



Newsletter

Issue 6 - July 2018

Children Matter; Achieving Together



Welcome from our CEO



David Hermitt
Cmat CEO

Welcome to the Summer edition of our newsletter, celebrating yet another rewarding and successful academic year across the Cmat family of academies. Each of our schools has been busy achieving and succeeding in their own right but there has also been a great deal of centralised activity for the MAT as a whole

Following our consultation process with all stakeholders back in March, we have now agreed our new Vision, Mission Statement, Values and 'strapline' for the multi-academy trust and are delighted that everyone has rallied round these to help share them and bring everyone together.

Our Vision is that Cmat should be a family of schools working in collaboration and sharing a common goal. Each school will have the freedom to determine its own ethos, which will enable children and staff to be the best that they can be.

Our Mission, which applies to all those connected with Cmat, is to 'Learn, Inspire, Support and Serve.'

Our Values are summed up with just four words: Passion, Ambition, Integrity and Respect. We believe that they represent four very strong ideals that are the cornerstones of a successful and harmonious society, both in school and beyond. Our Teachers and Support staff will serve as role models to embody and demonstrate these characteristics and our Governors and Trustees will champion and communicate our values, ensuring that they are reinforced across the trust and all our schools. We hope that our children and young people will all recognise their worth and adopt our Values as their own as we believe that doing so will help them achieve and succeed in their own goals.

Our chosen strapline, 'Children Matter: Achieving Together', will serve to remind everyone that our core focus is, and will always be, on a child-centred, collaborative approach to education.

We welcome your support to help us continue to work towards ensuring that our Vision, Mission Statement and Values are communicated and embraced by everyone across the multi-academy trust for the benefit of all our pupils, students and staff.

David Hermitt

CEO

Learn

We are delighted that the children across our Cmat schools are continuing to thrive and achieve to high levels and the recent SATs results released at the end of the 2018 summer term are a great example of this.

Our two primary schools, Black Firs and Castle, have exceeded the National Standards in every single measure this year. Ninety per cent of our Key Stage 2 children are at the expected standard in Reading and in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS). Over eighty per cent have achieved the expected standard in Writing and Maths.

Castle School secured a perfect 100% in mathematics with forty per cent achieving greater depth. This is a phenomenal result, which, once again, elevates the school up amongst the highest performing schools in Staffordshire.

Black Firs also performed exceptionally well with at least eighty per cent reaching the expected standards and up to thirty nine percent gaining greater depth in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling. These results will put the school amongst the best in Cheshire East too.

Cmat CEO, David Hermitt, commented on the achievement:

“We are pleased that, as predicted, over eighty per cent of our children have reached the expected standard and so many have gone beyond the expected to achieve greater depth in at least one element of the assessment.

“This has been achieved because our children have such a positive attitude to learning. These young people have responded to the inspirational teaching and support of their teachers and teaching assistants. They are well supported by their parents and others to achieve the best that they can in all their studies.

“Congratulations to everyone involved in helping our children to do so well.”

Cmat Key Stage 2 SATS Results Summer 2018

Achieving Expected Standard				
	Writing	Reading	Maths	G.P.S
National	78%	75%	76%	78%
Castle	80%	90%	100%	90%
Black Firs	80%	90%	80%	90%
Achieving Greater Depth				
	Writing	Reading	Maths	G.P.S
Castle	10%	20%	40%	20%
Black Firs	8%	26%	31%	39%



Inspire

One of the many great benefits of being part of our multi-academy trust is that our education ranges from the age of three right up to nineteen, so younger children are able to share in the experiences of those much older. As a trust, there are many such opportunities, which give our primary school children access to a range of core subject experiences and activities that stretch the normal scope of their lessons.

Our Maths Department at Congleton High have run a number of 'Code Breaking Workshops' for our Year 6 students. Working independently and in groups, the children are taught to use their maths skills to solve a range of number puzzles, tackling problems linked to real life codes with links throughout history including Morse Code and Caesar Cipher from Roman times. The sessions are structured so that all students are able to take part and enjoy the day, with appropriate puzzles for all abilities, ensuring that everyone is challenged at exactly the right level.

One of the Trust's Languages teachers, Myrta Rios de Penny, operates across Congleton High, Castle Primary School and, from September, Black Firs School. She is helping the children to develop and improve their language skills from a young age. That Ms Rios de Penny offers both primary and high school level languages means younger students with higher abilities are able to be coached to achieve even more than would normally be possible at primary level.

The dedicated science expertise and facilities at Congleton High enable younger children from Cmat and Partner Primaries to benefit from opportunities that would not be possible within their own school. The annual British Science Association Crest Superstars event run at the High School each year gives Year 5 pupils a great introduction to the wonders of science through a range of interactive experiments. The nine and ten year olds spend two days in one of CHS' science laboratories working with teaching and technical staff, undertaking experiments, investigating, making and observing,



all using basic scientific principles, which leaves them hungry to learn more and eager to start Year 7!

There is a renewed appreciation amongst educators of the benefits of outdoor learning and this has resulted in many schools, including Castle, creating a 'Forest School'. According to the Forest School Association, this is 'an inspirational process, that offers all learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees.'



Forest School is a specialised learning approach that sits within and compliments the wider context of outdoor and woodland education. Many Castle staff are fully trained Forest School experts and have the benefit of extensive woodland at their site. The Castle team has been working together with Black Firs to share this expertise and enable as many Cmat children as possible to benefit from and enjoy everything that the Forest School movement can offer.

On a similar vein, learning beyond the classroom is valued for older children too and it was with this in mind that Congleton High School envisaged an outdoor 'shelter' that would function as both a learning facility and a social space for students at break and lunch times. With a substantial target of £20,000, the process was not going to be a rapid one and the fund raising team, headed up by Humanities teacher, Caroline Eckersley, set about laying down long-term plans to reach the target. The Parents in Partnership PTA group, Head Boys and Head Girls and the Student Leadership Team worked together with Mrs Eckersley over a number of years to devise and implement a range of activities on top of their many other charity commitments. The target was finally reached in April 2018 when a National Lottery award of £10,000 gave the significant boost the fund needed. The shelter will be constructed over the summer break, ready for use when the students return in September.

Support

Across the trust, we endeavour to be able to offer all our children and their families the support they need to give them a positive education experience, ensuring that each and every one of our young people can achieve their very best.

We have children with many different requirements across the trust, whether that be as a high achiever, a child with additional needs, or maybe with physical or emotional challenges. We offer a range of support that can be tailored to the needs of the individual child and their family and we work hard to ensure that we are offering assistance that is relevant to requirements.

To enable us to further help our young people and their families, we have recently appointed Kirsty Roach in the new role of 'Family Support Worker' to allow us to work with specific students aged between eleven and nineteen to identify and provide the support needed to ensure that they are able to thrive and succeed at school.

Taking up the role from September, Kirsty will work

alongside and support students and their families, offering practical help along with learning and emotional support and feedback. She will be able to introduce learning opportunities and support interventions and, in addition, produce work plans that will help the students achieve and maintain the level of school work required. Kirsty will also serve as a link between the students, their families and other external services.

Jim Barlow, Head of Congleton High School, commented:

"Our aim is to create an environment where there are no barriers that prevent any of our students from achieving their maximum potential. For some students and their families this can be straightforward but others face greater challenges and it is these people we aim to benefit through this new role. Kirsty will be able to offer relevant and timely support for our students that will help them concentrate on their learning, giving them a much greater chance of success in their studies and a far more enjoyable school life."

Serve

At Cmat we are fortunate and privileged to have over 50 volunteers, supporting and guiding our schools and the MAT as Local Governors and Trustees. These people are drawn from a variety of sources including staff, parents, the local community and other education providers. They come from all walks of life, bringing with them a vast range of skills and experience. Their role is entirely voluntary and is that of a 'critical friend', there to support but also to question and challenge our everyday activity throughout the schools and the MAT to ensure that everything is undertaken to the highest standards, to our best ability and following best practice models.

As with all aspects of our Trust, we have centralised our governance systems and streamlined how we manage governance across the whole trust to ensure continuity and clarity. All schools now have the same committee structure allowing workloads to be shared and more efficient decisions to be made.

Recently, the three Local Governing Bodies (LGB) met and agreed the Scheme of Delegation for Cmat to start in September 2018. Plans are also in place to hold the 2018 Annual Governors' Conference next term. Governors and

Trustees will meet to discuss how to bring about the further strengthening of governance as part of our preparations for future growth.

The Trust would like to recognise and show appreciation for the huge contribution made by our departing Clerk, Mrs Linda Morley, who has held the role for the last 5 years. We wish her a happy and rewarding retirement. We are delighted that Claire Gritton has agreed to take up the role of Acting Clerk to the Governors and will manage the development of the governance structure over the next twelve months.

We also say thank you and goodbye to Chief Financial Officer, Sharon Bowker, who will leave us in September to take up a promotion to a new education role. We have appointed David Twambley as our new Chief Financial Officer and we will welcome him to the team next term.



Claire Gritton
Acting Clerk

How you can get involved.

Our appointment process for new Local Governors is rigorous, ensuring that we have a dedicated team, only concerned with delivering the highest possible standards of care and education for our students. We recruit Local Governors based on their skills and are particularly interested in appointing those with expertise in property management, financial services, legal, HR or marketing. If you feel that you could be an appointed Local Governor and contribute towards strengthening the governance team, please contact Clerk to the Governors, Mrs Claire Gritton for more details. Email: governorsclerk@congletonmat.com