

variation in concept and intervention, repetition, chorusing and intelligent practice.

We are also providing training for Year 5 and Year 6 teachers in the new methods of teaching for example bar modelling and also subject knowledge where applicable. We will be holding moderation sessions where we will look at books, tasks and assessments to ensure consistency across the pyramid. We will have shared assessments and data collections at the end of each module so that we can analyse the data, track strengths and areas for development, so that good and outstanding practice can be shared. Support will also be offered to schools for planning, mastery, use of notebooks, variation etc.

Feedback so far has been positive and analysis of the first data collection is currently underway.

Lighting Refresh

The lighting systems throughout Scissett and Kirkburton Middle Schools have been completely replaced during the Summer holidays, using the latest energy saving LED lighting units. Over 1100 light fittings have been removed and replaced, bringing a new quality in light levels, creating far better learning and working conditions.

Best of all, the new lights only use 30% of the energy that the old system burned through, so saving the schools over £25,000 per year in energy bills. The carbon footprint of the two schools will also be reduced by 72 tonnes of CO₂ each year.



Old lighting - Scissett Middle School Learning Resource Centre

Jason Field, Financial Director of the Mast Academy Trust commented, "We were able to source funding from the Government's Salix Fund which was introduced for exactly this purpose, saving energy and helping to meet lower Carbon targets. All the work was completed in less than 5 weeks by our

contractors Novalux LED and Combined Electrical Solutions. Novalux carried out a detailed survey and energy audit, selected all the appropriate light fittings and managed the full installation by Combined ES."



New lighting - Scissett Middle School Learning Resource Centre

The new improved lighting levels have surprised pupils and staff returning to school in September. One teacher asked if the whole school had been repainted, the working conditions were so improved.

"The minimal maintenance and long life of these new LED fittings mean we will all be enjoying the benefits of this project for at least the next 15 years", commented Jason Field.

2020 Vision

Our 3 year development plan has been developed in consultation with all school leaders and our finance director and IT manager. It includes important elements such as finance and school improvement as well as our growth plan. The Mast 2020 Vision Action Plan sets out broad strategic aims for the academy trust as:

Outcomes

Secure high quality teaching and learning of a rich and broad curriculum in each academy. Ensure that groups at risk of underachieving make good or better progress via implementation of data Strategy.

School Improvement

Secure an accurate and robust self-evaluation process and effective school improvement strategies. Develop school-to-school support. Build links with Teaching Schools and training providers.

Leadership

Develop a fully-functioning, high-level Trust Board that represents the full range of skills required. Embed high quality governance at the Local Governing Board level, focused clearly on raising standards. To empower leaders to lead the improvement journey within and beyond their academies.

Operations

Maintain measured and systematic growth in-line with financial Sustainability. Deliver high quality services to academies.

A Trustee's View

Graham Smith, Mast Academy Trust Trustee

I was delighted to have been asked to join the Trustee Board at the inception of The Mast Academy. By design the 12 Trustees have a wide range of backgrounds which enable us to perform one of our primary functions – to use our diverse skills and experience primarily to support, but also to challenge, the Executive Leadership Team to help to ensure the best possible outcomes for children.

My background was nearly 40 years in multinational corporations in 'big ticket' sales and finance management roles. Until July 2017 I had been a Governor at Kirkburton Middle School for 20 years, being Chair of Finance for most of that time and Chair of Governors for 10 years.

My experiences to date in The Mast have been overwhelmingly positive (apart from the necessarily legalistic and somewhat bureaucratic set up process!). I have enthusiastically accepted the role as one of two 'link' Trustees focussing on Finance – my knowledge of strategic finance in general and school funding in particular mean that I should be able to make innovative financial suggestions, ask appropriate challenging questions and bring an external perspective to financial discussions and decision making. As a link finance Trustee I have worked really closely with our Financial Director, Jason Field. We discuss all aspects of finance, review numbers in detail before Trustee meetings and focus particularly on achieving value for money and strategic budget planning. Our procurement of services, as a group of schools, has improved materially and initiatives such as Green Lighting have been possible – all driving through real savings which release more money to spend directly on pupil education.

Ultimately I believe that Trustee perspectives add to the whole Academy process and hope that my efforts help us to achieve the essential financial elements - long term secure finances and value for money, which help to provide the best education possible for the children and security for our invaluable staff.



Newsletter

AUTUMN 2017

Chairman's Message

Martyn Jones, Chair of the Mast Academy Trust

We are approaching our first year as an Academy Trust. So what has happened since the change?

As Trustees, we believe our role is to ensure that collectively, the four schools in the Trust spend the limited budget we have been given by the Department of Education wisely, so that we can keep investing in our children's education. In my view, much has been achieved by Debra Knowles, Jason Field and the team in rationalising support services like financial accounting, ICT, payroll and even modernising the lighting in our middle schools during the summer holidays that will provide the savings we need for future development and growth.

As Trustees we also want to offer help, advice and constructive comment on the teaching standards and academic performance of the schools under our remit. I am pleased to report that we have the necessary skill sets on the Trust Board, not only from business and finance, but also from education and the public services sector to do this. We are equally fortunate to have a committed and dedicated leadership team within the head teachers and local governing bodies at all four schools, and within the Pyramid, where future growth in school numbers will come from, in the foreseeable future.

Whilst we have made a positive start to the management of the Mast Trust, there is still plenty to do to optimise the collective budget, and much to learn from collective best practice, without losing

the locally tailored curriculum and teaching we enjoy as teachers and parents as well as, from what I have seen on school visits, our all-important children.

With thanks to everyone involved, here's to continued progress and development in the coming academic year.

Mast Committees

In line with our vision and our values, our committee structures facilitate joint working based upon mutual respect and collaboration.

The **Audit Committee** comprises experienced and well informed Trustees who are responsible for overseeing the controls in place at the Trust and also monitoring and acting on risks that the academy faces. This is a vital committee and makes sure that the highest standards of regularity, propriety and compliance are upheld throughout the Trust.

As a Trust, we have formed a **Chair of Governors** committee that meets regularly. This supports strong communications and an opportunity to exchange ideas and opinions. It also demonstrates the value that we place upon Local Governing Bodies.

Currently, this group is working hard to develop a Governing Bodies induction pack so that we can offer parity across our schools, allowing for individuality at the same time. They are also planning an exciting development opportunity for all Governors, utilising the expertise that we have in-house.



The **Staffing Committee** will be meeting in November. Their purpose is to ensure that as a Trust we are ethical and fair in our approach to implementing the Pay Policy and in our approach to Performance Management. This group is comprised of Governors from each school.

Birdsedge First School News



Robinwood

We have been very busy already at Birdsedge. During the first weekend of our new term, Years 4 and 5 visited Robinwood in Todmorden for the weekend. The children all had fun participating in outdoor activities, including climbing, canoeing, zip wire, caving and archery. Even though it poured with rain for most of the weekend, everyone had a great time.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 29th September, we joined in the World's Biggest Coffee morning, organised on behalf of the Macmillan Cancer charity. Thanks to all our parents who kindly donated their money (and waists!) to enjoy coffee and cake to make the event such a success.

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival was held at the village Methodist Chapel again this year. Pupils and staff were joined in the congregation by their families for worship and thanks for the harvest season. All food donations were given to the Christian African Relief Trust.

Scissett Middle School News

Site Changes

We have had lots of work done over the Summer Holiday to make improvements to the school site. All our lights have been changed to LED to get better value from energy bills and improve the light quality in learning spaces. We have also removed the cloakrooms and replaced them with lockers – we have already seen a big reduction in lost property and we have made some new learning spaces.



The school has had a fresh coat of paint and we have put up Growth Mindset inspirational quotes around the school to remind pupils that anything is possible when you learn from your mistakes. Some of these pieces have been incorporated with Art work produced by current pupils which looks stunning. We continue to operate a one-way system at busy times for health and safety reasons but pupils can cut through the Shared Area.

Keeping Children Safe online

We have reminded all pupils about how to report any concerns around safeguarding. All pupils have had a recap about staying safe online and Year 6 have been shown how to identify concerns on-

line if accessing social media sites. I would ask all parents to continue to be vigilant around social media sites and to ensure children use messaging and posting forums responsibly and respectfully.

As part of our new Community Hub (The Bridge), which seeks to provide local services to families within our community, we are hosting an event in November on how parents can help keep children safe online. We will have practical help on how to set up safety systems on devices at home from experts within our region. This event will take place on: 8th November 2017 6pm-8pm. More details will follow closer to the time.

Charity Work

As Year 8 parents will be aware, in the last week of term, Year 7 classes were each given £30 and asked to raise as much money as they could for a given charity. This was done as part of the Summer Fayre which was massively supported by parents and pupils from other year groups. Pupils raised the following amounts of money:

8NR	Dreamflight	£163
8TM	Chernobyl	£171
8MO	Welcome Centre	£215
8SB	Forget me not	£160
8RP	Denby Dale Centre	£211
8RJ	Water Aid	£164
8TF	Ethiopia	£199

In total, pupils raised nearly £1500 for charity which is a fantastic achievement and clearly demonstrates what great entrepreneurs they are. We are also very grateful to families who contributed clothes to Chernobyl; Food to the Food bank; outgrown school shoes and outgrown uniform for the Uniform Exchange as well as all the extras brought in by children to help raise funds.

Pupils at Scissett Middle School continue to amaze me with their kindness, generosity and thoughts for others who may be less fortunate than themselves. Learning about these charities and proactively supporting them, allows our young people to develop greater skills of empathy and compassion – essential in early adolescence.

Kirkburton Middle School Sporting Achievements



Congratulations to the following KMS pupils who have been selected at various levels of representative sport:

Joshua Burden. Josh is a fantastic skier who races for Lions Ski Club at Castleford. This year he has competed in the Scottish Championships and Anglo Welsh Championships, as well as other national club events throughout the year. Joshua's Lions Race Team are going out to the Artemis British Inter-School Ski Challenge which is being held in Pila, Italy next March. We wish him all the very best.

Ruby McLellan. After having to meet a number of challenges for selection, Ruby has been chosen for the beginners' stage of training for the Yorkshire Ladies Juniors Golf at Sandburn Golf Club. Well done Ruby, you can certainly teach Mr Johnson a thing or two!

Jonas Rushworth. Jonas is a highly talented and dedicated athlete who trains with Leeds City Athletics, working alongside such world class athletes as Nile Wilson. He recently won a silver medal in the regional championships which means he will now be competing in the National Finals at the beginning of November. Best of luck Jonas.

Congratulations to Evie Wilks, Ellie Nightingale, Scarlet Taylor, Emma Coneron and Emily Wakefield who have all been selected for Huddersfield Schools' Netball Team.

Congratulations also to Bella Sykes who has been selected to play cricket for West Yorkshire.

Shelley First School News

Staffing

We were very sorry to say a fond farewell to our School Business Manager, Mrs Dawn Lawton in September. She has dedicated 9 years to the school and she is very much missed. Mrs Sarah Walters has agreed to take on the Business Manager role and she is a good example of how we as a Trust develop the potential of our teams.

System Leaders

We consider all staff to be leaders but are particularly pleased with the quality work being carried out by staff beyond our own school.

As a school we have 2 Specialist Leaders of Education: Sarah Cunningham and Catherine Bacon, who both lead Continuous Personal Development and school-to-school support as well as supporting students within the West Yorkshire Teaching Alliance (WYTA).

Sarah Cunningham is also a KS1 Moderator and has recently delivered CPD* to a secondary MAT in Oldham in Literacy. Jeannette Peake is an Early Years Moderator as well as also running WYTA CPD and supporting beyond the school. Faye Hirst is one of a small group of teachers advising and supporting the White Rose Maths Hub in developing planning and resources for schools.

Dance Film

We were very proud to produce a Dance Film this year. The film showcased traditional dancing as well as dancing taught during our annual Cultural Arts Week. Please contact us if you wish to see the film, featuring all pupils and staff.

ICT Update

James Ambler, ICT Manager

As the Mast Multi-Academy Trust was being formed, I started to look at ICT strategy so that our schools work together to ensure efficiency, cost savings and best value, to provide systems that benefit teaching and learning and facilitate collaborative working.

Technical surveys of our schools, the results of a staff survey and the ICT

strategy were presented to Headteachers in May 2017. A decision was taken to standardise the provision in First Schools with them being supported by a single provider, CBC Computers, who were identified as providing best value and for Mast ICT staff to continue to support the Middle Schools with some projects delivered jointly with CBC.



The surveys highlighted key priorities which formed an action plan to raise the standard of ICT in our schools with the longer term goal of having a centralised system for ICT administration and academy trust specific data; permitting staff working across all of our sites and externally. In keeping with the context of the Mast, schools will still be able to operate independently, for example - in the event that the internet becomes unavailable or if there were an ICT issue in another school. ICT strategy recommendations are made to Headteachers who decide whether to approve them or not.

Procurement options are being investigated so that we can use our joint buying power to drive down the costs of hardware and software by purchasing in greater volume as an academy trust. Telephone and photocopier contracts have been reviewed as part of an exercise to find the best value offerings and solutions which best meet our needs.

A programme of work has started to upgrade PCs to the latest version of Windows and Office before the end of Windows 7 support in 2020, the majority of computers at Shelley First School and all computers at Scissett Middle School, other than in the two ICT Suites have already been upgraded. Infrastructure improvements are planned for Kirkburton Middle School to improve server and network performance, which will aid teaching and learning by speeding up logon times and access to resources.

Scissett Middle School and Scissett CE Academy (part of the Learning Accord

Academy Trust) ICT staff have worked closely for many years, sharing best practice, infrastructure and internet connections to reduce costs and support each other. This partnership means that we have infrastructure, connectivity and backup and disaster systems in place which will be of great benefit to the other schools in our trust.

An ICT Focus group, comprising of teaching staff, leadership, the Finance Director and I meet on a termly basis to discuss ICT development and issues across the academy trust.

A Mast Academy Trust website has been established and can be found at www.themast.co.uk

A key value of our academy trust is to embrace technologies and new ways of working, to reflect the changing needs of our world. By ensuring that we have a solid platform to build on we will be able to embrace future waves of technology and ways of working to benefit our children and prepare them for life in the modern workplace.

Year 5 & 6 Maths Project

Ann Large, Deputy Head - Scissett Middle School

September saw the launch of the Year 5 and 6 Maths Project, planning and preparation had been underway since Easter.

We are hoping that through this project all teachers in Year 5 and Year 6 will be working to a shared understanding of what it means for pupils to be secure in their mathematics and ensures greater numbers of pupils meet their age related expectation, make expected or greater than expected progress and achieve their Key Stage 2 Raise targets.

We are doing this through having a shared scheme of work and assessments. These will fully adopt the new national curriculum of fluency, problem solving and reasoning. The work that has been produced is for all three areas of the national curriculum. Each module of work includes comprehensive Smart Notebooks, formative assessment tasks and summative assessment tests. The lessons planned include teacher led activities, concrete examples, pictorial representation, variation in imagery,

* CPD = Continuous Personal Development