

# NEWS

The Mast Academy Trust

SUMMER 2021



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*Mrs Greenough*

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# A word from Mrs Greenough CEO

As we draw towards the end of what has been an incredibly challenging year, it is worthwhile reflecting on all the amazing things we have achieved. Not only have we all embraced a new 'normal' in our lives, but also within our classrooms.

Learning is no longer restricted by the walls of a school building, but we can now connect and learn in new and innovative ways and I have no doubt some of these changes will continue to enrich the way we deliver education. Beyond ensuring a strong continuity of education in the face of a pandemic, we have also been focussing on creating strong reading cultures in all our schools and you will be able to find out more in this term's newsletter. From nurturing our youngest learners in building up their phonics understanding to become fluent readers, to exposing all pupils to the rich world which exists inside the covers of a great book, our schools have been researching, innovating and inspiring our children to enjoy a love of reading.

We want all our children to lead happy and rewarding lives and we know that reading not only enables them to access the world around them, but has the power to expose them to unknown worlds and inspire them to reach their full potential.

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, we recognised 'Thank a Teacher Day' by sending an enormous thank you, not just to our teachers, but to every single person within our schools who has made a significant contribution. It takes a team to run a school and we are very lucky at The Mast Academy Trust to have a committed and professional team who always put our children first. However, on this day, we also recognise our parents and carers who, many times during these last 18 months, have become academic teachers too and who are the greatest and most influential teachers in every child's life. Thank you for all you do.

Finally, as we approach the Summer holidays, the opportunities do not stop. We are excited to welcome our new Year 6 children to Summer schools at both Kirkburton and Scissett Middle Schools. Birdsedge First School is also offering a two-week summer school for our younger children. Whatever the coming weeks hold, on behalf of everyone at The Mast Academy Trust, we wish you a lovely summer and look forward to seeing everyone in September. .

*"The more that you read, the more  
things you will know. The more you  
learn, the more places you'll go"*  
(Dr Seuss)

# THE MAST ACADEMY TRUST



## Trust Talk

This is my first update on behalf of the Board of Trustees, having taken over as Chair in March, and it's so good to be writing this with our schools having re-opened for all children to attend once again.

We are very grateful to everyone involved at the Trust and in our schools, including teachers, support staff and parents, for the hard work and resilience that you have shown over the past year or so, not only to further our children's education but also to support their wellbeing. And we applaud the children too, for applying themselves to their learning in such strange circumstances.

The return to school was, I'm sure, widely welcomed and brought a sense of relief after the challenges of home schooling and remote teaching. However, with ongoing restrictions, we recognise that school is still an unusual and challenging environment, with everyone having to adapt once again to ensure that it's not only safe and healthy, but also a positive experience for children and staff alike.

I was delighted to have been able to visit our schools recently and I am very grateful for the warm welcome I received from the staff and children. It was great to see the positive vibe which being back in school had clearly created, with everyone looking forward to better times. I was also thrilled to see the impact of the work completed, and decisions made, by our Local Governing Bodies that ensure the schools are a pleasurable place for the children to learn and flourish (read more about this in the 'on our shoes' section of this newsletter).

At this time of year, the Trust Board – and our Local Governing Bodies at each school – are forward planning, working with the Trust's Executive and school teams to set budgets for the following year and to agree improvement plans for the Trust and for each school for the next three years.

The Trust Board and Executive have also been looking at our business model and longer term strategy, as we seek to build on the Trust's progress and development to date and to strengthen our offering for both our existing schools and for schools which might wish to join us in future.

Finally, I must say a big thank you to Martyn Jones and Andy Williams for their work and commitment as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. Both stepped down recently but happily they remain with us as valued members of the Trust Board. Dorcas Atkinson is our new Vice Chair.

**Philip Marshall**  
*Chair of Trustees*



Philip Marshall  
Chair of Trustees



Dorcas Atkinson  
Vice Chair of Trustees



Nicholas Thomas  
Trustee - Education Specialist



Tim Wainwright  
Trustee - Marketing Specialist



Anthony Wilkinson  
Trustee - HR Specialist



Gill Howe  
Trustee - Educational Specialist



Mike Jones  
Trustee - Audit and Business Specialist



Andy Williams  
Trustee - Educational Specialist



Liz Goodwin  
Trustee - Social and Learning Specialist



Philip Oldfield  
Trustee - Business, Finance and Audit Specialist



David Webster  
Trustee - Finance and Audit Specialist



Richard Sowerby  
Trustee - Finance and Business Specialist



*Research shows that reading for pleasure improves empathy as it allows us to walk in the shoes of others; it takes us to places and adventures far beyond anything we could imagine in real life. So here at Kirkburton Middle School, we are on a journey to becoming an extraordinary reading school where we aim for all children to develop word automaticity, sentence fluency and excellence in performance BUT most of all a LOVE OF BOOKS AND A LOVE OF READING!!!!*

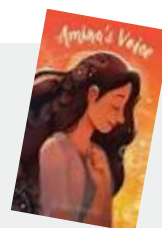
*What books have our students been wrestling with this term?*



*Mrs Stinson's Y6 'Book Club' have just started to embrace a novel by Hena Khan about a young girl who moves to a different middle school and grapples with the challenges of friendships, personal insecurities and whether or not to follow the 'cool' crowd....what does she do?*

*"I think I'm going to enjoy it, but I'm not sure yet as it's written in a style and genre which is different to what I would usually choose...Lucy is keen to find out more about Amina's friendship and whether she is brave enough to 'sing out loud'"*

**LUCY G: YR6**



*Every two weeks each year group is exposed to a recommended book from a member of staff or pupil at Kirkburton. Let's delve into the most recent recommended reads....this week we have a fiction focus....*

#### **Senseless by Steve Cole**

They recommend the text for children who like gaming and artificial intelligence....

Ollie said "the best thing about this book was the ability to be able to use your sense of smell and taste in the story...."

Will said – "my favourite part was all the action and fighting with soldiers (the enemy)."

**Will B-H and Ollie B: YR8**

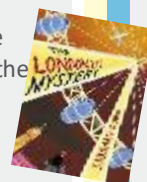


#### **The London Eye Mystery**

"This story is about two siblings and their cousin.....he disappears having embarked on the big wheel....this is what makes it really good as the writer makes you feel you are there as an investigator trying to fathom out why and find clues."

Charlotte recommends this book for anyone who likes mystery and adventure stories.

**Charlotte B: YR6**



#### **Tim Peake**

"A book filled with facts about the space station and most interestingly is full of photographs of Tim Peake in space and the view of earth and different countries – this is pretty incredible."

Ethan recommends this book for anyone interested in astronomy or who wants to eventually explore space themselves.

**Ethan R: YR6**



#### **A Dangerous Game**

Will recommends this text for children who are into outdoor adventure or someone who wants to pursue a career in medicine (it speaks in some detail about Sickle Cell Anaemia).

He said "the book is interesting and keeps you hanging on to find out what will happen next, although, it did take a while to get interesting..."

**Will C: YR7**

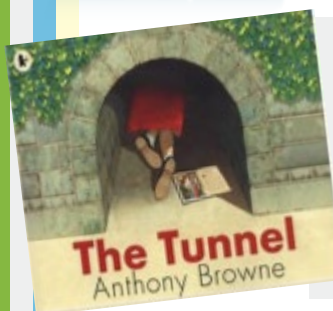






*When children leave our school, we want them to be avid readers who read fluently and widely, who can express preferences and opinions about texts that they have read. We want them to read for pleasure, having had access to a wide range of text types, genres and authors in order for them to make informed opinions about their favourites.*

*We provide the strongest foundation for our early years and key stage one pupils; teaching a rigorous programme of systematic, synthetic phonics to ensure fluent and confident readers by the end of Key stage 1. High quality stories, poems, rhymes and non-fiction are chosen carefully to develop pupil's vocabulary, language comprehension and love of reading.*



### My favourite book by Isla in Year 2

My favourite book is *The Tunnel* by Anthony Browne. I like this book because there are some beautiful pictures in it. On the page when the girl is in the forest, there are animals that are printed in wood on the tree. There is a secret door and a cottage. Rose is the best character because she reads books and explores books. She imagines lots of things.

### My favourite book by Daniel in Year 2

My favourite book is *Diary of a Wimpy Kid, The long haul* by Jeff Kinney. I liked this book because Greg and Rodrick ate butter on a stick and then a pig bit Greg's finger. Greg then had to go to a strange vet. Manny is the best character because he guessed how heavy the hog was, then he won a piglet and tried to kiss it!



### Book review of 'Boy in the Tower' by Polly Ho - Yen

#### Characters and setting

Ade is a young boy who I really liked because he is resilient when things get tough. Ade reminds me of Elliot from the book 'Who let the God's out' as they both have similar personalities. Gaia is Ade's friend. I like her because she is extremely supportive and kind towards Ade. She made me feel like that is the type of friend I want in my life. Ade's mum is another main character, she made me feel sad because of the situation that she is in. She's a bit like Elliot's mum from 'Who let the God's out' because they both have to rely on their children to do important jobs. The story was mainly set in a tower block in London.

#### Plot

Ade's mum is attacked one day and this causes her to become petrified of going outside of the tower block. This means that Ade has to take on the role of the parent. Buildings around the tower block mysteriously start to collapse and unknown plants start to appear. These plants start spreading and people start dying. The deadly plants turn out to be butchers who destroy everything in their path. The tower block is one of the last buildings standing so with Ade and his friends it is a race against time to get his mum out of there alive.

#### My opinion

I thoroughly enjoyed this book as it gets very intense at times. It reminds me of 'Who let the Gods out?' because both children have to stay in charge when a problem appears. They also both have help from their friends. I would recommend this book to people who love mystery and adventure books and I would give it 5 out of 5 stars.



**Grace L**  
**Year 5**



*This year we have been working hard to put reading at the heart of the curriculum at Scissett Middle School, not only to demonstrate how important it is for all subject areas but to instil a love of reading in our pupils.*

*Reading is: opening yourself up to adventure, imagination and new ideas; it can take you to different countries, different times and even different worlds.*

*Reading has looked a little different at school this year - we have begun to use new and exciting methods for reading, including using our phones and school kindles as well as accessing class texts on the school smart boards.*

*We have also enjoyed several books as part of our English lessons; Year 6 enjoyed delving into the magical world of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" by JK Rowling and spooky Whitby-based mystery "Room 13" by, Bradford born, Robert Swindells, as well as examining extracts from stories from other cultures, beliefs and walks of life in the topic "A World of Stories". Year 7 have read American adventure story "Holes" by Louis Sachar and more recently, "A Monster Calls" a poignant tale of love, learning and loss, by Patrick Ness. Year 8 began the year studying classic novel "Of Mice and Men" by John Steinbeck before rounding out the year with the intriguingly gothic "Woman in Black" by Susan Hill and Shakespearean masterpiece, "King Lear".*

*Many classes have also recently been following a fictional story by Leeds author Tom Palmer, which has run alongside the Euros. Pupils have had the opportunity to vote on what happens next in the story, which has been very exciting!*

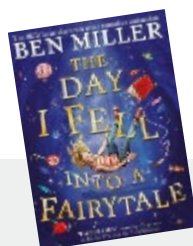
Research shows that regular reading:  
improves brain connectivity

- increases your vocabulary and comprehension
- empowers you to empathize with other people
- aids in sleep readiness
- reduces stress
- lowers blood pressure and heart rate
- fights depression symptoms
- prevents cognitive decline as you age
- contributes to a longer life

[www.healthline.com/health/benefits-of-reading-books](http://www.healthline.com/health/benefits-of-reading-books)

## Happy reading everyone!

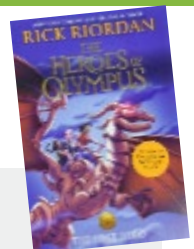
**Book:** The day I fell into a fairytale  
**Author:** Ben Miller



**I thought:** it was a beautiful book filled with different fairytales  
I would recommend this to a friend.

**Catherine**

**Book:** The heroes of Olympus series  
**Author:** Rick Riordan



**I thought** It was very good and it helps you understand Greek-Roman mythology while still being fun  
I would recommend this to a friend.

**Eleanor**

*"Reading keeps you entertained and lets you learn more words. Books can make you imagine what's happening and involve you with the story. There's a book for everyone" – Sam*

*"Reading takes me into a new dimension of horror and fun and so much more. It's calming and soothes you on a not so good day." – Catherine*

*"Reading is like taking yourself to another world." – Matilda*

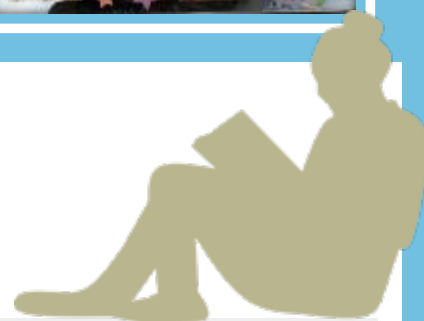
*"I think reading is one of the most amazing things. At first, I didn't enjoy reading but I promise you, when you find the right book it's brilliant. You can escape to another world in a haze of imagination!" – Martha*

*"I love reading. It widens my imagination and makes me explore more. I would recommend reading, it's amazing to dig into a book!" – Olivia*

*"Reading means quite a lot to me, it makes me calm and relaxed. I like to read in my bedroom where it is nice and quiet." – Mikey*

*"Reading to me is like going to a different world; going down a rabbit hole to a mysterious place or being in the "Hunger Games", trying to survive. It's like going to a different place in time. It also helps me sleep." – Oliver*

*"Reading to me feels like my own little world. It's like my imagination is a real world." – Lily-May*



**Book:** Wolf Brother  
**Author:** Michelle Paver



#### Plot

Event 1. Torak's father was killed by a demon bear and meets his wolf guide.  
Event 2. Torak is captured by the raven clan but makes a new friend as he escapes.  
Event 3. He travels to the far north to hopefully kill the demon bear.

#### How I feel about Torak and why

I think he is frightened about his task but is proud to admit to anyone about his pack brother wolf.

#### My star rating

I rated this book 4.5 stars because it is heart-warming and good if you like animals. It shows you what it would be like to live 6000 years ago.

This book made me feel hooked because it shows you what it is like to survive in the jungle.



**Eleanor**

**Book:** Once upon a dream  
**Author:** Liz Braswell



#### Plot

Event 1. Prince Philip killed the Giant black and purple fire Breathing dragon.  
Event 2. Aura escapes from the castle  
Event 3. Aura meet Philip who tells her she is in a dream world.

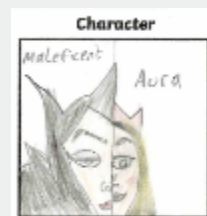
#### How I feel about Aura and Maleficent and why

Maleficent is wicked and Aura is kind.  
Maleficent made me feel shocked at points. Aura made me feel happy and excited.

#### My star rating

I rated this book 5 stars because it makes you want to know what is going to happen.

This book made me feel intrigued because you wouldn't know what's coming next.



**Scarlett**





We love to read at Birdseye First School and have been working hard this school year to make sure our School is a 'Reading Rich school'. We have three strands to our Reading curriculum and feel proud of the work we are doing towards each.

Firstly, we make sure children develop the skills they need to read at a word level. We have daily phonics and spelling lessons, weekly spellings and vocabulary and individual reading books for reading one to one regularly both in school and at home.

Secondly, we support children to develop good comprehension skills to understand what they read. This year we have developed a new whole school reading cycle led by Stanley Stamina, Rex the Retriever, Walter the Word Hound and Tina the Text Detective. Four characters who represent the important skills we need to have good comprehension. These are used in daily whole class reading lessons in all ages and stages and we are so proud of the comprehension skills we are growing through this.

Finally, we make sure that the two strands above are encompassed in a growing Love of Reading. We have books of the month in each class and the school entrance to celebrate different themes, authors and genres. We have a school library led and managed by pupil librarians and encourage all children to choose a 'love of reading' book in addition to their individual reading book to share and enjoy at home.



Have a look at the pupil book reviews here to find out about some of the books children have been loving to read recently:



**Book:** The Hobbit

**Author:** JR Tolkien

Summary

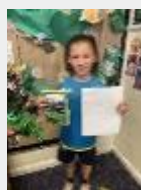
The gist of the story is that the dwarf kingdom was demolished by Smog so the Prince wanted to get it back. They get Gandolf and Bilbo and they go on an adventure to get it back.

Favourite Character:

Gandolf because he is mysterious and magical.

Why do I like it?

Because it is magical and scary and full of suspense.

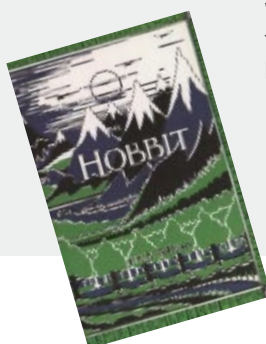


**Book:** The Hobbit

**Author:** JR Tolkien

Why do I like it?

I love the Hobbit because it is a classic 'good over evil' story, but this doesn't have a big strong hero but a lovely Hobbit who had the will to carry on. Bilbo Baggins faced all sorts of evil on his quest but lived to tell the tall tale.







**Book:** Hotel Flamingo Carnival Caper  
**Author:** Alex Milway

Hotel Flamingo has four books in the series and this is the third book. The series is about team work and competitive hotels.

Most of the characters are animals but the hotel manager of Hotel Flamingo is human. She is called Anna. This book is about a carnival at the animal boulevard; the island that they live on. Animal Boulevard has a carnival every year before Autumn. They design a float and there is a competition for the best float and they get the golden palm. Mr Ruffian is a bad character because in Holiday Heat Wave, King and Queen Penguin stay and he has a spy to make everything go wrong. The thrilling bit was that Anna saved Mr. Ruffian even though he was Hotel Flamingo's biggest rival. I would definitely recommend this book. I think you should read it from the first book in the series because it has an on-going story line.



**Book:** Kay's Anatomy  
**Author:** Adam Kay

This is one of my favourite books because it is a very informative book.

Summary: This book is all about how the human body works. It is a non-fiction book and it is really funny. Pictures suggest it might be a fiction book. Some of the things you learn about are:

- Bones
- Blood
- Organs (not a musical instrument!)
- Brain
- Life and Death

#### Favourite Part

My favourite part is the information about the digestive system. This gets me the most because of the animated pictures which are very easy to understand. Some are even so easy to understand you don't even have to think about it!

#### Who might like to read this book

This book is perfect for humorous people and inquisitive people of all ages.

#### Funny Fact from the book

Cows have 800 different blood types! Your brain can process 400 billion things a second!



**Book:** Malory Towers  
**Author:** Enid Blyton

Malory Towers is my favourite book because it is about a boarding school and is a very exciting story.

The one thing that I love about it is that the book has three stories in it. At first Darrel Rivers (the main character) is going to Malory Towers and she is very excited but when she gets there she is nervous because there are lots of other girls. As Darrel settled down she makes friends and that is where the adventure begins! Throughout the story the girls in Darrel's dorm and Darrel herself get up to a lot of mischief like they have a midnight feast and some of them sneak out of school. Further on in the story a new girl called Carlotta comes to Malory Towers with her horse but she starts disobeying order and gets in trouble. I am looking forward to the next series!



**Book:** Dork Diaries  
**Author:** Rachel Renee Russel

Dork diaries is about a girl who has just moved schools and not quite sure what to do! But she really wants a new phone that everybody has, however there is a really mean girl called McKenzie.



**Book:** PAX  
**Author:** Sara Pennypacker

Set in the time of World War Two, a boy raises a fox but his father then drove them to return the fox to the wild. However, the boy sets out to get his fox back, encountering many problems along the way. The boy finally finds his fox at the end!



**Book:** Alex Rider  
**Author:** Anthony Horowitz

A few of the things I like about this book:

- It is a series of books about a spy
- Alex is 14 years old
- It is full of action and drama
- My favourite book in the series is Skeleton Key
- It involved MI5



# In our shoes...



## Scissett Middle School Governance

I would like to start by introducing myself to you as the new Chair of Governors for Scissett Middle School. I took early retirement in August 2020 from my position as Executive Headteacher in a local borough. I have worked with and been passionate about supporting children for over 30 years both in social care and in education. Originally working with primary children, I later worked within a secondary school as a consultant leading on staffing and performance management. Children need and deserve the best, and getting the right people working with them is a key priority for all leaders, governing bodies, and Trusts.

I believe that the care and education provided by schools can and must give all children their greatest chance to have the happy and successful lives that we all desire for them. I believe in a 'no excuses' culture and have high expectations of everyone. In terms of our governing body, we strive too to be the best and to challenge and support the school so that children are at the heart of every decision made. We are a new governing board in the main, but fortunately we have Lorraine as an existing member this academic year to help us learn quickly about the community we are now serving. Having so many governors new to role has presented us with challenges, however, it has also allowed us to choose the very best people to join our board ensuring that we have strong and varied skills so that we can work together yet delegate responsibility to governors with good knowledge of the area they are working with leaders around. Collectively we have experience of working in:

- Education
- Safeguarding
- Social Care
- Health
- Health and Safety
- Finance
- Data management
- Staffing

The whole world has had to learn how to manage and live with a pandemic, whilst at the same time, our children have continued to grow and need champions on the ground to continue the education that they have a right to. The pandemic has touched many of our lives in such drastic ways and given us all so many challenges, but I am proud to say that the whole school community has risen to these challenges.

Governors are indebted to the work that leaders, teachers, and all staff have committed to and driven over this academic year. From leading my own teams last year, I know how much time, energy and skill has gone into ensuring that both the school has been run safely and that remote learning is fit for purpose. Families have learnt what the term 'first educators' means in the truest sense of the word. Not only have you had to keep household, jobs and day to day life going, but had to work hard to keep learning alive for children at home. You are all heroes to me, thank you for working so closely with the school this year. It has never been so important.

As a board, we have had to find different ways to work and be effective too. We have largely worked remotely. We have had strict structures and worked hard to ensure that we continue to be strategic in challenging the leadership. We strive to continue to support the work of the school.

In overseeing the school budget this year, we have supported leaders to plan staffing to meet the needs of the children after such a challenging 18 months. We know that we need to ensure that children catch up and have their social and emotional needs met now, more than ever before. We will be monitoring this closely this next academic year and working the school leaders to evaluate the impact of their work.



### We have worked together in our strategic role:

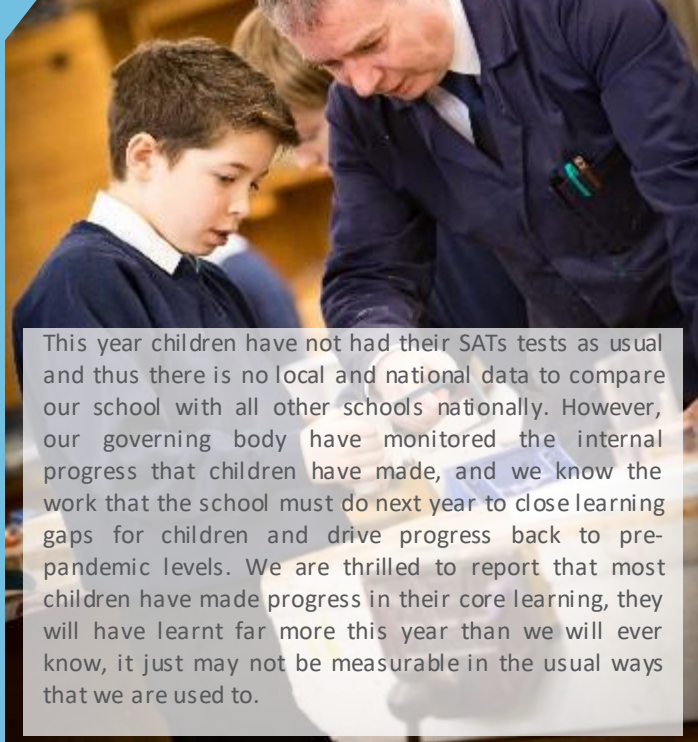
- to oversee the provision of home schooling for many pupils and in-school provision for children of key workers
- to ensure pupils still enjoy school, feel valued and part of the school community
- to ensure clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction
- to ensure pupil attainment is monitored and maximised
- to oversee and approve the school's budget
- to ensure the staff are supported as needed
- to approve policies and procedures
- to monitor the provision for learning

Our board is extremely lucky and proud to be a part of the Mast Multi Academy Trust. The executive team ensure that our governing body is given excellent training and development, strong advice and guidance and the structures we need to be the best we can be for our community. Having such strong support from the Trust Executives allows us to carry out our three core functions effectively. These are:

Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction

Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff

Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent



This year children have not had their SATs tests as usual and thus there is no local and national data to compare our school with all other schools nationally. However, our governing body have monitored the internal progress that children have made, and we know the work that the school must do next year to close learning gaps for children and drive progress back to pre-pandemic levels. We are thrilled to report that most children have made progress in their core learning, they will have learnt far more this year than we will ever know, it just may not be measurable in the usual ways that we are used to.

**Thank you once again for all your commitment and engagement with the school this last year.** I look forward to meeting you all over the coming academic year and reporting to you all the amazing progress your children have made in 2021/22.

**Nichola Thorpe**  
Chair of Governors



**Nichola Thorpe**  
Chair of Governors  
Community



**Ian Lakin**  
Governor  
Parent



**Lorraine Simpson**  
Governor  
Parent



**Jane Turner-Brown**  
Governor  
Community



**Justine Watson**  
Governor  
Community



**John Ingman**  
Governor  
Community



**Jason Terry**  
Governor  
Staff

## Birdledge First School Governance



### Hello to everyone!

Our shoes may be small, but our plans are huge! We are really fortunate to now have a full time, permanent Headteacher, Mrs Donna Waddington - whose drive, enthusiasm and commitment is contagious and whose vision for the future for our pupils, families, staff, ourselves, and local community is truly exciting. Alongside her hard-working staff, she's achieved remarkable things during these most unique and challenging of times.





As a Governing Body, we, too, have seen changes. Our current board includes new members with varying governance experience, but who all share with us 'old hands' a commitment and drive to ensure Birdledge BEST. We are currently planning for next year, alongside the Headteacher and team, and looking at how we can make more of an impact by developing our Link Governor roles which will enable us to provide the best support possible to all involved at our school.

How do we ensure effective and accountable governance within Birdledge First School? This year has been unusual for everyone, as, sadly, we have been unable to meet within school. But we continue to fulfil our duties through virtual meetings ('you are on mute!!!') and we've still managed to have lively debate and discussion, and, we hope, support our head and her team as best we can: by monitoring, questioning, challenging and, ultimately, supporting the school.

Questions we have asked and will continue to ask include:

- Does the Birdledge BEST vision underpin everything we do for all pupils and stakeholders of the school?
- Is there implementation of an ambitious, inclusive, broad and balanced curriculum to ensure pupils are receiving their entitlement for quality education? What questions can and should we ask of senior leaders to seek confirmation of pupil attainment and progress of teaching and learning?
- How has school enabled all pupils to access learning whether they are in school or at home? (our Recovery Curriculum)
- How is everyone in school feeling? How can we support and help you? What would make your day in school more manageable? Do we say thank you enough? (our important focus on everyone's Wellbeing)
- How do we guarantee a voice for all is accepted and heard so we can work collaboratively to strive to improve and flourish as a school?



As always, we continue to receive dedicated and bespoke support from the Trust. As Governors we have been fortunate to receive in-house training that both informs and develops us to be able to fulfil our roles more efficiently and effectively.

We are all looking forward to being able to visit the school, hopefully very soon, and to meet and get to know the children, staff and parents, as well as being an integral part of your future school and wider community events. And finally, a huge thank you to everyone who has supported Birdledge School this year and who will continue to support us in the future. You really do make being "in our shoes" possible.

**Sian Hyett-Allen**  
Chair of Governors



**Sian Hyett-Allen**  
Chair of Governors  
*Community*



**Caroline Stevens**  
Governor  
*Parent*



**John Thompson**  
Governor  
*Parent*



**Andy Williams**  
Governor  
*Trust appointed*



**Terry Sigsworth**  
Governor  
*Community*



**Katie Hutton**  
Governor  
*Staff*





# Shelley First School Governance

For the most part it has been business as usual for the governors at Shelley First school, but the last twelve months or so have been anything but usual. A timely move to MS teams by the Mast Multi Academy Trust proved invaluable in keeping us informed and enabled us to continue with our termly meetings and training. It also provided a channel with which to keep those informal conversations going, vital for governors to keep up with the day-to-day challenges that inevitably presented themselves during such a tumultuous period.

The pandemic has given us all challenges that we have never had to face before, making life more virtual but no less complicated. Mrs Knowles and the senior leadership team have faced all the challenges head on and have strived to ensure Shelley First School remains an outstanding, happy and secure environment in which children thrive and develop spiritually, emotionally, socially and physically.

One of our fundamental roles as governors is to give our support to the school, no more so than this year. However, we challenge and question when appropriate to ensure the core values and ethos of Shelley First are continually upheld

Our primary focus is the children, and we keep this in mind whilst monitoring and supporting school to:

- Ensure pupils still enjoy school, feel valued and part of the school community - this is done by evaluating results from both parent/carer and pupil surveys, so a big thank you to all that responded.
- Oversee the return to school following both lockdowns, the recovery curriculum and wellbeing initiatives for both staff and pupils.
- Ensure pupil attainment is monitored and maximised, as you may know our attendance rate is well above the national average.
- Oversee and approve the school's budget, we have just recently looked at next year's budget, ensuring that the staffing structure fits within this and whether we can improve the school building too.
- Ensure the staff are supported as needed, we have been involved in putting a wellbeing policy in place and review staff surveys.
- Approve policies and procedures, some new policies have been the phonics policy and wellbeing policies.
- Monitor the provision for learning.
- Ensure the Pupil Premium grant, Sports Premium Funding and Covid Premium are being used effectively,
- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction, we will delve into this more deeply in our last meeting at the end of June, where we will plan, alongside the SLT, the school's priorities for next year. We do this by looking at the current priorities, strengths and weaknesses of the school, results from pupil tests, feedback from teachers, parents, carers and pupils. We also consider the current climate and monetary situation.



New to the Trust this year has been the introduction of the Trust wide development groups. These have been extremely well received by the governors at SFS, evidenced by the enthusiasm with which the meetings have been relayed back to the wider governing body. This year the focus has been on staff and pupil wellbeing and increasing reading opportunities for pupils. A wellbeing strategy has been created, alongside a staff wellbeing policy and pupil wellbeing policy. We will hopefully approve these at our next governing body meeting. We look forward to seeing how the Trust wide collaborations evolve, enabling us to better support the school with confidence and knowledge. We have also attended various Trust training courses such as Safeguarding, Risk Management and Being Strategic amongst others and we have completed visits, remotely. We have also supported staff structure changes and recruitment by being part of interview panels.

We have recently recruited a new member to the board, Chris Hill and he is undergoing induction training and has attended one meeting. We are providing mentoring support as needed to help him fulfil the role.

It has been difficult at times to show just how appreciative we are of our staff at SFS, their resilience, creativity and professionalism this last year has really blown us away. Our usual gesture of a couple of boxes of biscuits and some chocolate in the staff room seemed insignificant, as well as a logistical impossibility what with bubbles and social distancing. This led us to arrange for a mobile barista to be at the school gates, and thus on a rather chilly March morning we joined the staff for an outdoor coffee morning as they arrived in school, and for a short time it felt like old times, with some lovely stories, lots of smiles, and hopefully a morale booster for all.

We would both like to thank you for the support you have given school over the last year, here's hoping that by September bubbles will be a thing of the past and Children at Shelley First School can take part in all of the wonderful extra curricula activities that are the Shelley norm. Hope you all have a lovely summer.

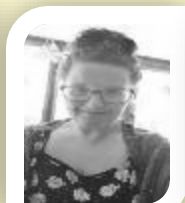
**Daniel Baker and Tracy Pinnock**  
Co-Chair of Governors



**Daniel Baker**  
Co-Chair of  
Governors  
Community



**Tracy Pinnock**  
Co-Chair of  
Governors  
Parent



**Julia Moorhouse**  
Governor  
Community



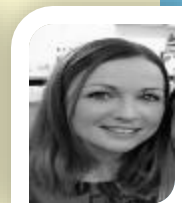
**Jason Field**  
Governor  
Trust appointed



**Chris Hill**  
Governor  
Parent



**Gareth Palmer**  
Governor  
Community



**Lisa Pugh**  
Governor  
Community

## Kirkburton Middle School Governance



As Chair of the Governing Body, I'd like to give you a brief overview of our work over what has been a busy and strange year for everyone.

The pandemic has touched everyone's life, giving us all challenges that we've never had to face before, but I'm proud of the way the whole school community has risen to these changes and difficulties.

As a board we've conducted much of our usual business remotely. Mr Taylor and our staff have worked tirelessly to complete risk assessments and put online lessons and procedures in place to minimise the impact on learning and the risks in school. Our children and families have also been fantastic at adapting to live lessons and the changes within school.

Governors continue to support the work of the school and have worked together in our strategic role:

- To oversee the provision of home learning for many pupils and in-school provision for children of key workers
- To oversee the return to school following both lockdowns, the recovery curriculum and wellbeing initiatives for both staff and pupils
- To ensure the suitable monitoring of vulnerable pupils and safety measures within school
- To ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- To ensure pupil attainment is monitored and maximised, and to oversee the assessment and reporting arrangements
- To ensure the recommendations from the Ofsted report are implemented, providing feedback and information during monitoring visits
- To oversee the RSE curriculum consultation and school's careers provision
- To oversee and approve the school's budget
- To ensure the Pupil Premium grant, Sports Premium Funding and Covid Premium are used effectively
- To ensure the staff are supported as needed
- To approve policies and procedures

This year, in addition to our usual Safeguarding, Send and Pupil premium visits, our Subject visits have looked at curriculum changes due to covid and how gaps will be addressed. Our wellbeing visit focussed on the procedures in place to support remote learning for everyone as well as the processes for identifying and providing support where necessary during lockdown and on the return to school. We've overseen the RSE consultation process and the actions arising from the feedback and we've ensured the careers curriculum has been embedded across school. At Middle school the focus is not on particular options or career choices, rather on building confidence, resilience and independence as well as introducing core transferable skills within each subject and the vast variety of career opportunities available, wherever pupil interests may lie.



Members of the Governing Body have also attended Trust wide development groups to drive forward Trust strategies and make sure they are effectively implemented within school. This year the focus has been on staff and pupil wellbeing and increasing reading opportunities for pupils. A draft staff wellbeing charter has been created, with a pupil charter following shortly.

By carrying out our strategic monitoring role, the Board have enabled the senior leadership team to focus on the day to day running of the school.

Much of our work centres on the governors' own development plan and that of the school

In line with this, we regularly review our roles and the experience, knowledge and skills we individually bring to the Board, ensuring there are no gaps that could affect our efficient governance of the school. We continue to identify suitable training and have attended many virtual training sessions and as Chair, I have also joined other governors for training and forums.

The Trust and central clerking service have been extremely supportive providing training and advice if needed and sharing information and meetings to keep us well informed. All of us attended at least 6 training sessions over the year.

At the start of the year, we recruited a new member to the board and have provided support and mentoring as needed to help them fulfil their role. The Vice Chair has also attended Chair meetings and some governors have paired up for meetings to ensure there is appropriate succession planning in place.

Next year we will continue to strengthen the Middle Leadership roles, to enable them to shape and drive improvements, within their departments. We will also strengthen pupil's literacy skills and cultural capital by further developing our reading initiative and enhancing curriculum delivery within the classroom.

Thank you for all your engagement and support during the last year. I wish you a lovely safe summer and look forwards to meeting you all over the coming academic year.

**Victoria Green**  
*Chair of Governors*



**Victoria Green**  
Chair of Governors  
*Community  
Community*



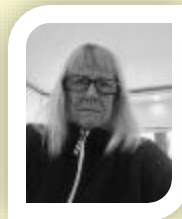
**Anneliese Fothergill**  
Governor  
*Community  
Community*



**Anne Harris**  
Governor  
*Community*



**John Jolly**  
Governor  
*Community*



**Liz Godman**  
Governor  
*Trust appointed*



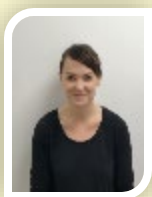
**Viv Barraclough**  
Governor  
*Parent*

It has been an incredible year for our Site Management Team and one in which the team has grown and strengthened. Our site management team are responsible for ensuring that our buildings are healthy and safe places for colleagues to work in and pupils to learn in on a day-to-day basis. This is achieved by our site, grounds and cleaning colleagues working to ensure the highest standards for everyone in our schools. The site management team are also responsible for the maintenance and planning of our estates, ensuring they are fit for purpose both now and in the future; for identifying opportunities for development and for managing all the buildings projects that happen across our school estates. Health and Safety is a key responsibility of the team - ensuring that we are compliant with all Health and Safety regulations, but also developing systems and ways of working that ensure our management approach to health and safety is outstanding and provides the safe spaces for us all to enjoy working and learning in. We are a busy team who thrive on the challenges that the school environments give us.

In a year that saw the operational landscape of education change beyond recognition, our Site Team have had to adapt and change to meet the varying demands that the pandemic has presented.

## Cleaning

In May last year, our cleaning teams grew to accommodate the increased demand to ensure our schools were healthy places for our pupils to learn. Every member of the team met all the challenges that came their way head on and with an excellent sense of team spirit.



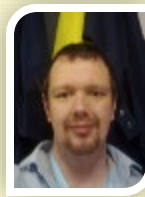
**Lucinda O'Connor**

I have worked as a cleaner at Kirkburton Middle School for 3.5 years.

During this time, I have seen and experienced many changes. The last year of the pandemic has been a challenging time for myself and my colleagues- not knowing how safe the environment would be. Despite this, I feel a sense of pride knowing that I was contributing to keeping the staff and children safe even now - although we are getting back to a certain level of normality. I enjoy working at the school and feel lucky to work with a great team of people and hope to continue to do so for years to come.

**Adam Kitchen**

There couldn't be a more challenging time to start a Cleaning Supervisor role than in the middle of a global pandemic..



Safety is paramount and that has been my main focus thus far from a cleaning perspective, ensuring no touch surfaces are left untouched. I have experienced various systems of working in each school and aim to bring the same high level of service across every site, all the while creating a positive, happy environment to work. I have fallen into a great Site Team and am honoured to work with these guys. The future for the Trust looks exciting.

# Spotlight on...

## Site Management





## Site and premises

In September 2020, the structure and organisation of Site Management across the Trust entered a new phase and a move towards a centralised Trust team. Ashley Carver was appointed as the Trust Site Manager and began the task of streamlining our approach to Site Management and Health and Safety and implementing and developing a robust approach that would ensure our schools provide the best environments for our staff, pupils and visitors.



In October 2020 Mark Pritchatt joined Ashley as a Site Operative and in the new year we saw Jamie Fosbrook join the team as our Grounds Operative and site operative and Adam Kitchen as our Cleaning Supervisor. Hopefully you will have seen the team around our schools improving our school environments and spreading a little bit of 'Site Magic' as they go!

*I took on my role in the Autumn term as Trust Operations Officer and it has been a really exciting time to take on such a role. Site Management is one of the areas that I oversee and it is great to work in such a collaborative environment where feedback and suggestions are taken on board to ensure we meet the needs of all our stakeholders and provide healthy, clean, inviting and inspiring places in which to work and learn.*

*The speed at which we are progressing, developing and improving in our approach to site management and health and safety are phenomenal and work is progressing behind the scenes to continually improve and refine the service we provide to schools.*

### Ashley Carver



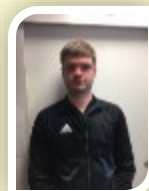
As Trust Site Manager, I work alongside the Trust Operations Officer to oversee the smooth running of all school sites in the Trust. We ensure that the school building, grounds and services are well maintained and Health and Safety is one of our key objectives for staff, students and visitors alike.

Since starting the role, I have built a team of site staff to cover all aspects of caretaking, grounds maintenance and cleaning. We have carefully chosen our team to include people with a variety of skills so that we can respond to the day-to-day problems arising in a busy school! Throughout the Covid pandemic, we have responded to the ongoing changes to provide a thorough cleaning schedule to minimise risk of infection.

The thing I like most about the job role is the variety of tasks that each day brings. It is never boring! We have a fantastic team and I know that I have people around me that I can rely on. In the future, I would like to continue building our team so that we can offer more services to improve the schools. Technology will play a big part in helping us to monitor our procedures and record keeping so that it is more robust and also foresee any potential problems before they occur.

### Jamie Fosbrook

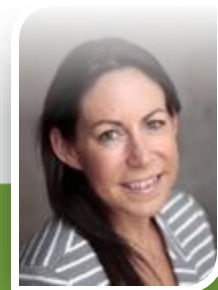
I work for the Trust with two complimentary roles as Site and Grounds Operative.



I am part of a skilled and flexible team whose members pool our resources and work together to provide a valuable service to our four local schools. I most enjoy the variety of workplaces and daily jobs which means each work day is a fulfilling one. This is reinforced by the appreciation of school staff and positive feedback from managers which gives myself and the team a sense of achievement. I also enjoy the ability to use my initiative and make recommendations to schools about improving their site and grounds.

Some of the upcoming tasks I am looking forward to are: building of a shed, chicken hut/run, and a wooden gazebo; updating of play equipment; planting and painting to improve the appearance of schools!

### Sarah Walters Trust Operations Officer



# staff news

## **Congratulations to:**

- Thomas Carey who has passed his apprenticeship in IT and will continue for the Mast Academy Trust as an ICT technician

## **Making a change:**

- Rachael Kaye is moving from Shelley First School to Scissett Middle School to take up position as SENDCo
- Rebekah Peace is moving from Scissett Middle School to Birdsedge First School in her role as a teacher
- Odile Scouarnec is changing her role to Education Teaching Assistant at Scissett Middle School
- Kristi Saunders changing her role at Birdsedge First School to an Educational Teaching Assistant at Shelley First School
- Adam Lawler will join Kirkburton Middle School as their Trainee SENDCo
- Tracy Clark is changing role to Head of Key Stage 3 at Kirkburton Middle School

## **We welcome:**

- Sarah Barker will be joining Scissett Middle School as Strategic Lead of Modern Foreign Languages
- Zoe Le-Gray Wise will be joining Kirkburton Middle School as Strategic Lead of Science
- Scott Egan will be joining Kirkburton Middle School as Strategic Lead of Humanities
- Carolyn Keirs is joining as a teacher in Humanities at Scissett Middle School
- Rachel Johnson is joining as a teacher in Drama at Scissett Middle School
- Ellen Leydon will be joining Kirkburton Middle School as English lead practitioner
- Lewis Marsden is joining as a teacher of English at Kirkburton Middle School
- Lauryen Schofield-Baldry is joining as a teacher of History at Kirkburton Middle School

## **We bid farewell to:**

- Rebecca Moran (Shelley First School)
- Ann Priestman (Shelley First School)
- Sandra Hardy (Shelley First School)
- Skaii Cross (Scissett Middle School)
- Josh Eastwood Apprentice (Scissett Middle School)
- Emily Henman (Scissett Middle School)
- Jonathan James (Kirkburton Middle School)
- Rachel Schofield (Kirkburton Middle School)
- Jeanette Stratford (Kirkburton Middle School)
- Megan Wigglesworth (Kirkburton Middle School)





# WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## BECOME A SCHOOL GOVERNOR



Do you, or know anyone who may, wish to make a valuable contribution to children's education, opportunities and futures?

**The Mast Academy Trust are seeking community governors for their schools.**

A community governor is a person appointed by the school governing body and who, in the opinion of the school governing body, has the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

A community governor does not need to have a child at the school, it can be anyone from the local community who has the time and will to support in providing the best education for our pupils and developing a diverse and inclusive school community where our pupils are inspired and our colleagues achieve.

If you would like to find out more go to <https://themast.co.uk/governance/governor-recruitment> or to express and interest email [office@themast.co.uk](mailto:office@themast.co.uk).

Sian Hyett-Allen  
Chair of Governors  
Birdsedge First School

Tracy Pinnock and Dan Baker  
Co-Chair of Governors  
Shelley First School

Victoria Green  
Chair of Governors  
Kirkburton Middle School

Nichola Thorpe  
Chair of Governors  
Scissett Middle School