

CEO Letter Autumn 2 2023

What a fantastic second half of the autumn term it has been! It has been so fast passed seeing so many wonderful curriculum opportunities, superb learning, a further two OFSTEDs, (in two weeks), the History Mark inspection and of course all the beautiful, family filled Christmas experiences.

OFSTED



We are so proud of our three schools who have been inspected this autumn term – what a term! They were three incredibly differing experiences but overall incredibly positive ones. We are so proud that all the teams saw first-hand the hard work and relentless approach to ensure the best outcomes for the schools under the framework and Government stance on Outstanding schools. The most recent two inspections were at Anson and Richard Crosse.

ANSON

Overall Grade: GOOD
 The quality of education - GOOD
 Behaviour and attitudes- OUTSTANDING
 Personal development - OUTSTANDING
 Leadership and management - OUTSTANDING
 EYFS – OUTSTANDING



RICHARD CROSSE

Overall Grade: GOOD
 The quality of education - GOOD
 Behaviour and attitudes- OUTSTANDING
 Personal development - OUTSTANDING
 Leadership and management - GOOD
 EYFS - GOOD

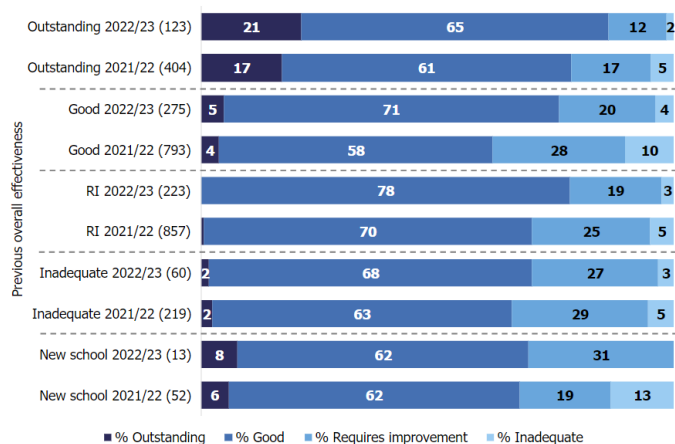


On the 10th November 2021, the Ofsted blog site published: Back into a routine: looking at schools in light of COVID. Chris Russell, National Director for Education, talks about the rebalancing of the outstanding grade back to one in ten, rather than the current one in five.

This is exemplified in recent data from the Government, released on November 7th 2023 which outlines that **only 17% of outstanding schools in 2021/2022 and only 21% in 2022/2023 retained their outstanding grade.** There are many articles ranging from national newspapers, the BBC to educational journals which share detail around this national picture and Government plan.

All that said, whilst gruelling, we are pleased with the relationships forged with the inspectors and are again, immensely grateful to all our staff and leaders across the Trust for their hard work and dedication, passion and drive to ensure that the teams saw our schools shine. Thank you.

Figure 1: Outcomes of graded inspections by previous overall effectiveness grade



Please read the reports, they are beautiful!

<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50235177> Anson

<https://richardcrosse.staffs.sch.uk/our-school/ofsted#doc-collapse-363123> Richard Crosse

<https://www.st-marys-colton.staffs.sch.uk/our-school/ofsted#doc-collapse-350652> St Marys

HISTORY MARK



Congratulations go to all our schools for achieving the **GOLD Historical Association Quality Mark!** This is an award that assesses and recognises the excellence of history provision. We are so proud of our whole team and grateful to our staff and key leaders, Mr Wynn, Mrs Derry, Mrs Jennings and Miss Hyllton for such a successful outcome, the report is a fantastic read and goes into so much detail about the excellence of our History provision.



History Mark Report: https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=4b02ded378&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1784368836645426051&th=18c35a00c0871383&view=att&disp=safe&realattid=f_lpr444kf0

VALUES WORSHIP - SERVICE



The beginning of this term saw **Trust led worship** on the theme of Service. It was great to be hosted at Anson Primary school and broadcast across the trust. Ralph and I enjoyed delivering our values worship where children explored the word service, examples of how children and adults can give service and, they explored the last supper and scripture linked to service "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:15).

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Additionally, we were thrilled to present **long service awards** to Miss Jarrett (Headteacher at Anson), Mrs Watkins (Our Caretaker and Cleaner at Richard Crosse) and myself. We are a little out of kilter with the dates and so Miss Jarret has actually served 29 years, Mrs Watkins, 34 and myself 26. As a Trust we are thrilled to maintain the original Local Authority long service awards offer at 25 years and were thrilled to present them all with a voucher of their choosing. Well done and thank you for your service.



REMEMBRANCE



All our schools held remembrance services on 11th November and it was special for Ralph and I to be able to attend the service held at Anson Primary School. The service was led by the children and Rev. Simon and Rev Neale. You may remember that Rev. Simon is also a 'Member' of the trust (the umbrella leadership structure of the trust (Members - Directors and the central executive team – LGCs and Headteachers). The service was beautiful, attended by the whole community and offered a time for reflection. It was also a time when all of our older children visited the National Memorial arboretum. Please review our Twitter accounts and the school blogs to see photos of all events in their fullest detail with wonderful photos too.



OPEN DAY – MONSTER PHONICS

Lots of our schools hold special open days and I don't attend them all but it was fun to attend St Marys Monster Phonics open day, families and children had a lot of fun.

THE MEASE



We are moving closer to The Mease Federation consisting of St Andrew's and Mary Howard, joining TSSMAT. It has been an absolute pleasure across the year to build relationships with Governors, staff and children across The Mease. Ralph and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting all the children properly this half term and, it was very special to close the calendar year this Christmas by being

blessed to attend the Christingle services for both schools in their local churches and it was great to meet families and communities as well as hear the children sing, share readings and prayers. They all made Ralph and I feel so welcome.



CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Christmas lunches and jumper days!

It was fabulous (and filling) to attend a few Christmas Dinners. At some events we were able to invite Members, Directors, Governors and clergy, what a family feel. I am grateful to all our staff for the hard work behind the scenes making this a special experience for all and to our cooks, it was superb, tasty food, thank you. At Anson the children spontaneously sang Christmas songs! At

The Howard and Richard Crosse we were treated to the 12 days of Christmas.

Christingles



It was so special to be able to attend 4/6 Christingles, they were all so special with beautiful hymns, readings, prayers and even plays to outline the history and meaning of Christingle - Christ Light.

Nativities

Ralph and I were so lucky to see ¾ of the nativities, they were all so special and magical. 'A little bird told me' at St Marys, 'The Twinkle Nativity' at Anson and 'Whoopsie' Daisy Angel at Richard Crosse. I will certainly watch the video of The Howards play over Christmas.



Carol Services

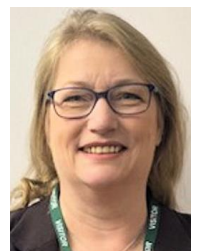
What a blessing to close the Christmas festivities at our schools by attending a few Carol services, they were beautiful with gorgeous singing of a range of modern songs and beautiful old hymns, readings, prayers and even dancing!



DIRECTORS & GOVERNANCE

As you will see from our OFSTED reports, Governance came out very strongly and we are grateful to all our LGCs (Local Governing Committees) for their hard work, being supportive of Headteachers and holding them to account. All the Chairs from across the Trust with the Chair of the Directors held a positive meeting this autumn 2 focussing on how we can share good practice and information across the trust, it was very positive and something we will repeat several times a year.

As you are aware from my last report, we have new joint Chairs of the Trust board of Directors and they have ably led us this term through our inspections and a variety of other developments. Additionally, we have a new Director called Becci Breedon She is a Primary School Headteachers and fits perfectly with our teams needs and ethos.



If you are interested in school Governance or Directorship please do get in touch to find out more details and to see if this is for you.

KITCHENS – FOOD AND MENUS



Our lead cook, Mr Alex Weaver, works hard behind the scenes to get the best food and deals for us and reports that the menus will be changing in February and we are working with a new company to secure an even better options across our Trust as we move to managing six kitchens. As you are aware, staffing and food

costs have increased significantly and we haven't passed this onto our families whilst only slightly adjusting our menus to be more cost effective whilst being nutritious and well sourced. We are now making more food in house than we have ever made before from homemade pizzas to our puddings, constantly reflecting on the healthy balance and even using frozen yoghurt

instead of ice cream. Our cooks are all working extremely hard to maintain a high standard of fresh cooked, nutritious food. We have enjoyed lots of feedback from the children, especially enjoying our homemade burgers and hotdogs in brioche buns using 100% pork sausages. From monitoring we see that the vast majority of children are enjoying our fresh salad bar selection each day. We are excited for our new menus which start in February and more opportunities to bring a special person to lunch so parents/carers and family members can enjoy some lovely, homemade food as well.

We have also been doing our bit for the environment by cutting down chemical and hand towel and toilet tissue waste by installing new machines that control the amount that is dispensed. This has been a massive success in all of our schools. This is part of our decarbonisation plan and includes future plans to remove our steriliser units and install dishwashers using less water and heating elements.

FURTHER CONGRATULATIONS

Many of our staff are undertaking a range of qualifications including the NPQs (National Professional Qualifications) and I am thrilled to notify you that Miss Bowring has achieved her NPQH (National Professional Qualification for Headship). It's a hard and long process and we are really proud of her achievements, well done!

RALPH

Ralph has been involved in everything I have outlined above, children love to see him at the events and he has also enjoyed some walks and a couple of baths!



So it just leaves me to wish you a very Merry Christmas, I hope it is everything you want and need, maybe a peaceful one to restore and reflect or a fun one with families and friends. We also recognise that Christmas is not always a happy time for everyone and pray that everyone finds peace. So, as we enter the time to reflect on the year past, the year to come and things to be grateful for, Ralph and I wish you a very happy Christmas and a spectacular 2024.

Kind Regards,
CS Gethin
Mrs Charlene
Gethin (CEO) and
Ralph.



Here is a festive, and reflective, poem by the brilliant Benjamin Zephaniah, who sadly died this month.

Talking Turkeys

Be nice to yu turkeys dis christmas
Cos' turkeys just wanna hav fun
Turkeys are cool, turkeys are wicked
An every turkey has a Mum.
Be nice to yu turkeys dis christmas,
Don't eat it, keep it alive,
It could be yu mate, an not on your plate
Say, Yo! Turkey I'm on your side.
I got lots of friends who are turkeys
An all of dem fear christmas time,
Dey wanna enjoy it, dey say humans destroyed it
An humans are out of dere mind,
Yeah, I got lots of friends who are turkeys
Dey all hav a right to a life,
Not to be caged up an genetically made up
By any farmer an his wife.

Turkeys just wanna play reggae
Turkeys just wanna hip-hop
Can yu imagine a nice young turkey saying,
'I cannot wait for de chop',
Turkeys like getting presents, dey wanna watch christmas TV,
Turkeys hav brains an turkeys feel pain
In many ways like yu an me.

I once knew a turkey called...Turkey
He said "Benji explain to me please,
Who put de turkey in christmas
An what happens to christmas trees?",
I said "I am not too sure turkey

But it's nothing to do wid Christ Mass
Humans get greedy an waste more dan need be
An business men mek loadsa cash'.
Be nice to yu turkey dis christmas
Invite dem indoors fe sum greens
Let dem eat cake an let dem partake
In a plate of organic grown beans,
Be nice to yu turkey dis christmas
An spare dem de cut of de knife,
Join Turkeys United an dey'll be delighted
An yu will mek new friends 'FOR LIFE'.

