

Learning Matters

December 2018





From the Chief Executive Officer

The Autumn term has been a busy term for our academies.

We were delighted to welcome Bordon Junior School to the Trust on the 1st September and to see how well they fitted into our family of schools.

Academies across the Trust are working closely together to support each other. We have launched our Leadership Network and a number of subject based networks. It is a really exciting time for the Trust and I am delighted to see increasing collaboration across our academies in a range of areas.

We have had three Ofsted Inspections over the last couple of months. Frogmore Junior School and Court Lane Infant School both achieved a 'good' overall judgement. Court Lane Junior School was inspected last week, we are waiting for the report but I want to congratulate all three schools on their determination to do the best for the pupils they serve and for their passion for their schools.

There have been several exciting events this term and I would like to offer my personal congratulations to Mrs Nair of The Flying Bull Academy and to Mrs Stocks and Mrs Hetherington of Arundel Court Primary Academy who all achieved recognition awards for their commitment to teaching at the Portsmouth Teaching Awards. We were also pleased to welcome the Secretary of State for Education to Mill Chase Academy's new site where he celebrated the work of the headteacher Paul Hemmings, his staff team and the Academy Trust in transforming the school.

We have also had some exciting events on the University campus including a visit from the Duke and Duchess of Sussex in November. They opened the new Tec Park on the Bognor Regis Campus to much fanfare. The building is still in its early days but will be an exciting resource that academies in the Trust will in time be welcome to use.

We are of course now into Christmas celebrations and our schools are full of glitter and baubles with productions, parties and carol concerts. I do hope you enjoy these celebrations and thank you for all your hard work to make this such a special time for children and parents alike.

Have a wonderful Christmas and all the very best for the New Year.

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

Academy Trust Update

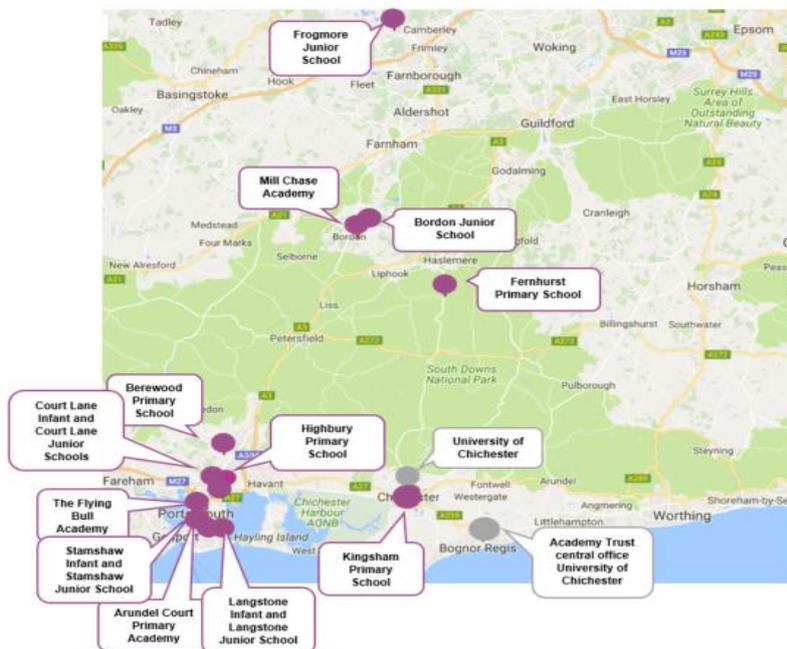
Welcome to Bordon Junior School, Stamshaw Infant and Stamshaw Junior School

Bordon Junior School joined the Trust on the 1st September 2018. Bordon Junior School is based in Bordon, Hampshire and is a feeder school to our secondary school Mill Chase Academy. Both schools took part in a joint INSET day at the beginning of term. The day brought all teachers and teaching assistants together with a focus on writing. The idea of the day was for KS2 and KS3 teachers to work together to have a greater understanding of both where children are and what skills they need. James Humphries, Director of Standards stated that it was very successful INSET day and staff were very positive. He stated 'It was a great atmosphere, it felt like they were one school.'

We are also pleased to announce that Stamshaw Infant School and Stamshaw Junior School are hoping to join the Trust on 1st April 2019. This pair of schools are in Portsmouth and are already working with our other Portsmouth schools.

All these schools are joining an amazing family of schools all of which are unique and working to meet the needs of their local community.

Our Family of schools



Ofsted Inspections at Frogmore Junior School and Court Lane Infant School

Three of our academies recently received Ofsted Inspections, both Frogmore Junior School and Court Lane Infant School both recently had Ofsted inspections and achieved good judgements. Court Lane Junior School was inspected last week and is awaiting their outcome.

Frogmore Junior School

Frogmore Junior School was the first academy sponsored by the University of Chichester Academy Trust. It was inspected at the beginning of October and received a 'good' judgement overall with many comments that demonstrated outstanding practice.

Chief Executive Officer of The University of Chichester Academy Trust, Sue Samson, said, "It is a very impressive report and demonstrates clearly the passion and commitment of the headteacher and staff and the high quality education that the pupils now receive in this school."

The school's headteacher, Carl McCarthy, said, "This is such great news for the school and our local area. I'm particularly proud of the 'outstanding' judgement for pupil behaviour and how our pupils are noted to have such positive attitudes to school. Ofsted recognise that Frogmore Junior School aims for the highest possible standards for all our pupils – this really shows how hard everyone is working."

Ofsted noted: 'Leaders, governors and the academy trust have a shared vision for all pupils to achieve the highest possible standards.' "A broad curriculum that is brought to life through carefully planned visits, visitors and first-hand experiences" and "a wide range of sporting opportunities and a 'have a go' environment that encourages pupils to learn from their mistakes."

Congratulations to Frogmore Junior School

Court Lane Infant School

Court Lane Infant School was inspected on the 1st November and also achieved a 'good' judgement. Ofsted said the 'The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection. They lead an ambitious, happy and hardworking school where pupils and staff strive continuously to live out the school's values of 'believe, inspire, and achieve'. 'Pupils say that they love coming to school. They talk openly and enthusiastically about their learning and their enjoyment of lessons and playtime. Pupils described their school as 'brilliant, fantastic and fun'.'

Chief Executive Officer of The University of Chichester Academy Trust, Sue Samson said "It was such a joy to spend the day in Court Lane Infants with the Inspection team and to experience first-hand the great teaching and the love the children have for their learning".

Well done to all at Court Lane Infant School

Visit from Beijing Headteachers

The University of Chichester Institute of Education hosted 24 headteachers and education officials from Beijing to explore the English school system and find out about effective school improvement. Headteachers from the Trust Mr Paul Hemmings Principal at Mill Chase Academy, Mrs Sue Patrick Headteacher at Berewood Primary School and Mr Deamonn Hewett-Dale at The Flying Bull Academy were invited to address them at the University about how Trust schools have become such a success and the benefits of being part of a university based academy trust.

Paul Hemmings said “It was a new experience for me as I was speaking via an interpreter. A few of the heads spoke English and it was fascinating to learn more about their education system as well. As part of their three week educational trip, the heads and officials also enjoyed a visit to Mill Chase during which they toured the school and commented on how hard-working and focused our students were in our classrooms.”

Sue Patrick said “Our four House Captains were delighted to welcome the visitors from Beijing and enjoyed being part of a question and answer session, learning about some of the differences and similarities between our schools. They also took the visitors on a tour of the classrooms where they saw children sewing, painting, taking part in music lessons and working on their topics. Our visitors were particularly impressed by the Forest School session they attended, and were interested to find out from the children how they too valued the opportunity to build resilience, independence and team work with their classmates.

At the end of their visit, the children were given gifts for the school. One of their favourites was a silk cloth which had a stunning illustration of an ancient Chinese palace which one school is lucky enough to have in their own grounds, and another was a hand painted fan which had the words of the school's vision on it, expressing their commitment to a learning journey of improvement- just as we do.”



News from our Academies

Portsmouth Teaching Awards

We were delighted to hear that at The Teach Portsmouth Awards ceremony on Friday 5th October, Mrs Nair of The Flying Bull Academy picked up a Lifetime Achievement Award. She was honoured for over 20 years' service to teaching in Portsmouth with this tribute:

Mrs Nair began working at The Flying Bull Infant School in January 1991. In the 27 years since her initial employment as a 'Temporary Instructor', Mrs Nair has inspired so many children and staff through working in every year group of the school. Her enthusiasm for teaching young people and her passion that every child has it within themselves to achieve something special is infectious and contagious. Children in her class make extraordinary progress and their families are often beside themselves with gratitude for the work that she has done.

Congratulations to Mrs Nair on an outstanding achievement



We would also like to congratulate Karen Stocks, Headteacher of Arundel Court Primary Academy who also achieved a Lifetime Achievement award and Charlotte Hetherington, Chair of Governors at Arundel Court Primary Academy who achieved the Unsung Hero award.

Highbury Primary School achieve awarded Artsmark Gold Award

Artsmark is an ongoing project that shows how art and culture develop over time. The Arts Council said about Highbury:

“Highbury Primary School have used Artsmark to extend the range of their arts offer, to increase and strengthen their partnerships with external arts providers and to build necessary confidence among teachers to champion the arts and mobilise them through the curriculum The vibrancy of the arts and the range of the offer is commendable.”

As a Gold Artsmark school Arts Council England celebrates Highbury's commitment to arts and cultural education. Pupils will have equal opportunities to plan, experience, and participate in a diverse range of high-quality arts and cultural activities

Academy Trust Headteacher invited to speak at the Nelson Mandela Centenary Conference

Mr Carl McCarthy, Headteacher of Frogmore Junior School was invited to speak at the Nelson Mandela Centenary Conference on the 5th September 2018. The conference was part of a series of events taking place this year to mark the 100th anniversary of Mandela's birth. Mr McCarthy said, 'It was a privilege to be able to speak at the event. Mandela's life reached out to so many in such profound ways. To speak about how we are trying to follow in his footsteps - to inspire the next generation through the knowledge, skills and values that we teach - was a real honour.'

The event included live music and presentations from Pumeza Mandela, Alan Titchmarsh, Jonathan Chapman, Dr Olu Taiwo and others.

Matthew Lowden, senior lecturer at the department for teacher development, Winchester, said, 'The day was a big success, it was very heartening to see such a wide variety of ages in the audience and feedback on the event has been very positive. The range of speakers and their experiences was particularly noted. There were many people I spoke to who were heartened that the values of Mandela were being taught at Primary level.'



Arundel Court pay tribute to those who died in the First World War

Arundel Court Primary Academy in Portsmouth laid wreaths as part of their tribute to those who died in the First World War. The school held a remembrance assembly on Friday morning. Some of the Year 6 children read poems which they had written and Father Marcus led the pupils in prayer and remembrance. Deputy headteacher Rob Jones said: 'Each class made a wreath and laid it in our school hall. We then had a two-minute silence to show our respect. It was lovely to see that even children as young as five understood why we choose to wear a poppy with one little boy saying "It makes me feel better wearing a poppy because I don't like fighting".'

On Sunday, Mr Parrott, with the head boy & head girl, attended the remembrance service to lay a wreath on behalf of Arundel Court.

Mill Chase Academy pupils visit Cambodia

After the safe return of Mill Chase students Charlie Davies, Gracie Parker & Luke Ray, we would like to take this opportunity to give you a very brief overview of some of the highlights of their summer spent in Cambodia with Camps International.

What a blast! Through the sheer sweat (and sometimes) tears, these students have made a huge and lasting positive impact on the lives of many rural communities. They have hand mixed cement, plastered, painted and helped improve facilities for the local students, as well as being involved in environmental projects which will have a far reaching and lasting effect for years to come.

Not only did they work hard at improving the lives of villagers, they have been digging and planting indigenous saplings, in order to redress the huge deforestation issue that is rampant in Cambodia. In addition, they have been building much needed toilets within a community to address the sanitation and hygiene issues.

Interacting with the local children is always a highlight of all Camps International expeditions, whether it be playing volleyball or football or sitting quietly, plaiting hair, singing songs and holding very animated 'hand' conversations with young students who are desperate to learn our language in order to improve their lives and future employment opportunities.

Being pushed to your limits and forced out of your comfort zone is not something we usually enjoy, but Mill Chase students did both of these! They slept on mattresses on bare boards, washed in cold water, shared their living spaces with bugs and spiders and survived. They have eaten enough chicken and rice to last them a lifetime and still came back for more. They then participated in the PADI Open Water Scuba course which saw them being pushed even further to their limits, but once again, they faced each day with determination and good spirits and took on every challenge given to them. We are so proud of them.

Living in or close to the local communities has enabled these students to really appreciate how tough daily life can be, but at the same time, how resilient and strong the human spirit is in order to overcome the adversities that life throws at us. They have learnt many lessons from this and will carry them in their hearts, to pull out, dust down and use whenever they may need them in the future.

From the deepest core of everything Camps International stand for, we would sincerely like to thank you, Mill Chase Academy and your students Charlie, Gracie and Luke for their incredible hard work, dedication, joyous spirits and a whole bunch of great laughs and mind-blowing memories.



What's on offer for staff in the Academy Trust

Leadership development

We are running the full suite of NPQs here at the University of Chichester and currently have over 60 leaders on our courses. Our NPQs are free to Trust staff (currently through the DfE bursary while this is available) and features three levels of leadership training:

NPQH – for aspiring Headteachers

NPQSL – for aspiring or serving senior leaders

NPQML – for aspiring or serving middle leaders

Courses are facilitated by Trust leaders, so you get the expertise of serving Heads, deputies and middle leaders alongside staff from the Institute of Education at the University.

If you are interested, do discuss with your Headteacher or line manager who will need to support your application.

More details can be found here: <https://www.chi.ac.uk/institute-education/professional-learning/national-professional-qualifications> or email npq@chi.ac.uk

School Direct – Primary and Secondary

School Direct provides a one-year, full-time training route into teaching. The Trust's sponsor and School Direct partner is The University of Chichester. The University has a long and rich history of training teachers. Trainees accepted on School Direct are allocated a Trust academy as their lead training school. During the training year they receive training in other Trust academies, working closely with experienced and knowledgeable staff to develop their skills as teachers. Trainees are immersed in school life, experiencing practical, hands-on training in welcoming and supportive learning environments.

The Trust first started to provide School Direct training during the academic year 2017-18. Three trainees were based in primary academies and one secondary trainee was based at Mill Chase Academy. All four of the trainees achieved the highest possible grade on completion of their training. Their success of the School Direct programme has resulted in all four trainees being employed as newly qualified teachers in Trust academies. This is an outstanding outcome for the academies and trainees. As newly qualified teachers, they are already immersed in the Trust ethos and culture. They are embracing the Trust's mission and are working within a "vibrant, inclusive and aspirational family of academies" with the opportunity to be directly involved in "transforming life chances for pupils through excellent teaching and learning".

The Trust are currently recruiting trainees for the 2019-20 training year. All applicants must have an undergraduate degree and GCSE grade 5 (previously C) in English, mathematics and science. Experience of working in a school environment is desirable, but not essential. Applicants are required to complete the Professional Skills Tests in literacy and numeracy prior to starting School Direct Training.

If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more about the Trust School Direct training programme, share our values and have the commitment to make difference to the lives of young people, please contact: unicatschooldirect@chi.ac.uk . We will be happy to have an informal discussion and provide further information.

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.

Tec Park, Bognor Regis Campus

The Tec Park on the University of Chichester, Bognor Regis Campus was opened at the beginning of this term and officially open by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex in October 2018. It is still in its early days but it is a very exciting space that will be available for use by our schools.



For more information on the Tec Park: [University Tec Park](#)

And Finally

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