moving towards joining the PAT this year, and they will offer many strengths. Another part of my job is to engage with a wide range of schools, and I have just completed an inspiring visit to another close partner.

Mark Gunning, our sports coordinator, has got off to a fantastic start, and I particularly value his most inclusive approach.

What else? The list is endless: talking to the London CEO who will deliver our March INSET training, great Tag Tails tournaments held in Beechen Cliff and Hayesfield Girls' Schools, both were fantastic hosts, working with the Executive Leadership Team of PAT at business and more strategic meetings, working on a communications strategy with trustees, heads and some volunteer members of the group. Well, you get the picture. It is a privilege and a pleasure to see our different plans and projects advance, week by week.

School league tables

Congratulations to PAT schools included in The Times newspaper's recent list of top schools. Widcombe C of E Junior School and St Philip's C of E Primary School are listed among the top ten primary schools for Bath & North East Somerset. Ralph Allen appears in the top 20 state secondary schools for the area, with really strong results at 16+ and ones that can only be described as 'stellar' in the sixth form.

Joint INSET

Our next whole Trust INSET day is on Mon 4 March at Ralph Allen School and we are very pleased that Rob Carpenter, from Matthew Syed's organisation, will be our keynote speaker for staff. Matthew Syed is responsible for 'You Are Awesome', 'Bounce' and 'Black Box Thinking'. Some parents have found 'You Are Awesome' to be, well, an awesome and inspiring read, and even better: so have their children.

News

STEM Learning (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths)

Schools across the Palladian Academy Trust are very much looking forward to coming together to celebrate STEM learning in our schools. Coordinators from every school have been working together to develop a series of lessons linked to the theme 'Journeys' which will be delivered across all PAT schools at the beginning of March. Representatives from every year group in every school will display their work at a special event at Ralph Allen School on Mon 18 March (EYFS & KS1) and on Tues 19 March (KS2 and KS3) from 5.30pm – 6.30pm. You will be informed by your child's school if they are to attend. Individual schools will also be holding their own celebration of the event and will communicate this to you via their own school newsletter.

Look out for the photographs in the summer newsletter.

Orchestra Day

This will take place at Widcombe C of E Junior School on Tues 26 March. It is an opportunity for pupils and students, Year 3 to Year 9, who play an instrument to join together as a PAT orchestra

under the direction of Mrs Karen Randall, Curriculum Team Leader, Music, at Ralph Allen School. There will be an opportunity for parents of pupils involved in the event to attend a performance at the end of the day. Letters will be distributed from individual schools.

Palladian Promise

Following the launch of our Palladian Promise for staff across the Trust in September, all schools in the PAT are highlighting the promise to pupils and students through the learning opportunities provided both at a school and Trust level so that they can develop a strong character for life-long learning.



One Night at the Palladian

Following the success of this event last year, parents are invited to a special evening at The Forum at 6.30pm on Thurs 27 June 2019, celebrating the arts within the Palladian Academy Trust.

This is such a special event as the whole Trust community join together to celebrate the talents of our pupils. Not only will individual schools perform, there will be a number of special items in which our Trust schools will come together to

reflect our spirit of collaboration. Art work from each school will also be on display in the foyer – a real treat!

Tickets will be distributed fairly between all schools with one ticket per performer at a cost of £5 each. Seating will be unallocated. Each school will have a number of spare tickets to reflect the number of performers taking part. Your child's school will inform you of their contribution to the evening and whether your child is participating. Each school will make their own arrangements for selling tickets for this fantastic event.

The following day is an INSET day for all PAT schools.

Look out for photographs of One Night at the Palladian in the autumn newsletter.

Arts workshops

On Sat 9 Feb 2019, 115 children from Palladian Academy Trust schools attended an exciting arts event with a variety of workshops at Ralph Allen School. We were fortunate to have a talented group of parents and school friends who volunteered to run the workshops which included a rock band, forest school, dance, music band, flower crowns, story circle, paper engineering and architecture. We were grateful to these adults and Widcombe Infant School for organising this event. It was wonderful to see children from the different PAT schools, as well as the two Wiltshire schools who are moving to join the PAT, coming together to develop and extend their interests and talents across the arts. We look forward to continuing this event next year.



'It was really fun and creative, and the teachers were nice and friendly!'

PARENT

'Lots of fun and a great opportunity to try something new'.

PARENT

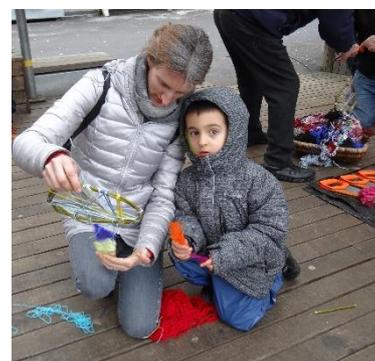


'Would definitely attend again.'

PARENT

'Thank you so much for taking time out of your days to do this. It has been brilliant, great workshops, friendly atmosphere and lots of fun.'

PARENT



Tag Tails



During terms 2 and 3, we were excited to hold two PAT sports festivals; the first for 172 Year 6 pupils and the second for 120 Year 2 pupils.

Both events involved pupils from across the Trust participating in a Tag Tails competition - an invasion game for children with a range of abilities which encourages team work, decision making and appreciation of space. We were also able to welcome pupils from Moorlands Federation who were keen to have some Tag Tails action too for the Year 2 event!

Mark Gunning, PAT Sports Coordinator, who organised both events commented, *'The pupils played with a competitive edge, complemented with a fair play ethos and a strength which was fantastic to see.'*

For many (Year 2s), this was their first experience of competitive sport against other schools and every single pupil played fairly and with a great deal of flair and talent.'

PAT would like to thank Beechen Cliff School and their Young leaders who facilitated the Year 6 event and to Hayesfield Girls' School for hosting the Year 2 event. A big thank you to Oldfield Park Junior School who provided the very competent Year 6 Young Leaders.

Tim Withers said, *'The learners really enjoyed being part of such well-organised, active and fun events. Well done to all involved - the children, their supporting staff, and particularly to the indefatigable Mark Gunning for organising them!'*

Our **'Palladian Promise'** made to students in the Trust is really a framework for their personal and character development, and I reflected that the competition facilitated a number of areas: being a positive role model, offering leadership, helping the learning of others, showing resilience. Above all,

*however, **adopting a healthy and active lifestyle.'***

The Promise embodies what we most value, which is a broad view of education for children and not one with a narrow focus. In short, we care about not just the current learning experiences they have, but the future learners they will continue to be.'

SEN update

Across the Trust, schools are working closely together to create a joined up approach to supporting those pupils that have additional needs. Following a successful pilot last year the Trust has launched a PAT SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Network. The network includes all of the SENDCOs (Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinators) across Trust schools and has the following goals:

- To provide networking and colleague support to all the SENDCOs
- To provide opportunities for professional development
- To steer the Trust in all matters of Special Educational Needs
- To ensure that all children with SEND have a voice across the Trust

The network will meet six times over the year and in addition to this there are further professional development opportunities on offer to SENDCOs, teaching assistants and teachers.

This year a number of Trust schools have sent their teaching assistants to the Margaret Coates Centre, 2017 finalist National Autistic Society awards and nationally accredited by NAS (attached to St Martins Garden Primary School), for professional development opportunities in Autism and behaviour support. The lead of the educational psychology service also provided a Q&A session for PAT SENDCOs. There will be further training in speech and language and dyslexia over the course of the year.

The network will also mean improved transitions for children with SEND from infant to junior and junior to secondary provision.

If you have any thoughts or comments on how we could improve outcomes and opportunities for SEND children, please do not hesitate to contact Michael Bogg, chair of the PAT SEND Network: boggm@stmartinsgarden.org.uk