

CONNECTING WITH CENTRAL OFFICE



CHRIS STEVENS | INTERIM CEO

I hope that you have managed to have a good half-term.

I wanted to pass on my personal thanks to all of you who have supported our pupils in preparation for their external examinations. Thank you for your commitment and dedication - I know the additional support so many of you have offered to our pupils will make a real difference. Once again, thank you.

During my visits to our academies this term, I have focussed on visiting lessons to look at the impact of our Teaching for Excellence model on our disadvantaged pupils. It is evident that the improvements we have made to the quality of our explanations is having a positive impact. I have been fortunate to observe examples of skilfully constructed explanations that have ensured our most disadvantaged pupils are engaged. For example, in a recent mathematics lesson at Bournville, the pupils, many of whom were

disadvantaged, were totally focussed on their teacher as a result of her clarity of language and engaging use of props. I am sure you can appreciate that achieving this level of concentration was not an easy task with a group of 5-6 year olds! However, the most impressive part of this lesson was the way in which the teacher ensured all pupils, through the use of effective pair talk, were involved in responding to her questions. Every child was thinking. Every child was verbalising his/her thoughts. Every child was making good progress.

The trust has recently started to develop a professional relationship with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). PwC has recently been ranked as one of the Top 50 employers in the UK's first-ever Social Mobility Employer Index. PwC was ranked 7th in the Index for the commendable work it has taken to enable those from lower socio-economic backgrounds to succeed. PwC's social mobility priorities resonate with our own vision namely that we aim to develop articulate, resilient and ambitious pupils regardless of their background. I look forward to sharing with you in the future the impact of this relationship on our disadvantaged pupils.

The Chief Operating Officer has been busy identifying common services across the Trust and has consolidated these to achieve efficiencies, improve service and economies of scale. These services include: the catering provision at Bournville, Erdington and Smith's Wood; Broadband for all of the Trust Academies; and energy supplier contracts for all sites.

Also, following last year's successful CIF Bids which amounted to £1.3m worth of roof repairs at Bournville, Erdington and Fairfax, the Trust was once again successful this year in bids for Fire Safety works at Erdington and Bournville, totalling over £500k. These works will be completed over the summer.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a well-deserved half-term break.

FEATURED INSIDE

➤ **FAIRFAX** - HEAD OF
ACADEMY UPDATE,
SPORTING SUCCESS

➤ **ERDINGTON** HEAD OF
ACADEMY UPDATE,
WINDRUSH, MALE
ROLE MODEL

➤ **BOURNVILLE** -
HEAD OF ACADEMY
UPDATE,

➤ **SMITH'S WOOD** - HEAD
OF ACADEMY UPDATE,
WW1 COMMEMORATION
VISIT

CONNECTING WITH FAIRFAX

HEAD OF ACADEMY UPDATE

As we move towards the 2018 examination series, pupils at Fairfax are busy revising and improving their examination technique with the support of their committed teachers.

Monday, 23rd April was trial exam results day at Fairfax. Our pupils entered the gym with anticipation to collect their mock results envelope just as they will in the summer. Just as it will be on the actual day, some pupils were content, some elated and others deeply disappointed.

Our pupils, results in hand, left the gym and headed into the hall for an assembly with Mr Johnson, Deputy Headteacher. During his assembly, Mr Johnson signposted pupils to the competitive nature of the 2018 examination system and encouraged them to use their last three weeks prior to the beginning of the exam series to make a real difference to the rest of their life. Throughout the assembly, Mr Johnson quoted some facts that encouraged our pupils to reflect:

- Pupils with 5 good GCSE grades earn on average £100,000 more than those without over their lifetime.
- 75% of adults in Britain are unhappy with their jobs.

- One in 5 employers say they would not recruit someone with less than 5 good GCSEs.

Mr Johnson reminded pupils of the extra provision available to them in school, but also of the techniques they can employ themselves to review three years of learning. At the end of the assembly, a video clip on Cliff Young was shared. I had previously heard of Cliff Young from my colleague Mr Rhatigan, Head of Erdington Academy, but had not quite understood the scale of what he had achieved through hard work, persistence and self-belief. The message to pupils was clear, you do not need to be 'the best', 'the smartest' or 'cleverest' to achieve, just as Cliff Young was not an elite athlete. What you do need is a sense of determination and a commitment to working hard. I hope our pupils sitting GCSEs and A Levels this summer find both those qualities in plenty!

Thank you for the staff who have worked so hard to support our pupils and to the pupils 'I wish you every success'.

MRS DEBORAH BUNN

HEAD OF ACADEMY



FAIRFAX SPORTING SUCCESS

DEDICATED TO DEVELOPMENT; TRANSPARENT IN OUR APPROACH

CONNECTING WITH FAIRFAX

SPORTING SUCCESS

Sinceritas Laboris is the motto at Fairfax and nowhere is this more evident than within the PE Faculty. PE at Fairfax is fully inclusive and pupils get to compete at all levels and in a huge range of events. Sadly, trying to fit all fixtures in has been difficult this year and our attendance at the FMAT games has suffered with us only competing in one full competition over the year. We are looking forward to getting more involved next year!

We enjoyed an incredible year last year with sporting success and we are delighted that this year has been even better! Here are a few of the highlights:

- Sutton Schools Badminton KS4 Level 2 winners
- Birmingham City Games KS4 Badminton winners
- Midlands Badminton Finals placed 4th
- Sutton Schools Basketball KS3 Level 2 winners
- Birmingham City Games KS3 Basketball winners
- U15s Rugby Team got through to the 5th round of the Schools Natwest Vase.
- U15s Greater Birmingham 15 a side Rugby Tournament 3rd overall
- U12s Greater Birmingham 15 a side Rugby Tournament runners up on tries scored.
- U12 Monmouth School 7s Tournament 3rd place overall
- U12 Nottingham School 7s Tournament runners up in the Bowl
- U14s Nottingham High School 7s Tournament runners up.
- Sutton Schools KS4 Boys Hockey League winners
- Sutton Schools KS4 Girls Hockey League runners up
- Sutton School KS3 Boys Hockey League runners up
- Sutton Schools KS3 Girls Hockey League runners up.
- U14 Sutton Schools Netball Round Robin winners
- Birmingham U12 netball Championships runner up in pool out of 6.
- Birmingham U18s Netball Championships 3rd place overall.
- U13 Warwickshire Indoor Cricket Competition winners.
- 110 individual Sports Colours handed out so far this year. Including full sports tie to Lois West.
- House Sports Championships across all year groups – Netball, Hockey, Rugby, Basketball, Rounders, Football, Table Tennis, Badminton, Swimming Gala and Inter House Athletics Championships.
- 100+ rugby players training during the week and playing during our 13 Saturday fixtures. All age groups are entered in to the Greater Birmingham Rugby Tournaments and our U15s and U18s play in the Natwest School Rugby National Competition.
- 2 girls' teams and one boys' team to each of the Sutton Hockey Leagues over 6 weeks every Thursday after school.(7/8 and 9/10 age groups)
- Over 60 girls training and playing netball regularly every week. All our Netball Teams (U12-U18) play regular round robin fixtures within Sutton Coldfield and enter Birmingham Schools Netball Championships.
- Currently have U12-U15 cricket teams training and entered in to both BSCA and WSCA Tournaments.
- Lily Massey selected to swim for England.
- Katherine Richey synchronised swimming British Team trialist.
- Tom Bloor 50m Butterfly U17 English Champion. Selected for British Championships.
- Miah Drysdale selected to represent England at Judo.
- Eryk Neumann British Judo Champion and top 3 in Europe
- Noah Saa selected for the U15 England Basketball Training Camp.
- Lucy Elliot selected to play for Wasp's U15 Netball Team.
- Billy Sansome selected to attend U15 England Hockey Training Camp.
- Miah Drysdale member of the U17 England Judo squad.
- 6 girls playing County Netball.
- 3 year 11 boys selected to play for North Midlands U16s Rugby Team.
- 3 year 10 boys selected to play for Greater Birmingham Rugby.
- 4 pupils at Premiership Rugby Academies.

Well done to all of the pupils involved and thanks to the staff that provide such fantastic opportunities for our youngsters.

CHRIS RAVENSCROFT

DIRECTOR OF PE FACULTY | FAIRFAX

CONNECTING WITH OUR ERDINGTON

HEAD OF ACADEMY UPDATE

One of the strengths of Erdington Academy is its diversity; we have young people and families from all over the world including a significant number from Afro Caribbean communities.

Black History month is always a special celebration at Erdington (and Kingsbury before it). In recent years we have combined the celebrations with our Culture Fest events ensuring all cultures are celebrated. This year's Black History month is going to be extra special as a celebration of the rise of multi-cultural Britain as this year celebrates the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the SS Empire Windrush that brought the first wave of Caribbean migrants to the UK.

Already there are local and national events that have taken place and are planned, sharing the stories of these pioneers. We have a working party of staff (soon to be

joined by pupils) who are planning a series of events leading up to the Black History month celebration of Windrush. One of the members of the working party is Miss Tavelah Robinson, an English and Drama teacher here at the Academy. Tavelah has written an article below sharing her experience of performing in the London premiere of 'Windrush Movement of the People' at the Peacock Theatre, London 26th to 28th April 2018. We are all delighted that Tavelah received this honour and will be involved in planning our own celebrations. As Tavelah says in her article "This part of history is personal and precious to me and we know it will be to many in our community".

MARK RHATIGAN
HEAD OF ACADEMY

CONNECTING WITH OUR ERDINGTON

WINDRUSH

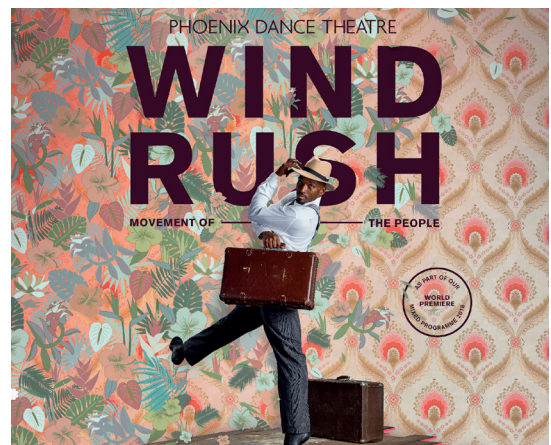
I was asked to be part of a once in a lifetime opportunity, to sing as part of the West End theatre production: Windrush. The show was based on the Windrush generation, being asked to come over to England and help re-build the country.

This part of history is personal and precious to me, as this is the way my grandparents came to England to start a new life here. The show captured the moment experiences and emotions that people, like my grandparents, felt.

My role in the show, was to sing gospel and spiritual songs to represent the types of music and feelings the Windrush

generations felt, and I learned so much about performing and general performance behaviours in the West End! This was perfect for me to experience first hand since I am taking on more Drama lessons next year- this is ideal experience for me to teach my classes how to behave in the West End, what is expected of their performance and the standard and level that performances need to be at.

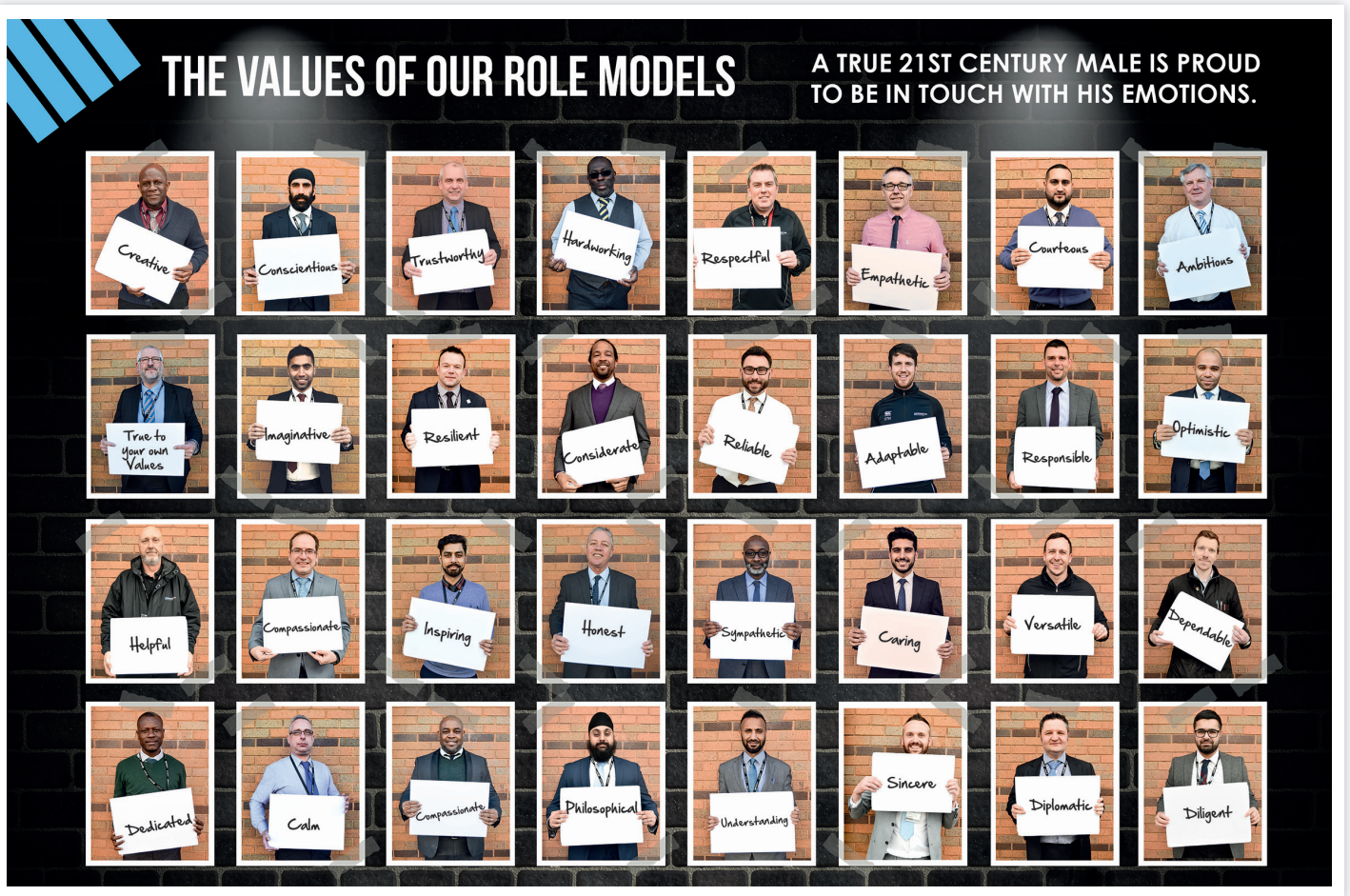
MISS TAVELAH ROBINSON
TEACHER OF ENGLISH AND DRAMA



DEDICATED TO DEVELOPMENT; TRANSPARENT IN OUR APPROACH

CONNECTING WITH OUR ERDINGTON

MALE ROLE MODEL






The idea behind the Male Role Model display was to highlight to pupils that being a man in the 21st century is not all about the stereotypical ideas that society sometimes puts on men. For example, being a man is not always about being brave, strong and keeping your emotions bottled up. As we see the increase in mental health issues and suicide among young men rising we thought it really important to get these positive messages across to our pupils.



Jason Halstead

Assistant Headteacher and DSL


SOCIAL MEDIA



In order to improve our communication links and promote our Academies and the Trust as a whole, we would like to encourage all of our employees, Directors, Associates and parents to follow our social media sites. Links to social media can be found on our new websites.


Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust | www.fmat.co.uk/   

Fairfax | www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk/  

Bournville School | www.bournvilleschool.org/ 

Bournville Primary Provision
www.bournvilleprimaryprovision.org/ 

Erdington Academy | www.erdingtonacademy.bham.sch.uk/  

Smith's Wood Academy | www.smithswood.co.uk/ 

DEDICATED TO DEVELOPMENT; TRANSPARENT IN OUR APPROACH

CONNECTING WITH BOURNVILLE

HEAD OF ACADEMY UPDATE

Teacher recruitment and retention is becoming an increasing concern throughout the teaching profession. Rather like football managers, Headteachers are especially anxious at this time of year as the teacher "transfer window" draws to a close and the prospect of losing one of our excellent teachers becomes a real possibility.

FMAT School leaders are responding to this national crisis by developing a number of initiatives in each of our schools, designed to attract and retain the best candidates within the Trust. Here at Bournville, we are delighted to have been selected to take part in a Department for Education initiative designed to support schools in keeping and developing our most precious commodity, our teachers!

We have teamed up with Severn Academies Educational Trust to deliver a range of bespoke CPD packages aimed at supporting and developing our Early Career Stage teachers. This initiative will take place over two years and, depending on their role within School and their individual needs, colleagues will benefit in a number of ways.

Supporting us will be Chris King, CEO of Severn Academies Educational Trust CEO and NLE along with Sara Peace, TSA/SCITT Director, and their Secondary SLE and Primary SLE. The thirteen programme participants will be offered a suite of support including opportunities to gain nationally accredited qualifications such as NPQSL and NPQML, and to receive regular external mentoring.

Not only will this initiative support our teachers to become even better classroom practitioners, it will also prepare them to become future FMAT leaders.

There was a real buzz in the room as the aims of the initiative were introduced as the initial training session got underway last Thursday. It was really encouraging to see colleagues so enthused at the end of a busy day's teaching and to hear subsequently that they feel really valued by the school and are genuinely excited to be involved in what lies ahead.

MRS J COTTLE
HEAD OF ACADEMY



DEDICATED TO DEVELOPMENT; TRANSPARENT IN OUR APPROACH

CONNECTING WITH SMITH'S WOOD

HEAD OF ACADEMY UPDATE

Our INSET day on the 20th April focused on creating and encouraging positive classroom behaviours through highly effective classroom management, creating a sense of ambition and actively building positive relationships.

Joti Odedra, Academy Teaching & Learning Lead, delivered a highly inspirational keynote speech on ambition in the classroom. Joti reminded us that pupils will often say they "can't" because they don't feel a sense of belonging or achievement. A sense of belonging, as Joti expressed, can be encouraged by praise; by noticing the small things and recognising the smallest of achievements. Ensuring pupils feel a real sense of achievement makes them want to try just that little bit harder next time, which, in turn, helps them to become more ambitious for themselves.

Joti went on to talk to us about how basic classroom routines and high expectations also encourage an ambitious climate. Having high expectations for all pupils, regardless of academic starting points or social backgrounds, encourages resilience. High expectations need to be evident in all we do; the way we speak to children, the explanations we give, our expectations regarding the presentation of pupil work – everything we say and do; every interaction we have with pupils.

Joti concluded her presentation sharing a brief clip from the film *The Freedom Writers*. This inspirational film is based on a true story. It tells the story of a young American teacher, Erin Gruwell, who changed the mindset and self-belief of the pupils that she taught. Coming from socio-economically deprived backgrounds many of Erin's pupils were involved in gang activity and on the margins of society; Erin inspired her class to learn tolerance, apply themselves and to value their education.

Joti shared a carefully chosen clip from the film where a pupil steps forward following the summer break;

Pupil: "Miss G. Can I read something from my diary?"

Ms Gruwell: "That'd be great."

Pupil: "This summer was the worst summer in my short 14 years of life. It all started with a 'phone call. My mother was crying and begging, asking for more time as if she were gasping for her last breath of air. She held me as tight as she could and cried. Her tears hit my shirt like bullets and told me we were being evicted. She kept apologising to me. I thought 'I have no home. I should have asked for something less expensive for Christmas'. On the morning of the eviction, a hard knock on the door woke me up. The Sheriff was there to do his job. I looked up at the sky waiting for something to happen. My mother has no family to lean on, no money coming in.

Why bother coming to school or getting good grades if I am homeless?

The bus stops in front of the school. I feel like throwing up. I'm wearing clothes from last year, some old shoes and no new haircut. I keep thinking I'd get laughed at.

Instead, I'm greeted by a couple of old friends who were in my English class last year. And it hits me, Mrs Gruwell, my crazy English teacher from last year, is the only person that made me think of hope.

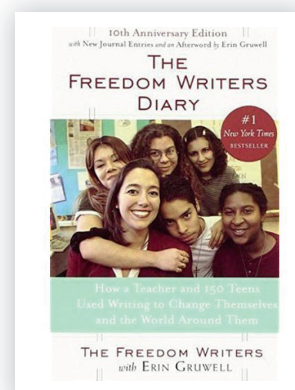
I receive my schedule and the first teacher is Mrs Gruwell in Room 203. I walk into that room and feel as though all the problems in life are not so important anymore.

I am home."

We have to do all we can to ensure that our pupils feel at home in our schools and in our classrooms. How do we do that? For me, it is all about the relationships.

KATY CRAIG

HEAD OF ACADEMY



CONNECTING WITH SMITH'S WOOD

BELGIUM AND FRANCE WORLD WAR ONE COMMEMORATION VISIT

'The sun, now it shines on the green fields of France and there's a warm summer breeze that makes the red poppies dance and look how the sun shines from under the clouds. There's no gas, no barbed wire and no gun firing now'.

Eric Bogle, singer-songwriter.

This year will bring us to the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1 in 1918. As part of this commemoration a group of Year 7 pupils departed on a trip to Belgium to help gain an understanding of the conflict and to pay their respects to the fallen.

On Friday 20th April, a group of 39 excited pupils gathered at the entrance of Smith's Wood Academy to board a coach for the first part of the journey to Folkestone, ready to take the Euro tunnel over to Calais.

From Calais we carried on to our first destination of Hill 62 Sanctuary Wood Museum where the pupils had the opportunity to walk through original preserved trenches and tunnels and see the landscape and bomb craters that surround the site. From here onto the Tyne Cot Memorial for the missing soldiers, helping to put into context the magnitude of the losses; then onto Langermark German Military cemetery.

The following day saw us heading from Belgium into France to visit Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, Beaumont Hamel Newfoundland War Memorial and the Canadian National Vimy Memorial; from there we headed back into Belgium to the hotel Munchenhof for an early tea before heading to the Menin Gate for the last post ceremony.

The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing is one of four British and Commonwealth Memorials to the missing in the battlefield area of the Ypres Salient in Belgian Flanders. Every night the last post is played under the gate at 8.00pm. On this occasion the pupils were able to witness a special ceremony for the recent burial of two missing soldiers who have now been identified and now have their own graves. This included a choir and marching bands.

On the last day we departed our hotel to head back to Ypres to visit the Flanders Museum, the chocolate factory and then on to the Memorial Museum Passchendaele, before heading back to Calais for the return train home.

The pupils had a fantastic time and have gained a whole wealth of knowledge and experience that will be with them for the rest of their lives.

The sun shone for us for the whole of the trip and although 'there's no gas, no barbed wire and no gun firing now', the memories are strong and I hope the soldiers' courage and loss will never be forgotten.

On November 11th 2018 at 11.00am, I know a group of Year 7 pupils will be remembering their visit and the fallen during their minute silence.

Gareth Cushen

Outdoor Adventurous Activity Instructor



DEDICATED TO DEVELOPMENT; TRANSPARENT IN OUR APPROACH