ISSUE 07 - DECEMBER 2024

THE SEE VIEW

TRUST STAFF NEWSLETTER



To all our Staff, Volunteers and Governance Personnel

First, thank you all for all that you do for The Sea View Trust.



Now we have reached the end of the Autumn term it is an opportunity to reflect on everything we have achieved together and recognise what an effective collective we really are. We hit the ground running in September with a focused INSET day ensuring we were all compliant with our safeguarding and cyber duties and empowered to deliver another great year for our children and families.

Since then, we have been tested in many ways, a low-level cyber-attack at one of the Trust schools has been expertly managed by Darren McGinnis and Nicola Chester, underlining the importance of everyone being hyper alert when opening emails and portals. The new HR system, which will streamline administrative processes, has been speedily implemented by the Academy Business Leads, expertly supported by the Trust Business Leads (Sam Drummond and Janice Heywood). Unexpected changes to the accounts return have tested the skills of our CFO (Laura Watts) who has once again triumphed in the face of adversity, while our Trust Finance Lead (Ian Tunbridge) and Academy Finance Leads have maintained an excellent day to day finance service.

We must commend all of our school-based staff and we do recognise just how hard you are working every day to do the best for our children and families. In the new year we will be asking all Trust personnel how we can further streamline effort to support workload reduction across all staff roles. Please do be ready to share your solution-focussed ideas.

Embrace Teaching School Hub (TSH) led by Katrina Brockbank has entered year one of their new 4 year contract and the team have been exploring new opportunities and strengthening links with other TSHs and the Church of England Educational Service. Embrace SCITT launched in September and James Findlay-Pidcock and the wider SCITT team are already delivering an excellent service to our new student teachers. We hope that many of them will become our future teachers and leaders.

In October we delivered our inaugural additional Trustwide INSET day, an extra day of staff training to support excellent teaching and support across all Trust provision. I must give a big shout out to Fiona Evans (Executive PA) played a huge role in managing the complex logistics of this event. Feedback from staff has been overwhelmingly positive and indicates that staff have the knowledge, confidence and capacity to implement the skills they have developed through the training.

Our Trust Learner Voice group have been empowered to develop a well-considered plan of action for the year in support of the Trust Improvement Plan. They have also run a staff competition to select a wining logo for our Trust Year of Empowerment (see page 8 for details). Huge thanks to Tina Foster (Deputy Headteacher at Anchorsholme Academy) and Eileen Melling (Vice-Principal at Valley College) for facilitating this group.

We have reported back to parents on the actions the Trust is taking in response to their feedback collated through Parent Engagement activities last term and as part of this work we will be working closely with Blackpool Council in the new year.



Later, on the day of 'the call' at Valley College, the Trust received a second 'call' for an inspection at Anchorsholme Academy. Given the size and capacity of the Central Team and our desire to support all of our settings through the Ofsted process we were able to make a credible case for deferral. We anticipate that both Anchorsholme Academy and Tor View School will be visited in the Spring term and we know that academy leaders and their staff teams are all ready to do their best.

Two of our Trust settings have been visited by Ofsted this term and although it is not yet official in both cases we are delighted with the outcome. Inspectors recognised the hard work and progress made a both Devonshire Primary Academy and Valley College (our two Requires Improvement settings). Along with the setting staff at DPA, expertly led by Dan Simm, and the team at Valley College, skillfully supported by Kelly Swindells, I must commend the work of our School Improvement Leads (Andrew Hurley and Louise Parrish) who have worked tirelessly to ensure Ofsted readiness.

Revoe were visited by Ofsted late in the Summer Term and continues to perform as a GOOD school, across ALL areas of the inspection framework! A huge thank you to the children and families for helping make Revoe a very special place, and an enormous thank you to the amazing RLA staff who work tirelessly and are driven to providing the best education possible for all of our children.

All our academies are focussed on teaching and learning vocabulary to support learning so I thought we could all learn a new word ... Last month we were visited by a CEO and Executive Headteacher from another Trust as part of the National Institute of Teaching (NIoT) CEO Immersion programme. The feedback from these external colleagues was highly positive, with one referring to us as a 'chaordic' organisation, confidently steering a clear path between chaos and order. I looked up the definition, and a 'chaordic organisation is ever learning and adjusting to the environment, and therefore, it is flexible'. So, it certainly feels like a good fit for us.

In the last few weeks our academies have delivered a series of amazing 5* performances including some highly inclusive, tear-jerking nativities with a 'whoops-a-daisy' angel (possibly undiagnosed dyspraxia?) and mice who mistake 'Jesus' for 'cheeses' (definitely need some HI referrals there!) It has also been a busy time for our Site and Kitchen Teams tactically, trimming trees and cooking hundreds of delicious Christmas dinners (not to mention the lovely meals that the school kitchens and the Tor View Cafe have provided for Central Team members this term).

As ever, I would like to thank all of our governance personnel, Members, Trustees and Local Governors who give so freely of their time to hold myself and our leaders to account to ensure that we continue to deliver on our core vision and values.

Wishing you all a wonderful festive break and a happy and healthy 2025. You deserve it because you are all amazing!

Angela



CENTRAL TEAM UPDATES

Trust Speech and Language Service



Rachel Tapley

From September 2024, the Trust has centralised its own Speech and Language Service. Rachel Tapley is the Senior Speech and Language Therapist and previously worked within the Trust at Tor View and Revoe. The team has now expanded with the appointment of Noor.

Rachel and Noor are deployed across the Trust on a needs basis and you will no doubt see them in your settings.



Noor Akhtar

Rachel has 24 years' experience working as a Speech and Language Therapist, she has spent most of her time working in education settings in both mainstream and special schools. She has been working in two of the Trust's schools; Tor View School for the past 6 years and Revoe Learning Academy for the past 3 years. Rachel is now responsible for managing the Speech and Language therapy provision across the Trust. She is a member of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and the Health Care Professions Council. Prior to training as a Speech and Language Therapist. Rachel worked as a general nurse initially in acute hospital settings then in a residential school for children with special needs. It was this experience that inspired Rachel to change her career path, she is committed to ensuring that all learners have a voice and can achieve their potential.

Noor is a qualified Speech and Language Therapist who graduated from the University of Manchester in 2023. She joined the Sea View Central Trust Team in September 2024 and plays a key role in providing speech and language support across all schools within the Trust. Noor is passionate about supporting learners of all abilities and committed to fostering inclusive communication strategies to help learners reach their full potential.

School Improvement

Louise Parrish will be a familiar face to many of you.
From September 2024 Louise has formally joined the central team as Executive Headteacher and Specialist School Improvement Lead. She has 20 years of experience as a special school leader working from the early years through to FE and post 19 adult education. Louise has significant experience of supporting schools and MATs with locally and nationally funded projects, working closely with the DfE, nasen and Whole School SEND. As the Trust's lead for the Behaviour Hub programme, to improve Behaviour Culture and as an experienced SEND Reviewer, she has worked with a number of stakeholders and leaders to action plan both in the long and short-term, leading to SMART sustainable improvement. The advice and support Louise gives, is evidence informed, drawing heavily on nasen and EEF resources. Louise has had significant engagement with the National Professional Qualifications (NPQ) Suite, writing materials for the Adaptive Teaching and SEND and Additional Needs Unit and writing a Unit for the NPQ SENDCo.



Louise Parrish

Louise's professional qualifications include the National Professional Qualification for Headteachers (NPQH) and the National Professional Qualification for Executive Leadership (NPQEL).
Louise has worked with and in a number of governance roles, at a school (mainstream and special) and Trustee (MATs and Arts organisation) level and has provided training to education governance professionals at all levels.
Louise has a passion for inclusion, working with leaders (schools/colleges, employers) to better understand local barriers and how to overcome them. Learner voice is at the centre of her decision making, ensuring that all proposed strategic and operational change will benefit the learners and their families.



Qualification Success

Katrina Brockbank has graduated from Lancaster University with a first class honours in Business Management (Leadership).

Nicola Chester and **Laura Watts** have successfully passed the Certificate in Strategic Leadership (Level 7) via the University of Chester.

CENTRAL TEAM UPDATES

Trust INSET Day - Friday 18th October

The Trustees approved an additional 6th INSET day for the academic year 2024/25 and this was held on 18th October prior to the half term break.

This was a fantastic opportunity for colleagues to come together from across our Trust settings. Thank you to all of our facilitators across the Trust for delivering such valuable training and development.

The success of the day has been reported back to Trustees and in 2025/26 this will be held again on **Friday 13th February 2026.**

Thank you to all staff who took the time to complete the evaluation after the event, all responses will be considered in making the 2026 event even better.

On average, participants rated themselves (on a scale of 1 to 5) 3.4 when asked to assess their subject knowledge prior to the course, which increased to 4.4 after the course.

We received a majority of positive feedback, and some of the comments can be seen below:

"A good day to improve subject knowledge and key teaching skills pertinent to our roles and classes"

"It was really useful to mix with staff from other schools, sharing ideas and expertise"

"It was good to communicate with other colleagues from other schools within the trust"

"Excellent day, very much needed"

"What an enjoyable session. So knowledgeable and such a laugh from start to finish"

"It was lovely to get all the schools together and share experiences. It was nice to get to know other schools SLT and Trust leaders"

LEARNER VOICE GROUP



On Thursday 5th December 2024, our Learner Voice representatives from all our Trust schools gathered together at Anchorsholme Academy for the autumn term meeting.

First, after some festive refreshments, we spent some time getting to know one another as we have a new cohort of pupils and staff. We each shared some facts about ourselves, including our hobbies, interests and skills. The learners (and staff!) spoke confidently to the group and everyone listened attentively and asked questions.

Then we shared our entries for the staff logo competition designed to promote our “Year of Empowerment”. We had a lot of fantastic entries, but with a fair voting system, we all agreed on a clear winner. The fabulous design came from a staff member at Devonshire and is featured on a photograph below. Well done Ms O’Hagan!

We then moved onto the main discussion which focussed on how we can promote sustainability across our Trust. Each setting presented a summary of eco projects currently in place and also plans for future enhancements.

The overall picture was very positive with recycling, uniform swaps, vegetable allotments, “Earth Day”, eco-councils, “The Big Switch Off”, litter-picking, Meat Free Mondays and tree planting all in place.

We recognised that each setting is at a different place on the eco journey and we all agreed to support one another with shared ideas and resources. We also agreed to each have an “Eco-Pledge” in place and to work towards the Green Flag Award where this has not yet been already achieved.

Finally, after some group photos and a few more chocolate biscuits, we said goodbye to our new friends. We are all looking forward to the next meeting in the spring!



ANCHORSHOLME ACADEMY

Intra School Sport



At Anchorsholme, we've continued to embrace Intra School Sport, increasing athlete and spectator participation over the past two years with tweaks and changes that children and staff have loved!
The first change was going digital-streamlining paperwork to make it easier for staff. Next, we sought feedback, which ranged from the sublime to the substandard, leading to further improvements. Inspired by my mother-in-law's remark about the darts crowd being like children – I formed a plan, we introduced lively music and live commentary, transforming The Hall into the 'Ally Pally' for a day each term.



The results were instant: children danced on the side-lines, staff smiled and clapped and new additions like house supporter blocks, 30-second dance breaks for bonus points, behaviour-based rewards, and live-streaming the action on the big screen and other updates enhanced the fun and engagement. Empowered staff now run these events with enthusiasm, children cheer louder, and athletes compete with even more energy!
This term's Archery and Kurling events were a huge success, and we're looking forward to Mini Golf, Corner Football, Wheelchair Basketball, and Cornhole later this year. It's fantastic!
Tom Lowe Y4 teacher and Intra-School sports competition lead Dec 2024

Water Park Fun!



At the beginning of December, our Year 5 (and some Year 6) pupils had a fantastic time at the residential outdoor education and activity centre, Water Park, on the shore of Coniston Water in the Lake District.
The children (and energetic staff!) spent their days engaged in outdoor activities including kayaking, ghyll scrambling, high ropes, climbing, fell walking and canoeing. Then in the evenings they enjoyed fabulous food, played games and had a "Movie Night".
The trip exposed the children to exciting and challenging experiences, taught them new skills and helped them to build stamina and resilience. It also gave them opportunities to build relationships and develop their social skills. Our staff reported back that the children had been impeccably behaved and were all very proud of them and the way in which they represented Anchorsholme Academy.









DEVONSHIRE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Eco Schools Award

Guess WATT? Devonshire have been awarded the Eco-Schools 'Green Flag with Merit' award! The Green Flag is awarded to schools to acknowledge, reward and celebrate their ecological achievements.

At Devonshire, we continue to ensure that our pupils are actively engaged with environmental issues as we work towards Net Zero. Congratulations to our Eco Lead, Mrs Hornby, and our Eco Council who have worked so hard to achieve this prestigious award.

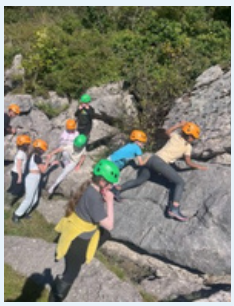
Department for Education - promotional video

This clip, created recently by the Social Media Team from the Department for Education (DfE) was filmed in Honeycombers Breakfast Club. We are proud of the extra-curricular provision we offer at Devonshire, where children are safe, supported and nurtured.

WATCH THE VIDEO









Residential Trip

Year 5 had a qualiTREE THYME on a two-night residential at FSC Castle Head! They were incredibly fortunate to have attended this trip, which was fully funded by DEFRA as part of their ongoing support of nature. We are very grateful to DEFRA for providing this experience, which consisted of rafting, hiking, camp fire skills, orienteering and much more!

World Mental Health Day

Devonshire took part in #HelloYellow as part of #WorldMentalHealthDay and raised a brilliant £164.20. This money will be used by YoungMinds to provide young people with the tools they need to look after their mental health. The children have had a lovey time taking part in lots of happy activities and the sun even made an appearance! Thank you for your support!



Supportive Empowering Ambitious Visionary Inclusive Ethical Welcoming

PARK COMMUNITY ACADEMY

On Tuesday 15th October we warmly welcomed Sir Bill Beaumont OBE, Martin Long, Regional Chairman of Wooden Spoon and members of Wooden Spoon Charity, who kindly donated funds to pay for our fantastic new Pirate Ship. This has created another fabulous outdoor learning environment for our pupils to further develop their imagination and creativity.



Pirate Ship Ahoy!



Sunshine Coach

On Thursday 17th October we were joined by “Blackpool Royalty” as we warmly welcomed Maureen and Denise Nolan and Lyn Staunton from **Variety, The Children's Charity**, for the presentation of our new Sunshine Coach. Our band, choir and dances entertained our special guests and members of our FOPA committee, to ensure they were all “in the mood for dancing!”





Chitty Chitty Bang Bang - We Love You!







PCA finished the term with a ‘Bang’, as the ‘Chitty Chitty Bang Bang’ Car flew in with some of their wonderful principal cast. Adam Garcia, Liam Fox and Ellie Nunn were greeted by our amazing Band playing the theme tune and were warmly welcomed by pupils and staff. The cast took time out of their busy schedule to visit PCA and were overwhelmed by the inclusiveness of our school. They also kindly donated £1,000 to support our Cultural Capital offer.

REVOE LEARNING ACADEMY



Year 6 SHOWTOWN EXTRAVAGANZA!

We are thrilled to share the amazing success of our Year 6 students in Showtown's "Music to My Ears" project. This initiative brought Blackpool's vibrant music history to life, with workshops led by the talented composer John Wright. Our children shone as they explored song writing and composition. Our children displayed wonderful creativity and enthusiasm as they developed their own lyrics and melodies to express their pride in our community. This experience deepened their connection to Blackpool's heritage and enhanced their learning in the arts. The grand finale was a whole school assembly, where the children showcased their original song in front of peers, staff, and families. We are so proud of our Year 6 children for their hard work and creativity, and we extend heartfelt thanks to Showtown for this unforgettable experience. The children, and staff, also managed to refine their ballroom dancing skills in the World Famous Tower Ballroom!

OFSTED Regional Director Visit

In November, we had the privilege of welcoming Mike Sheridan, HMI, to Revoe for 2 days . Mike visited Revoe as part of his role in developing the new Education Inspection Framework. Mike also had a special reason of wishing to visit Revoe...he used to attend Revoe Community Primary School as a child! Alongside the reminiscing and past experiences, many rich discussions were had with a range of RLA staff. Mike was very keen to understand the local context; the many challenges at Revoe; and to 'properly observe the day-to-day experiences of running a school'. He was extremely grateful for the opportunity and shared that his 2 day experience would help shape further discussions and decisions around the new Education Inspection Framework.

Ofsted
raising standards
improving lives

Michael Sheridan, HMI
Regional Director,
East of England and East Midlands

Attendance Drive

During the autumn term, we have been focusing on improving overall attendance and reducing PA. We have developed a school wide strategy, ensuring that a fresh ethos is encouraged and embraced across school attendance culture. As part of our strategy, we have introduced various attendance incentives that have been really well received by children and families. Our incentives include a new badge system for all children who achieve over 95% attendance each half term, weekly prize draws and a place in the "Attendance Hall of Fame" and more recently the 20 days of Christmas attendance challenge.

As a whole team, we recognise that attendance is everyone's responsibility and we are all committed to giving our children the best opportunities and life chances. We are incredibly proud that we have managed to make a strong improvement to our overall attendance and PA this term and we look forward to working towards further success in 2025!

Our pupil leaders have also made a video promoting the benefits of great school attendance, which has been shared with all our community – please do take a look!





Supportive Empowering Ambitious Visionary Inclusive Ethical Welcoming

TOR VIEW SCHOOL





This half term there has been a lot to celebrate. Our Primary department put on a fantastic Nativity performance of a 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel' attended by our local Mayor. It was a fantastic opportunity for our parents to come into school and celebrate with us.



We have had a very busy sporting calendar this half term and now have a girls football team and our Key Stage 2 learners have represented the school in the Lancashire FA Football Ability league, as we are currently defending our title from last seasons.

Friends of Tor View attended the Rossendale Business Awards and were this years chosen charity. Staff and pupils attended the event and ran a very successful raffle raising over £600, which will be put towards special events for our learners over the year.



Within Secondary there have been multiple successful work experience placements including Whitehough Outdoor Centre in partnership with Burnley FC in the community, where learners have had the opportunity to complete a range of tasks. We have also attended placements the local care home, Turfcote and been invited to participate in their Christmas celebrations. All pupils have been working hard for our Secondary performance of Mrs D!

Earlier this half term, we had individually tailored theatrical performances from Just Imagine to bring to life the texts we have been studying in English, A Midsummer Nights Dream, Macbeth, The Faraway Tree and Peter Pan.

Within our FE Department, we have had a very successful enterprise fair. The fair raised £828 for our enterprise groups and the Enterprise Committee, ran by the learners, will decide on what the money is spent on in the future. The fair had the expressive arts group showcasing their artwork, as well as singing some beloved Christmas songs. The catering group made some delicious food, and the other enterprise groups made Christmas items including baubles, wooden Christmas trees and gonks. The local community as well the school community attended, and it was a roaring success! Well done FE!





VALLEY COLLEGE

Work Placements

Learners within Valley College have been attending a local social care provision called Freshfields which is based in Burnley. Learners complete work placement tasks within their horticulture areas and learn valuable skills to support them in adult life. This provision is fantastic and a real opportunity for some of our learners once they have left college





First Aid Training

Valley College learners had First Aid training delivered by an external provider, Cookson First Aid. All learners had the experience of using a defibrillator and delivering CPR. Learners were confident at the steps and procedures involved in helping someone in a time of need.





CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Embrace Education

Embrace Teaching School Hub

Embrace Teaching School Hub had a busy start to 24/25, enrolling 280 NPQ participants and 260 new ECTs and Mentors and providing Appropriate Body Services for 281 ECTs across 144 schools.

Our first Mentor Network held last week was a success, any Mentors wishing to join us can Register here for the next session on 17th March at 3:45pm.

NPQ applications are now closed, but due to open soon for a Spring cohort. Please be aware that funded places are limited and will be issued on a first come first served basis, if you are interested please email npq@embrace-education.co.uk and the team will be in touch.



Embrace SCITT

We have had a very busy term already at Embrace SCITT, supporting over 40 Trainee Teachers through the first phase of their training. The SCITT Leadership Team have been out and seen some brilliant practice in our schools and classrooms. It's an absolute pleasure to see so many excited, hard working professionals joining teaching.

Four of our Trainees have also been selected as part of our Teach Together in Europe partnership which works with three Outstanding International Schools in Brussels, Rome and Prague. This is a prestigious achievement – we are one of only two Teacher Training Providers in England who offer this opportunity for Trainees to complete a teaching practice. Trainees had to apply and were interviewed by the International School Leaders who selected the right candidates.

THE SEA VIEW TRUST

