

TRUST UPDATE



Champion
EDUCATION TRUST
A family of Schools

DECEMBER 2023

HEARTFELT THANKS



As the Christmas break approaches I wanted to send my sincere thanks for all the hard work you have done this term in making our schools safe, supportive and engaging, enabling our children to flourish. And for supporting your colleagues and for continuing to ensure that our schools are the best they can be for the communities we serve.

As you are all aware I will be continuing in my role next term and supporting the trustees in securing my succession. Be assured the Trust has a process in place and will ensure that the Champion vision is maintained. When there is any news to share, it will be shared with you all.

Wishing you a very restful and peaceful Christmas break whatever celebrations you have planned.

Diane



UPDATE FROM THE CENTRAL TEAM



Our central team plays an instrumental role in ensuring that the business functions of the Trust run smoothly and where appropriate, they work to centralise systems and processes across all three schools so that we can benefit from cost savings and make processes more efficient. The model below shows the functions that sit within the central team at present.

Our finance team will be commencing a project in the new year to look at centralising some cross-Trust procurement and finance processes, which will bring cost savings that can then be reinvested back into schools. We will keep you posted on developments.

The IT team is currently working on a number of projects, including improving the Wi-Fi at BCHS and introducing guest Wi-Fi at Lotus. On top of this, the team runs the IT helpdesk, which deals with a large number of job requests. Since September for instance they have dealt with almost 1300 tickets.

Our marketing officer, who started earlier this year, has re-established our social media channels and termly newsletters for our schools, as well as providing graphic design support to schools. In the new year she will also be looking at redeveloping our websites to make them more user friendly.

FINANCE

IT

MARKETING

HR

**HEALTH &
SAFETY**

GOVERNANCE

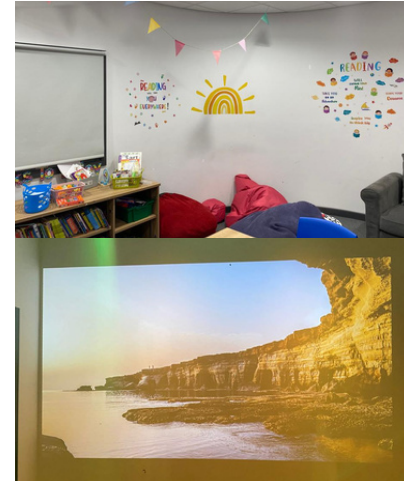
LOTUS SCHOOL



Significant progress has been made at Lotus this term in lots of subject areas. Our reading mission has continued with the development of a library, which is now a dedicated space furnished with hundreds of books. Students can browse the books each morning in form time and can use the library to quietly read at break or lunch.

Students are also making phenomenal progress on enhancing their reading skills through using Accelerated Reader - collectively they have read over 100,000 words, which in less than a term is an amazing achievement.

This term has also seen the opening of our sensory room, a dedicated facility for students to use when they want a calming, quiet place. The room is equipped with special lighting and sounds, immersive imagery and a video wall.



BLACKBURN CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL



So much has been going on at BCHS this term. We've had award evenings, mayoral visits, talent contests and so much more. A highlight though was when a group of students from our access team won the SMILE award at the Community CVS Volunteer Awards. Local schools were invited to create centre pieces out of recycled materials for the event at King George's Hall. BCHS beat off stiff competition to be crowned winners with their masterpiece, which they entitled the 'Tree of Life'.

Our free cookery lessons for parents and carers of students have also been a real hit this term. They're a great way for parents and students to spend time together whilst learning new cooking skills. With all the food provided, participants just need to bring containers to take their food home. The last session took on a festive theme, where they made Christmas cupcakes and cookies and learnt how to temper chocolate.



CROSSHILL SCHOOL



Our much awaited new extension opened its doors to students and staff when they returned in September. The £1 million investment into the new school facility has given Crosshill four new classrooms, an additional playground, a new safeguarding office and an amazing life skills room. The life skills room has been specially adapted so that it's suitable for all of our students and it's been a huge hit so far, both with students and staff. The new building has provided us with the space we need for our students to grow and flourish.

Our post 16 students have been so busy this term, wowing us with their progress and attitude to learning. They have spent a lot of time out in the community, learning vital independence and life skills to help prepare them for adulthood and have been involved in a wide range of charitable initiatives. As part of their enterprise club, the students made lots of gifts to sell at their pop up stall on Blackburn Market, which was a great hit with shoppers. They also spent lots of time at Audley Sports Centre where they went litter picking as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. Keep up the good work students!

