



SCHOLARS ACADEMY TRUST

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Trust Newsletter December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to this term's newsletter and as you would expect a lot has been happening over the last term. We have had a number of new staff joining us within our schools and I am pleased to say they all quickly adapted to life within the schools to ensure that your children's needs are being met. Along with the new staff, Foxbridge Primary School became part of the Scholars' family.



Foxbridge Opening



It was a delight to welcome the reception children to their brand-new school. The children were very excited to be the first in and everyone wanted to be involved. This is evident in the photos of the children cutting the ribbon. In October the school had its official opening ceremony which was attended by the local community along with Foxbridge parents and our children from Glenfield and Launde. The children from Glenfield and Launde supported the Foxbridge children during the ceremony with singing and music. The Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Mr Mike Kapur, OBE officially opened the school with the unveiling

of a plaque. It was lovely way to celebrate the new school and for everyone to be part of that important day.

Teaching and Learning

As you would expect our teachers have been working very hard in the classroom and along with the everyday work children have been undertaking interesting and exciting work across the curriculum. In fact, our teachers are skilled at making even the ordinary work exciting, so that children want to engage with the activities.



Learning always goes beyond classroom to help the children remember aspects of the curriculum. This term, the children had the opportunity to visit each other's schools, Foxbridge children joined Glenfield at the Christmas pantomime. This enabled children from both schools to interact and explore learning together as well as visiting each other's environments.



As I stated earlier, children from Launde and Glenfield took part in Foxbridge's official opening ceremony. The children across the Trust have also taken part in external visits to places such as the Warning Zone, Twycross Zoo, farms, parks, sports venues and the woodlands.

The curriculum has been further enhanced by children taking part in Roman and Egyptian days within schools which have been supported by the teachers alongside external agencies.



In addition to this, the children have had the opportunity to interact with visitors in school and learn about the wider world. Year 4 children at Glenfield took part in an inclusive sport roadshow and explored what it was like to be in a wheelchair.



Sports is always popular with our children and across the Trust the children have taken part in table tennis tournaments, football matches and mini competitions as part of the work with Leicester City Primary Stars and the Sports Partnership Programmes.



Part of the personal development programmes include remembering the past and how it has influenced our lives and an important part of that has always been Remembrance Day. This year Glenfield were invited to Power Towers to commemorate our fallen soldiers. Across the Trust children took part in the two-minute silence on 11 November.



The children have completed other work on personal development such as antibullying workshops at the King Power Stadium. This has been in addition to the anti-bully weeks held within schools. I am proud to say that the children in our schools on the whole have excellent behaviour and have always been a credit to the schools when they take part in external activities.

I would like to thank all the parents for supporting our assemblies which are an important part of ensuring that we focus on developing a whole school community. It has been lovely to see you all at the class assemblies and the special assemblies when children are sharing their learning about the curriculum and different cultures that are represented in our schools. More recently the children have been taking part in Christmas performances and for the first time in three years, there has not been the need to put additional restrictions in place. We feel it is very important that children take part in public performances to build up their confidence and self-esteem and I must admit that seeing your children on stage has proven that our children can and do excel when given the opportunity.



At Launde, during the Children in Need assembly, it wasn't just children who are performing there was also the staff. School staff participated in good humour to support the children raising funds for a very worthwhile cause. I'm not sure we will see Mrs Priddey with orange hair again!



Training Opportunities for Staff



Teacher Training Days at the start of the year began with all teachers from Scholars meeting together to establish the key priorities for the year. Much of this work you will have seen through the parent meetings that have been held during the Autumn Term. The mandatory Safeguarding Training for all staff across the Trust took place in August, this has to take place every three years but within Scholars this

is takes place every two years. Further updates have been given out weekly to ensure all staff stay up to date



on safeguarding matters. Headteachers have also focused on developing teaching and learning improvements within the classroom.

A number of Scholars staff have or are undertaking national professional qualifications, this learning will lead to further support for our teachers in teaching and learning within our schools. This will also provide further leadership opportunities for the staff undertaking the qualifications.

In November, Scholars led a Headteacher Conference for headteachers and senior staff from across Leicestershire. This was so positively received that another conference has been planned in February as an outcome of the initial conference.

Training has also taken place for support staff including midday supervisors. Happy Lunchtimes was introduced at Launde and revisited at Glenfield. This was to ensure that our children enjoyed the whole day at school and not just the time with their class teachers. As you can see from the photograph the children have clearly benefited from the staff having been trained and this will continue to be developed over the coming months into next year. Headteachers at the schools are making sure they receive feedback from the children so that further improvements can be made when required.



Buildings Update

We have been carrying out a review of our buildings and in line with everyone else we are looking to become more energy efficient. Plans to install solar panels at Glenfield are being considered and improve lighting efficiency at Launde as installing solar panels at Launde is not an option. We are still bidding for funds to improve the classrooms at Launde. Fortunately, Foxbridge is a new building, so it already has the latest efficiency measures in place so we do not have to worry about it.

Governance

The governors have been working hard behind the scenes. This term we have seen the some changes in governance at our schools. Ms Sophie Jacques and Mr Tom Else resigned from the Glenfield governing body and Mrs Karen Cole and Mr David Smith have replaced them. At Launde, Mr Visveswaran Mallayan, resigned over the last couple weeks and the Launde clerk will be carrying out the governor election process at the beginning of next term, so please look out for the paperwork if you are interested in becoming a governor.

At Foxbridge governors have been working hard, they have had a community event during which they worked with local stakeholders in developing the vision for Foxbridge based on local needs. The event was well attended and the outcomes of this will be shared with the others over the coming months. At Foxbridge there will also be an opportunity for a parent governor to be elected in the coming term.

The governors across the Trust have been attending relevant training and they have also carried out peer-to-peer reviews in order to constantly re-evaluate their own skills to ensure that they are up to speed in order to support our schools. The Trust Board also undertook a Governance Review which had positive outcomes.

Finally, just to say, the above is a whistle stop tour of some of the things that have been happening in our schools. I will write to you again in February to give you the latest updates before I retire.

In the meantime, have a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year and see you all in January and hope you enjoy all the festivities. I will leave you with a few more Christmas photos from our schools.

Best wishes

Inderjit Sandhu OBE
CEO

