



Peterborough Diocese
Education Trust


ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER

news

AUTUMN 2017



Children at Sports Day/credit cophotodesign.co.uk



Dear Parents/Carers

The Church of England has been running schools for over two hundred years in the belief that every child deserves a good education, which enables each to flourish and achieve his or her God-given potential. A good education helps develop character and can be life transforming. It helps prepare a child for life in our diverse society and to contribute to it. To continue this rich heritage, it has been a privilege to establish and lead the diocesan multi-academy trust for the last three and a half years. Now, as I prepare to retire, it is time to pass on this precious charge.

My last term in post has been another exciting one in the development of PDET. In September, we welcomed Welford Sibbertoft and Sulby Endowed School into our Trust, making

us a family of 23 schools. Other schools join next year. Four of our schools have had Ofsted inspections and all received 'Good' judgements; this means eight Ofsted inspections and eight 'Good' judgements in 2017.

We held our first trust-wide training day in October for all classroom based staff. To help prepare children for life in modern Britain, we also added a Faith Roadshow to our Enrichment Programme. You can read more about these exciting developments on the following pages.

Wishing you the peace and joy that come with the spirit of Christmas.

Miranda Robinson

Canon. Miranda Robinson
PDET Chief Executive



Introducing our new school



Welford, Sibbertoft & Sulby Endowed School (WSSES)

joined in September

WSSES is a small primary school situated in the village of Welford on the county border of Northamptonshire and Leicestershire.

The extensively refurbished and modernised Victorian school building is pleasantly situated in spacious grounds and overlooks undulating countryside. The outdoors is regularly accessed to enrich our curriculum and our early years children love their weekly welly walking. We have a whole school approach to a creative curriculum with amazing WOWs to enhance learning and really enjoy our House Team challenges.

We have carefully selected and agreed a set of nine Christian values that we believe are important to the growth of well-rounded young people and reflect our schools foundation in the Christian faith. These values are Friendship, Thankfulness, Peace, Courage, Perseverance, Hope, Forgiveness, Truthfulness and Trust, Respect and Responsibility. In learning about these values children are encouraged to consider these values and use them as a guide to their behaviour.



Leading school for reading

Congratulations to St Andrews Primary School, Kettering who has been identified by Northamptonshire Local Authority as a Leading School for reading.

The school has recently held their first reading open morning for this academic year, following the great success they had last year. Parents and grandparents are given the opportunity to come in and read with their children in various locations around the school, including their amazing 'places to read' library.

Sarah Buettner, Reading & Grammar Lead at St Andrews said "The initiative encourages a love of reading and the joy that comes from sharing good books."



Spotlight on the Business & Finance Committee

All multi academy trusts must comply with the Academies Financial Handbook. This stipulates that trusts must achieve "the best possible educational and wider societal outcomes through the economic, efficient and effective use of all the resources in the trust's charge, the avoidance of waste and extravagance, and prudent and economical administration."

Peterborough Diocese Education Trust manages grant income of over £14 million a year and our Accounting Officer is personally accountable to Parliament for the responsibility above. Directors formed the Business Management Committee

as a sub-committee of the main board of Directors to assist with this responsibility. Its purpose is to maintain an oversight of PDET's finances, human resources, payroll, administration, marketing, health & safety, premises, insurance and ICT.

The committee comprises of four PDET Directors, PDET's Chief Executive Officer, two PDET Chairs of Governors and a banking professional. It meets at least six times a year.



Staff development

Inset day

On Monday 30th October over 350 PDET teachers, teaching assistants, headteachers and deputy headteachers attended the first ever PDET-wide INSET day!

The day was led by Ben Walden from 'Contender Charlie' who presented on the '4 Elements of Education'.

The presentation was centred around the question of; 'How can education engage as many students as possible and develop their own natural skills and strengths?'



Ben has given main keynote addresses for groups such as the ICP Convention in Australia, the ESF Principals in Hong Kong, the Latin America Headteachers Conference, as well as the IB World student Conference. He has also been a regular speaker at the New Heads Conference for the National College of School Leadership in the UK.

Ben was incredibly engaging and perfectly pitched to engage a wide ranging audience, and gave all who attended a perfect dose of thought provoking content delivered with humour and Shakespearean gusto!

The day enabled all of the teaching staff at our schools to feel part of the wider community of PDET, they met new colleagues, old friends, and members of the PDET central team and we all heard the same message about how valuable our roles are for the future generation. We look forward to the next one!



'I was blown away! A very inspiring and thought-provoking morning.'

'Reminded me what I got into teaching for.'

'Great for staff morale.'

'If you didn't practice this before, you will after.'

'Inspired me to be the best I can.'



Working with, not doing to

The agenda for our Headteacher Development Day this term focused on reviewing the performance of schools across the PDET, understanding management accounts and improving governance. The day ended, as usual, with an opportunity for headteachers to quiz the CEO about concerns and suggest improvements to our operation.

Growing leaders

Our Coffee, Cake and Career Development session for aspiring headteachers was held in November. A lead Ofsted inspector gave guidance on how to interpret pupil data using the new analyse school performance (ASP) service.

Ofsted

Following four very successful Ofsted inspections in May and June 2017, another four academies welcomed Ofsted inspectors in September and October. These were the first inspections for these academies since they joined PDET in 2014. All four achieved 'Good' grading which now means that all eight PDET academies inspected to date, have been graded as 'Good'. Once again, strong leadership has been identified across the academies. Coupled with this, inspectors have praised the ethos of the academies and the wide range of enriching, learning experiences provided by committed staff.

At Great Addington inspectors praised the head teacher for leading by example and the high level of expertise of the governing body. Furthermore, inspectors wrote: 'The school emanates warmth, providing pupils with a safe and secure environment'.

Inspectors praised the new head teacher at Loddington for establishing positive relationships with pupils, staff and the community. They stated that the school's values of peace, friendship, perseverance, respect, wisdom and trust are evident in the pupils' positive relationships with each other. The governing body's ambition and commitment to raise pupils' achievement was also recognised.

St Barnabas' report recognised the headteacher's unwavering approach to school improvement and the highly effective governance at the school. The promotion of pupils' personal development and welfare was also recognised as a strength of the school.

At Ryhall the headteacher's inspiring leadership was praised. In addition, the inspector commended the way the staff team work well together for the benefit of all pupils. It was recognised that the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is also promoted exceptionally well.

Huge congratulations to all!

'Effective training and support brokered by the Peterborough Diocese Education Trust has improved provision and the quality of teaching is good.'

School enrichment



In October we held our first Faith Roadshow at Wicksteed Park for year 5 children from eight of our schools and year 2 children from St Barnabas.

The roadshow was run by the Leicester-based St Philip's Centre, a charity which works to build good inter-faith relations through a programme of activities and courses. The day gave children the opportunity to learn about different world religions and beliefs all under one roof.

Children engaged in a series of fun and interactive exercises designed to help them learn about the Baha'i faith, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Humanism, Islam, Judaism, Jainism and Sikhism.

Children could investigate various stalls displaying religious artefacts, pictures and symbols and had the opportunity to ask questions to each faith or belief

practitioner. They also tasted different foods and tried on items of cultural clothing such as saris and turbans.

The roadshow is a vital ingredient in helping to broaden the perspectives of children. Symbolically it also shows them that people of different faiths and beliefs can and do work together to help build peace and harmony.

Our remaining schools will have an opportunity to immerse themselves in world religions in March 2018.





Introducing our new headteachers



Ashley Scott
Cottingham CE
Primary School

My first term has been a roller coaster ride of emotions and experiences. Leading a smaller than average school has its challenges as well as many positives. I have been fortunate to work with colleagues who have taken on board my ideas and have made me feel so welcome. This is also the same from the children and parents.



Jo Griffin
Towcester CE
Primary School

Whilst a new Headteacher, I am a familiar face to the pupils, parents, Towcester and PDET community having been the Deputy Head at Towcester Primary for 9 years, and I have appreciated the benefit of knowing the staff, children, parents and school systems.



Sarah Beach
St James CE
Primary School

I was previously Deputy Head at St Andrew's in Kettering, the very first PDET school. A highlight of this term at St James' has been meeting Pudsey Bear as well as taking part in the WWI anniversary of a Zeppelin raid over Northampton. One of my biggest challenges is learning the names of the 460 children here – I had set myself a target of Christmas but I am still a long way off!



Gwenda Barker
Braunston CE
Primary School

Last year I was co-headteacher with Sue Rigby (now retired). My highs from the first term all came from the progress and achievement of children both in and out of school; a Deputy (worth her weight in gold); a team of staff who achieve incredible things every day and supportive governors and parents who were willing me on to succeed.



Neil Aiken
Loddington CE
Primary School

Loddington is like coming back to grass roots... I was Deputy head at Broughton Primary, just up the road, before becoming a Headteacher of a remote island school in Shetland, with only three children! Loddington has been a fabulous move, a lovely village setting with delightful children. Biggest challenge was being faced with Ofsted after only six days in post!



Sue Marsh
Greens Norton CE
Primary School

I was Deputy Head at Brixworth Primary and then Bugbrooke Primary for four years. Keen to lead a Church school again, I was thrilled to be appointed to Greens Norton. The highlight of the term so far for me has been the evident willingness and commitment of the staff to achieving the best for all our children.



Farewell

At the end of December we say a fond farewell to our CEO/ Diocesan Director of Education Miranda Robinson who, if you are not aware, is retiring.

The Diocese took the decision in 2013 to create a multi-academy trust and Miranda was responsible for establishing and leading this exciting new venture. The first academy school joined the MAT on 1st May 2014. Since that date PDET has grown steadily under her expert leadership to twenty-three academy schools with every prospect of more schools joining within the forthcoming year. PDET is one of the fastest growing MATs across the country and it is to Miranda's credit that the



Regional Schools' Commissioner has supported and encouraged this growth by recognising Miranda's dedication to and vision for academy schools. Her unwavering belief has always been that children deserve the very best education and that to achieve this schools must work closely together. The success of PDET is testament to that belief.

It has been a privilege to work with such an inspiring leader and we wish her a very happy and peaceful and well-deserved retirement.



Welcome

Duncan Mills succeeds Miranda as PDET CEO from the beginning of January. Duncan joins us with a great deal of experience of working in the Local Authority both as an Education Officer and as a Strategic Planning Manager for Northamptonshire County Council. For the past two years, Duncan has been the Managing Director of a Multi Academy Trust.

We very much look forward to working with him to take PDET through the next phase of its development.