

Our Vision as a Trust is for all young people to be inspired by an excellent education that raises their aspirations and enriches their lives.

Our Mission as a Trust is 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 Sue Samson, s.samson@chi.ac.uk

From the Chief Executive Officer

Welcome back and I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas break and that the term has started well for you all.

This is our second staff newsletter and includes information submitted by our Academies as well as an update on progress against our priorities. Please do send in your news items to Heidi Divis and get involved in supporting our priority areas. We need your enthusiasm and engagement to be the best we can be.

Have a good term and I look forward to hearing from you.



Sue Samson
Chief Executive Officer

News from Academies

Mill Chase achievements recognised by Ofsted

Mill Chase Academy was visited by Ofsted inspectors in October 2016, and the team of inspectors judged the school to be “good” in all categories.

This represents a significant milestone in the continued improvement of the school. Ofsted has praised the Academy, opening its report with the declaration: “This is a good school.”

Inspectors said “senior leaders have established an ethos of high expectation and aspiration which is central to the life of the school”, and “pupils are safe, happy and well looked after” and “make increasingly good progress across a range of subjects”. They reported that teachers ‘know their subjects well and plan lessons which build on pupils’ prior learning’. They are “passionate about doing their best for the pupils they teach and understand their needs” who were, in turn, “making increasingly good progress”.



Principal Paul Hemming’s said. “I am heartened that the inspection team recognised the high calibre and commitment of staff at our school.”

Congratulations to all at Mill Chase for a fantastic outcome.

Flying Bull Community Service Day

The children were active in learning about and supporting their local community with each year group supporting a different charity/community project.

The Flying Bull website has a page dedicated to all of the activities of the day with a range of photos: [The Flying Bull website link](#).



The day began with a whole school assembly where each year group were introduced to their challenge for the day. From soup to a soup kitchen to toys for a children's ward...

Building improvements planned for Frogmore and Kingsham



Before and after photos of the main hall at Kingsham

Funding totalling £1.84 million has been secured from the Government's Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) to enable building improvement programmes for both Frogmore Junior School and Kingsham Primary School.

Kingsham Primary School was awarded a significant grant of £204,000 to improve the weatherproofing of the main hall, replacing windows, doors and sills, and insulating some of the walls. The work was undertaken in the summer holiday and has improved the environment for all children and has enhanced the environment for assembly, PE lessons and lunch times. The project was project managed by the University premises team on behalf of the Trust and has now been completed; you can see the difference it has made in the photos above.

Frogmore Junior School has been awarded £1.636 million for a project which will run over two years and will enable the Academy to replace the glazing and re-clad the exterior of the building, with major benefits for the school environment both internally and externally. The work on this project is expected to start this term and will be project managed by Hampshire County Council on behalf of the Trust.

University links

Exploring creativity with Fine Art students

Second-year University Fine Art students have been working with our academies as part of their degree courses. As artists-in-residence at Berewood Primary School, The Flying Bull Academy and Kingsham Primary School, they ran projects for Year 5 and 6 pupils, including studying colour and learning about artists Henri Matisse and Jackson Pollock.



Kingsham pupils were thrilled to hear that their artwork was to be displayed at the University of

Chichester's ArtOne building in an exhibition curated by their student artists-in-residence Morgan and April. The pupils were invited to visit the exhibition and also toured the University Art Department's workshops and studios. One pupil said: 'We are the luckiest class!'

Rachel Johnston, Senior Lecturer in Fine Art at the University of Chichester, said: 'April and Morgan have had a really positive and enjoyable time, sharing their passion for painting with the pupils, and working experimentally with materials and process to offer the children new ways of exploring their creativity.'

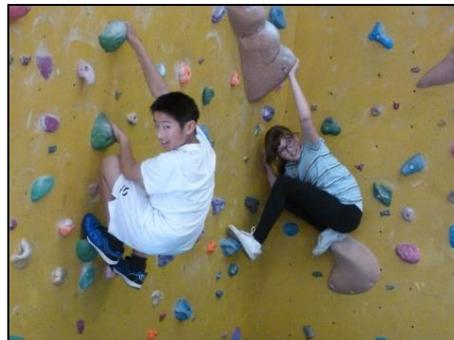
If you are interested in engaging with Fine Arts students please contact Rachel Johnston on r.johnston@chi.ac.uk

Climbing high and ranging wide

Outdoor Experience Days at the University

In June and July, several groups of our academy Year 5 and 6 pupils visited the University campus at Chichester to enjoy a range of adventurous outdoor activities with staff and students from the Institute of Sport at the University.

Berewood Primary School was first to get roped up and onto the climbing wall, with expert instruction and enthusiastic encouragement from the University's Head of Adventure Education Dr Pete Bunyan, and Senior PE Lecturer, Dick Bryant. Adventure games were followed by a low ropes session and a break for lunch before the group ventured into the Forest School environment.



(Kingsham pupils on the University's indoor climbing wall).

Dick Bryant said: 'All the adventure days were really successful and we look forward to welcoming more groups from our Academy Trust schools to the University.'

If you want to know more or get involved in PE activities linked to the University contact Dick Bryant on d.bryant@chi.ac.uk

Graduation ceremony 2016

Congratulations to three of our Mill Chase Newly Qualified Teachers (NQT's), Gemma Twine, Tia Hinks and Oktober Duffield who all graduated from the University of Chichester on 23 October 2016.

(Tia Hinks and Gemma Twine with Vice-Chancellor and Chair of the Trust Board Clive Behagg)



Progress against our Priorities for 2016/17:

- **Building 'hubs'**

As we grow our Trust, we plan to recruit schools in groups or within a 30-minute drive of an existing academy. This will enable our academies to share specialist teaching and professional services and to work together on curriculum and professional development activities. We are currently working with a further three schools in Portsmouth who are planning to join the Trust in 2017. Our Headteachers and Chairs of Governors will meet in February to discuss the growth strategy and hub development.

If you have any suggestions or ideas to contribute to our growth strategy, please let your Headteacher or Chair of Governors know.

- **Developing free schools**

We have bid to establish our first two Free Schools one in Chichester and one in Bognor Regis, both serving new housing developments in the towns and linked to the University campuses. We have been shortlisted and have been invited to present our proposal to the DfE in January alongside other Trusts.

Our Free Schools will be established to provide an integrated and dynamic curriculum with a focus on 'learning from making' and will be linked to the University Technology Park, a major new University initiative opening in 2018. For further information or if you are interested in contributing to the development of this programme please contact Romy Jones r.jones@chi.ac.uk

- **Student voice – UNLOC**

On 2 December 2016 we welcomed over 30 pupils from Y1 through to Y11 to the University's Bognor Regis Campus for a Student Voice day. Led by a team of facilitators from UNLOC, our pupils' representatives had a fantastic time getting to know one another, building connections between our academies, thinking about how to make change happen, exploring what they love about their academy and what they want to improve.

They built a cardboard wall made up of all the things they didn't like and another made up of the things that would improve their learning. They then planned the journey from where we are to where they want to be, which included a very symbolic and dramatic smashing of the negative wall!

We will run two such workshops each year to develop leadership skills and collegiality and UNLOC offer additional school based workshops to enhance student voice in our Academies. For further information please

contact James Humphries

j.humphries@chi.ac.uk

(Students at UNLOC event)



- **Running School Direct as part of ITT offer**

Libby Issac from Fernhurst Primary School and Sam Cantini from Court Lane Junior School have been working with Jane Evans to develop our School Direct programme. We are very pleased with the interest we have had and we continue to receive applications via the UCAS website. We currently have vacancies for places on the Primary programme and also Secondary History, Modern Languages and Maths. This term, Bob Griffin will be co-ordinating the development of the Trust Training Programme supported by Libby Issac, Sally Nelson and Adam Beere. The programme will draw upon the wealth of expertise across our academies. Please do promote our School direct opportunities within your locality. Electronic flyers were circulated last term but if you need these again or would like hard copies please let us know. For further information about school direct please contact j.evans@chi.ac.uk

- **Developing leadership**

We have commissioned Jerry Goddard to scope the national opportunities and existing leadership opportunities that our academies value. We will run a workshop for Heads and Deputies in the Spring term to design and develop a programme for the Trust. If any Heads, Deputy or Assistant Head would like to work with Jerry to design the workshop please contact James Humphries j.humphries@chi.ac.uk

- **Increasing School to School Support**

The Trust has produced a bid to establish a Teaching School. The vision for the Teaching School is that it will be an alliance of all our academies. There will be a leader of the Teaching School who will be devoted to that role and be line manager by the Director of Standards and Effectiveness. We will offer three levels of programmes:

- ITT - our School Direct places and a SCITT programme across the Trust
- CPD - the offer essentially provided by the Institute of Education currently to our academies with development of leadership programmes currently being scoped by Jerry Goddard
- School-to-School Support - the development of the programme currently being scoped by Deamonn Hewett-Dale

There will be training facilities provided at the new Mill Chase site and in our Free School(s) as well as at the University. As you know, our Trust is a highly inclusive organisation. We remain utterly committed to all our existing partnerships and to those of the University. Our Teaching School Alliance will operate in order to provide additional capacity for school improvement and teacher supply, alongside existing provision.

University Charity request

Send in your old specs for Vision Aid Overseas!

The University are collecting old specs for Vision Aid Overseas (VAO), an international charity dedicated to fighting poverty by transforming access to eye care in developing countries. 670 million people

- 10% of the world's population - are disadvantaged by poor vision and a lack of spectacles. If you have a pair of glasses you no longer need, please pass them to us for VAO. All specs welcome including prescription glasses, reading glasses and sunglasses! Please send them in to the Health & Safety and Environment and Sustainability team at the University who will send them on.

Post to: Kevin Hickman, Health and Safety Advisor. Health & Safety and Environment and Sustainability team, University of Chichester, Bishop Otter Campus, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 6PE.



And Finally

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