

Learning Matters

April 2018

Issue 6





From the Chief Executive Officer

Welcome back and I hope that you all had a lovely Easter holiday and the summer term has started well for you all.

The Spring term was a short but busy term in our academies. Mill Chase Academy had their official 'sod-cutting' ceremony in March which signalled the start of building work for their new school. This is a very exciting project and we look forward to welcoming you all for a visit to the school once it is built. The building is due for completion in July ready for the students to move in in September. It is also hoped Arundel Court Primary Academy will also have a new school building in September 2019 and although the plans are less well advanced the proposals have now been submitted for planning permission.

Gillian Keegan the MP for Chichester visited Fernhurst Primary School in February, speaking at the school assembly, taking a tour of the school, visiting the classroom and seeing the children engaged in their learning. Pupils were inspired by her desire to reduce plastics in the ocean and the use of her own water bottle and many are now following her lead and considering how to reduce their use of non-recyclable plastics.

The Trust, in collaboration with the University, have also launched several exciting programmes this year including School Direct where future teachers can be trained in our schools supported by the University. If you know anyone who would be interested do encourage them to apply. Leadership development programmes have also been launched which include NPQML, NPQSL and NPQH. I am really keen that we develop our current and future workforce and encourage our expert practitioners to become high quality leaders in our schools, so do consider participating in these programmes. If you or anyone you know is interested in these programmes please do get in touch on unicat@chi.ac.uk

I want to wish you a great summer term with lots of sunshine, I would also like to wish good luck to all our pupils and of course their teachers as they embark on SAT's and GCSE's and prepare for the next stage of their education. Do keep sharing your ideas with us either through your headteachers or directly to me and my central team.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best Wishes

Sue Samson

Chief Executive Officer

Our Vision

For all young people to be inspired by an excellent education that raises their aspirations and enriches their lives.

Our Mission

To create a vibrant inclusive and aspirational family of academies, transforming life chances for pupils through excellent teaching and learning.

As a Trust we believe in:

- promoting high aspirations and success for all;
- ensuring progressive and sustained improvement in standards and progress;
- providing a learning environment which is creative, engaging and relevant;
- supporting and building leadership and management capacity;
- valuing and supporting outstanding teaching and enabling continued professional learning for all staff;
- developing local learning communities where parents and carers are valued, engaged and encouraged to be lifelong learners and working together to be the best that we can be.

In doing so, we will earn recognition for the Academy Trust as expert, collaborative and innovative local and national education leaders.

We would encourage you to contribute to the evolution of our Trust. If you have any suggestions for improvement or development contact the Trust team

unicat@chi.ac.uk

News from Academies

Gillian Keegan, MP for Chichester visits Fernhurst Primary School

Gillian Keegan, MP for Chichester, visited Fernhurst Primary School on Friday 23 February. The morning started with the school's weekly Celebration Assembly, where student achievements are acknowledged and Student of the Week Certificates are awarded. The school singing "One in a Million"; a song about believing in yourself and others, was moving and drew a tear to Gillian's eyes. Gillian spoke to the children about her role as MP and asked them about what they wanted to be when they grew up and she was really impressed by their enthusiasm and confidence and told them so! The assembly ended by celebrating birthdays, one birthday boy commented "I can't believe a Member of Parliament sang Happy Birthday to me!"

Following the assembly, Gillian addressed the parents and school community at an Open Forum. Fueled by home-made cakes and treats, courtesy of the school parents, Gillian spoke a bit about her education, her career and her background before taking questions from the floor. The first question raised was about fracking in the village and the surrounding area and from there the questions moved to funding for schools. Questions were also asked about funding for Special Educational Needs within schools. It was a very well attended and interactive session.

Accompanied by the headteacher, Gill Richardson, and Sue Samson the CEO of the University of Chichester Academy Trust, Mrs Keegan then took a tour of the school, visiting all the classrooms and seeing the children engaged in their learning.

Gillian has offered to be part of the Trust Pupil voice programme in the future so children from across the Trust will have the opportunity to meet with her in the future.

It was a pleasure to welcome Gillian to Fernhurst Primary School and we look forward to seeing her again in the future.

Photos taken credited to Chris Orange



Digging in for the start of the new school build at Mill Chase Academy

In Budds Lane, Bordon, leading figures marked the first phase of building work on the new Mill Chase Academy school facilities, with a formal sod cutting ceremony on the new school site

Equipped with spades fit to perform the task, were: Hampshire County Council's Leader, Councillor Roy Perry, Mike Green Director of the Education and Skills Funding Agency, Sue Samson, Chief Executive of the University of Chichester Academy Trust and Mill Chase Principal, Paul Hemmings. They were joined by Mill Chase Academy Head Boy, Jordan Kelly and Head Girl, Emily Morgan.

On behalf of the Education and Skills Funding Agency, Mike Green thanked all those responsible for getting the project off the ground and said: "We are very pleased to be a part of this scheme, working in conjunction with Hampshire County Council and the University of Chichester Academy Trust."

Sue Samson added: "This is another important milestone on the journey for Mill Chase Academy to be an exceptional school in state of the art buildings. This will be a school for the entire community and a legacy for future generations."

"It is so exciting to be on site and to see work is starting on our new school buildings," added Paul Hemmings. He continued: "High quality outcomes are rapidly improving for the children of our town. Last year we were in the top ten per cent of Hampshire secondary schools for students achieving the Government's Basics measure. In eighteen months' time we will have a fantastic educational resource and impressive learning environment for the town's students which will allow us to raise standards even further."

As well as a broad and diverse range of teaching and learning spaces, the new school will incorporate improved sports facilities: including a flood-lit, all weather pitch and six indoor badminton courts.

Completion is due in summer 2019 to allow the Mill Chase Academy to move to its new home in time for the start of the academic year in the autumn term.



Frogmore Junior School involved in Community Art Exhibition

Frogmore staff, children and parents found the time to visit a community art exhibition held at Potley Hill School on Tuesday 6th February. Schools from across the area engaged in creative projects on the theme of 'community'.

Headteacher Mr McCarthy said, 'I was delighted with the outcomes - the children should feel very proud of their efforts.'

The photo is a Lowry-inspired piece. Mr McCarthy has connections to Lowry in that he grew up Manchester and his brother now owns and lives at The Elms in Mottram-in-Longdendale, where LS Lowry lived for 28 years.



Flying Bull pupils attend 'Tech Xperts' enterprise day at IBM

In March five pupils from The Flying Bull Academy attended a 'Tech Xperts' enterprise day at IBM, Hursley.

Pupils from years 3-6 were given the challenge of designing an app to solve a communication problem within the organisation.

After touring the facility and interviewing employees, they set about designing an app that could translate messages in real time between different languages. In the afternoon they were then asked to present their idea to a panel of judges. The Flying Bull Team received an award for their positive attitude.

The pupils were fantastic throughout, and a real credit to the Academy Trust.

Nature for Nurture bid success at Kingsham Primary School

Kingsham Primary School are excited to announce that their Nature for Nurture project was successful in its bid to get funds for a new greenhouse for the school grounds. The funding for the project has been awarded through the Tesco's Bags of Help scheme so from all the staff at Kingsham



Primary we would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who supported them over the two months that their project was being advertised in the local Tesco stores around Chichester.

The school will now work closely with Groundwork and Tesco's to make our dream a reality!

If other schools are interested in applying for funding from the Tesco's Bags of help scheme: <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/sites/tescocommunityscheme>

Our academies celebrate world book day in style



Staff at Arundel Court Primary Academy celebrating world book day

What's on offer for staff in the Academy Trust

Leadership development

The University of Chichester (Institute of Education and Multi-Academy Trust) are part of the new National Professional Qualification (NPQ) Alliance, led by Ambition School Leadership.

What's on offer:

National Professional Qualifications (NPQs)

NPQML – Teachers aspiring to middle leadership

NPQSL – Middle leaders aspiring to senior leadership

NPQH – Deputy heads aspiring to headship

'We are building a network of exceptional school leaders at all levels to transform the lives of children who need it most.'

For more information on the programmes on offer please contact: unicat@chi.ac.uk

Paid Internship

The Trust have secured DfE funding to offer 2nd year undergraduate students in their penultimate year on Mathematics and Physics related programmes the chance to work in a secondary school for four weeks in May/June 2018 following the end of the semester. Students on the programme will receive £300 funding per week.

The programme is an exciting opportunity for students to experience life as a teacher, working with specialist teachers in Mathematics and Physics in secondary schools. Although the DfE funding does not support primary teachers we are exploring whether we could develop our own internship offer in primary schools in the future.

If you know anyone who would be interested in the current programme and for more information please contact: unicat@chi.ac.uk

School Direct – Primary and Secondary

The Trust School Direct Partnership provides an exciting opportunity for students to develop as a teacher within our Trust.

The Trust's sponsor and School Direct partner, The University of Chichester, has a rich history of training and educating teachers and has been doing so since 18

The Trust's close link with the University brings opportunities for all trainees to develop within school environments where staff professional learning is a key driver for improvement. This professional learning is supported by the resource of the University, including opportunities to engage with current research and to participate in a wide range of seminars and training modules.

Our School Direct training programme draws upon the wide expertise within both the Trust's academies and The Chichester Institute of Education drawing upon the strengths of both school-led training and a traditional PGCE model. It is being delivered both in our academies, where high quality teachers have developed a school-based training programme, and centrally at the University. This provides opportunities for trainees to share experiences with peers across the Trust and with other School Direct trainees.



Alongside the recommendation for QTS the training programme leads to a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE Masters level) which is awarded by the University of Chichester to successful trainees.

Academies within the Trust Partnership have a longstanding commitment to ITT with school-based mentors, trained by the University, who will support each trainee to achieve their potential. In addition, each trainee will be supported by a University link tutor who oversees trainee progress and development.

“One of the many great things about School Direct is how much time you spend in school. School Direct offers extensive school-based training mixed in with university training days.” David, Secondary trainee

“With a term completed, I feel I have grown as a teacher and the course is everything I hoped it would be. Having the opportunity to teach in both Key Stages, experience life in EYFS, a special school and a secondary school has been very important.” Scott, Primary trainee



If you are interested in the school direct programme please contact: unicatschooldirect@chi.ac.uk

Special Education Conference: Health, Happiness and Wellbeing in Schools



The Institute of Education at the University of Chichester is hosting the Annual Special Education Conference at our Bognor Regis Campus on Thursday 24th May 2018.

This is a one day conference for Early Years Settings, Schools and Post 16 provision, local authorities, health and social care professionals interested in creating whole school wellbeing for learning and teaching. Our Keynote Presentation will be followed by practitioner based workshops throughout the day.

Please go to our online store for the programme, full list of workshops and to book your place for £150 which also includes refreshments and lunch. **10% discount to Trust**

Academies

<http://store.chi.ac.uk> and select 'Institute of Education' from the product catalogue/Events 2018

Working with the University

Curriculum Enrichment

The University is providing support for a range of enrichment opportunities in our Academies:

- Forest Schools and Outdoor Education programmes, contact Amanda Davies, PE Coordinator
- Fine Art student placements, contact Rachel Johnston, Senior Lecturer in Fine Art
- Libraries, contact Anna O'Neill, Director of Learning and Information Services

Use of the University library

All Academy Trust staff can have a free library card which entitles them to 10 loans at a time, from both the Bognor and Chichester libraries. Staff must register at the library reception desks with some ID showing they are part of an academy school and a card will be issued in your name.

Trust staff can also have access to all the Universities library databases if studying in the libraries. For this please ask for a 'walk-in access' password which will provide the databases using the library computers.

And Finally

Just released: Academy Summary Report 2017: [Summary Report 2017](#)

We now have a Twitter feed, which we would like to invite you to follow.

If you have a Twitter account, please visit our feed and follow us [@chiuniAcademies](#)

If you have something you would like to share with us for the next newsletter please send your contributions to Heidi Divis h.divis@chi.ac.uk