



Newsletter

Summer 2018

Welcome to The Mast Academy Trust Summer 2018 Newsletter

Martyn Jones - Chair of The Mast Academy Trust

The Academy continues to develop, and our financial position remains strong in the medium term, although costs, including staff costs are increasing faster than previously budgeted. This means that we have to remain vigilant of our spending in the future, as Government funding levels on education remain uncertain.

It is our constant mission to ensure that we protect and improve the educational experience for our children, which means that we have had to strive harder, both to reduce back office costs and to provide our teachers with the latest tools to help them do their jobs. We are currently rolling out new laptops to the majority of our teaching staff to help improve the quality and efficiency of their lesson planning, preparation and delivery.

I hope that you find this newsletter informative, but do not hesitate to email me or other members of the Trustee Board if it prompts any questions.

Read on and enjoy.

Year 5 and 6 Maths Project

*Ann Large - Deputy Headteacher,
Scissett Middle School*

The Maths Project is nearly at the end of the first year, the writing of the Year 6 materials is now underway and will be in place for July when the Year 5 pupils join the middle schools. The working party that has grown in number and now includes another Year 6 Maths teacher and a Year 5 teacher who is just completing his NQT year. All resources, training, data and research are shared on a Google Team Drive and we now have 83 colleagues accessing these.

The shared scheme of work was used by all first schools in September 2017 and 13 schools have followed the planning through to the end of the academic year. Training sessions throughout the year have been adapted as they initially started with Year 5 teachers and Maths leads but feedback stated that many schools felt as many staff as possible should be receiving the training on mastery approaches so plans were changed and we looked at progression from KS1 to KS4 in topics and delivered training on this. We had twilight sessions where many schools brought all their staff and our numbers grew to 68 staff at one session. Training sessions included the following topics: Maths Mastery, Bar Modelling, Using Manipulatives, Teaching Fractions Year 1 to Year 6. This has given a great opportunity for Y5 and Y6 teachers to work and train together. We have been able to take feedback from everyone involved at each session and have adapted the scheme, the resources and training as necessary.

The final training session for this academic year has taken place and we concluded by asking all Year 5 teachers and Headteachers present to evaluate the year, looking at what had gone well, what changes could be made to ensure that progress made by pupils is substantial and sustained and training priorities for the next academic year. Using evaluations, we intend to work together to ensure that progress made by pupils is substantial and sustained. We are also planning further training for 2018–19. Some of the highlights are detailed below:

“I have valued the educational resources and examples of questions/worksheets that I've used to deliver the correct level of understanding and challenge.” “Training (mostly) getting Year 5 and 6 together. Links to mastery. Resources provided Range of resources – really like the shared drive.” “Support using new concepts i.e. bar modelling. Training. Range of resources available, variety of questions and resources.” “Resources on line have been invaluable. Training has been great – sharing practice etc. Explanation of strategies has been great.” “Discussion questions sometimes, always, never.”

Variety and depth of mathematical concepts covered allowing for improved teaching of concepts to children.

Assessments have been completed after each topic, the data has been collected, analysed and shared with all the Headteachers and can be accessed on the Team Drive.

We will continue to analyse the Year 5 data throughout the second year of the project and also send half termly analysis of the Year 6 data back to each school so pupils can be tracked towards the Key Stage 2 Sat. Shared accountability now exists within Mathematics across the majority of schools in the pyramid and as our pupils move into Year 6 in September 2018, all Year 6 teachers will have very detailed topic level data for every pupil and also can be assured that all children have covered the same content and styles of mastery teaching in Year 5.

The two middle schools can use the KS2 targets and the detailed Year 5 data to ensure every pupil can make better than or expected progress. Several visits have been made to First schools to help in lessons, carry out work scrutiny and to offer extra support when it has been requested. Sharing practice will help all staff develop their mastery approach and both Middle Schools have extended an open invitation to all First school staff to visit Year 6 Maths lessons throughout the new academic year.

Kirkburton Middle School Update

*Gary Johnson - Headteacher,
Kirkburton Middle School*

Welcome to our final Newsletter update of this academic year - and what a fantastic year it has been! The long, cold Spring Term and the long, hot Summer Term were, as always, extremely busy with pupils and staff working to their maximum as Key Stage 2 SATs and end of year testing in Key Stage 3 drew near. In particular, the determination and dedication everyone showed in their preparations for the Key Stage 2 tests was exemplary. As I am sure you are all aware, the demands of these tests have never been higher, with some content that was recently at GCSE level now being put in to the tests of our 10 and 11 year olds. The children really did you and the school proud in their application and focus.



The term was not just about testing. Year 6 visited Bushcraft in Cheshire for a weekend, building shelters, making fires and cooking their own food. As they left the bus on the Sunday upon their return many of them still had camouflage paint on their faces and looked like they needed a long, hot bath (staff included!) All had a fantastic time.

Year 7 visited Normandy where they stayed at Chateau Beaumont, meeting pupils from a French High School and making long-lasting friendships with our European neighbours. The children developed their language skills and really involved themselves in French life.

Year 8 visited The Ardeche gorge, canoeing down the river for three days. They then moved on to Mimos in the South of France and learned how to wind-surf and sail a variety of craft, including the exciting catamarans.

Year 7 visited Caythorpe Court for the weekend, enjoying a whole host of outdoor and adventurous activities such as climbing, canoeing, abseiling, high ropes, zip wire, archery, trapeze and orienteering.

I would like to say a personal thank you to all the staff who gave of their time to provide such fantastic opportunities for the children - they have memories which they will keep for a lifetime.

I would also like to say an enormous thank you and well done to all the children involved. They were a real credit to themselves and the school - the bus driver on the Ardeche trip even took the time afterwards to write to us to say that in 30 years of driving they were the best group he had ever taken. The staff at each centre, and the general public, also had nothing but praise for the manner in which all the children conducted themselves. The future is really looking bright if the pupils at KMS are anything to go by!

Further extra-curricular and enrichment activities: I would also like to say a huge thank you to all the staff, and a well done to all the children, for the wide and extended variety of clubs that have been on offer this year and in which many children have fully participated. These include a vast range of sporting activities, Chess Club, Warhammer, STEM, Windband, African Drumming, Gardening Club, Junior Maths Challenge, Art Club, Choir and our CAD/CAM (Computer-aided design and making) Club, to name but a few. On top of all this we then have many talented and hard-working pupils who achieve great things outside school: trampolining champion, Street Dance Champions, dancers, Mrs Sunderland category winners, Air Cadets, Huddersfield's Got Talent winners and many many more children who are thriving in their chosen field.

All this is testament to the hard work and dedication shown by our amazing pupils and our dedicated and caring staff. It really is a privilege to be Headteacher of a school with such ambitious, talented and hard-working people!

The Mast's First Local Governing Body Conference

*Ruth Potter - Chair of Governors,
Scissett Middle School*

The first Mast Governors Conference was held earlier this summer. Attendance was excellent despite a sunny evening and an England football match. Governors from all The Mast schools and 4 additional pyramid schools were in attendance along with some members, trustees and school senior leaders.

The conference was opened by Debra Knowles the Chief Executive Officer who welcomed the guests and went on to provide a broad overview of the activities and successes of the Trust in its first year of operation. Debra highlighted the many benefits of joint working including the sharing of expertise and the economies of scale in purchasing goods and services.

The next speaker was Natasha Greenough the Headteacher at Scissett Middle School. Natasha speaking as a professional with up to date experience of inspections under Ofsted, gave a very useful summary of the new inspection framework. She then went on to offer governors excellent guidance on the areas that Ofsted would expect them to be competent in and some of the key questions that might be asked of them.

Delegates then had the opportunity to split into smaller workshops to cover additional subjects including Finance for Governors, Effective Governor Visits, SEND and Pupil Premium.

All speakers were asked to address their subject with Ofsted inspection in mind and to speak for

no more than half the time, leading structured discussion during the rest of the time to allow attendees the opportunity to share their experiences.

The event was timed to start at 6pm to allow people to attend straight after work, which our post event feedback indicated was a popular arrangement. Feedback also showed that the conference was very well received by those who attended. 100% of respondents said they were very likely to attend the next conference. And so... The 2018/19 Mast Governors Conference will be planned soon. Details of the date and theme will be circulated in due course. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Shelley First School Update

Debra Knowles - Headteacher, Shelley First School

Another very successful academic year has passed us by in a flash, yet again, at Shelley First School. We have warmly welcomed new staff to the team and sadly said goodbye to familiar faces over the school year - we are very excited for what is still yet to come.

For staff, we have held INSET training to support CPD covering the entire curriculum: Maths, English and topic work. Individual teachers have developed their own subject leadership through attending school-based and off site courses. The 'Forest Schools' initiative is of paramount importance to our school and staff feel well equipped to develop learning opportunities outside of the classroom after a very successful training held on school grounds. Shelley First School has managed to support two members of our team in successfully becoming moderators for the Local Authority.

Miss Bacon and Mrs Peake have put their training into practice by completing successful moderations in several schools across Kirklees. Key staff also support beyond the school, developing their own leadership skills.

At Shelley First School, we pride ourselves on providing children with a well-planned, creative curriculum which inspires their learning and produces children with a 'growth mindset'. We have worked alongside GROW, who regularly provide sessions to all children throughout school, developing their knowledge and understanding of gardening, planting and harvesting crops. We even get to reap the benefits of our hard labour by eating the produce in our school lunches.

Each class has planned and delivered successful 'Creative Curriculum' weeks where the main purpose is to inspire children, in particularly the foundation subjects' and immerse them in new, more creative ways of learning. Our STEM week was a fine example of this, where children became absorbed in their science topics for an entire week.

Staff planned exciting yet challenging activities for children to take part in and there was a fantastic 'buzz' around school.

Throughout the year there have been some fantastic money raising events. Our families and the Friends of School' have supported school fully in helping to raise money to fund exciting extra-

curricular activities such as trips and visitors into school - each providing an important learning experience for our children. The most recent was Fit4Funds day where all children were sponsored

to perform a sporting challenge. It was a great success and lots of money was raised with a proportion donated to charity.

Over the year, many sporting events have taken place and our children have competed eagerly and made everyone at Shelley First School extremely proud of them. From rugby, cricket and football tournaments to a swimming gala and a very successful cross country team (where some of our children were even picked to represent at the National competition) we had children competing at a very high standard across the board. We even had a child in Year 4, Xander, who took part in the Dutch Masters for Taekwondo and he came first in his category!

Our staff are thoroughly committed to supporting our children at out of school events and Mr Pritchard has played a vital role in organising the teams for many of them.

Year 5 also took part in a very successful residential in May to Kingswood Outdoor Education Centre. This was the first time that some of our children had stayed away from home. They had great fun and created memories that are sure to last a life time.

Lots of information is available on our school website and parents can also now download an App so that they can access relevant information at all times.

Good News from Birdsedge

John Simmons - Headteacher, Birdsedge First School

Academic results - The Key Stage 1 results are pleasing in Maths and are Good in Reading and Writing. All the children passed their Phonics test re-take score of 100% rate. 85% of Year 1 pupils passed their phonics check. Year 5 reading results from GL assessment were excellent, and have prepared the children well for Middle School.

Sports Day and Tag Rugby - Birdsedge team won the Shelley Pyramid Sports Tag Rugby event this term. Our Sports Day in July was well attended with children, parents and teachers taking part.



Transition to Middle School - All our Year 5 children have successfully transferred through to Middle School due to the numerous transition events which have taken place. The children participated in events such as Art, French, and Music. Thanks to Mrs Scouarnec for organising this.

Scissett Safeguarding Project

Jason Field - Finance Director,
The Mast Academy Trust

We are really pleased to tell you that over the summer we are enhancing the environment at Scissett Middle School to ensure that our children are protected from some of the anti-social behaviour that has been encountered on this site in more recent times. A new investment, funded by the Condition Improvement Fund, has been agreed by the Department for Education and will allow us to make the site more secure. We are really confident that this will give our children the chance to feel safe on site and to ensure that they are not put in danger by coming into contact with incidents of anti-social behaviour, dog fouling and dangerous vehicle movements on site.

It is also important to us that the community continue to enjoy access to the site and the MUGA will be available, as it has been in the past for the community to use outside of school hours. We are also making sure that much of the playing field is available for use by the community, with sports club and the general public being able to use the site at times when this will not impact on the safety or education of our children. It is fantastic that we can continue our positive relationships with the wider community at the same time as making sure that our communities children are being educated in a safe and nurturing environment.

GDPR

As everyone is no doubt aware by now the new GDPR regulations came into effect on May 25th of this year to ensure that the rights of individuals are protected with regards to their personal data. It also makes clear that our schools, where they have lawful reasons for doing so, are absolutely entitled to use personal data for serving the purposes of the Trust.

To ensure that everyone is aware of the requirements we have launched an extensive training and compliance programme and appointed a Data Protection Officer. We are absolutely determined that the security of individuals data will be paramount in everything that we do and that we will use data to improve the education of our children and promote transparency through a new set of policies and procedures that will be available to all through the website.

Whilst the GDPR is not entirely new and builds on principles already laid down by the Data Protection Act of 1998, we think it has been a great opportunity to look again at our practices and we will continue to review and improve our training and procedures throughout the course of the next academic year.

Staff Wellbeing Services

We are really pleased, that since becoming the Mast Academy Trust, we have been able to offer our staff enhanced wellbeing services that bring benefit to all our employees. This package of measures has already benefited a number of our staff and we are pleased to see it continuing into the future. This means that staff can benefit from a number of health and wellbeing services free of charge. These services include:

- Access to an online GP and 24/7 GP consultation
- Free physio sessions after GP referral

- Stress risk management workshops
- Lifestyle Health Screening
- Nurse absence support
- Confidential relationship counselling

We hope that more staff will access these services that are available to all over the course of the next year and will be actively encouraging engagement with these processes. It is really easy to access the services through the dedicated support number or the online app offered.

Scissett Middle School Update



Well done to all of our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils who received a Merit Award!

Harry Potter Trip

Vikki Ward - Head of Year 8,
Scissett Middle School

On Friday 13 July (what could possibly go wrong!) 19 Scissett Middle School staff accompanied 192 Year 6 pupils to the wonderful wizarding world of Harry Potter at the Warner Brother Studios in Watford. It was an early start – 7.30am is not a great time for herding excited 11-year olds on to four coaches – but by 8am our little convoy was 'rowling' down the M1 in search of a little magic.

As usual, our pupils didn't let us down and were great ambassadors for the school. We enjoyed the seeing the different sets from the films, the weird and wonderful creatures – including the giant spiders – and wandering around the Forbidden Forest. The butterbeer had mixed reviews but the ice-cream version was met with universal approval. Some of our pupils even took flight with the benefit of green screen technology and left with the photographs to prove it!

Finally, we left the studios for home, with a short stop for McDonald's on route, before reaching school at 8.30pm. We had a long, tiring but enjoyable day and may even have a new Quidditch team in the making!

Reward Trips

Jason Terry - Pastoral Leader,
Scissett Middle School

On July 5th we took 375 pupils out on a number of reward trips.

We took 150 pupils to Xscape in Castleford to take part in three different activities. 50 pupils from each of the year groups played golf, tenpin bowling and sledging in the Snowzone centre. The feedback from the pupils was very positive.

On the same day we took 225 pupils to Cineworld to watch a film. The Year 6 & 7 pupils watched 'The Greatest Showman' while the Year 8 pupils watched 'Jurassic World'.

Once the film was finished all 225 pupils went to The Yorkshire Sculpture Park for a picnic and a walk around the grounds. Again the feedback was positive.

The behaviour of the pupils on these trips was impeccable.

The rest of the pupils stayed in school with the choice of either watching a film in the hall or taking part in several sporting activities. There were two films to enjoy, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon, these were 'Jumanji' and 'Coco'. Sporting activities lasted throughout the day.

Maths Competitions

Nicola Robinson - Head of Maths,
Scissett Middle School

Year 7 Maths Competition at Shelley College

We took two teams of four pupils for a Maths Competition at Shelley College in June. Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and came back victorious after securing 1st and 2nd place.



Junior Maths Challenge

Some of our Year 6, 7 and 8 pupils entered the Junior Maths Challenge in April. This is run by the University of Leeds and is a highly thought of national competition. The questions appeal to children who enjoy puzzles of a mathematical nature and like problem solving. This year 54 of our pupils were awarded certificates: 4 Gold, 30 Silver and 20 Bronze. 2 of our Year 8 pupils got through to the next stage of the competition which is called the Junior Kangaroo.

