

# TRUST EDUCATION

THE MAGAZINE FOR BROOKE WESTON TRUST STAFF

**MOD APPROVES  
COMBINED CADET  
FORCE**

**PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
CASE STUDIES**

**Brooke Weston**  
Trust 

**INTRODUCING  
OUR NEW STAFF**

LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS



**DR ANDREW CAMPBELL**  
CEO, BROOKE WESTON TRUST

## WELCOME TO THIS LATEST ISSUE OF TRUST EDUCATION.

“I am delighted to say that the challenge for this magazine is now one of finding enough space to try and mention as much of the excellent work being carried out across the Trust as possible. ”



This year has been one of real progress in some very important areas for the future of the Trust's schools. High on this list is the excellent work being undertaken by the catering, facilities, IT and business managers in our schools to hunt down better deals from suppliers and save costs where we can. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in this exercise and I look forward to being able to report back on the savings we are making in the near future. As budgets for 2015-16 begin to be announced for schools nationally, it is

clearer than ever before that we need to work hard to secure the very best value for every resource we purchase and every service we offer.

You may recall that at the start of this academic year I visited every school to share my plans for the future of the Trust with all staff. In the interests of transparency and good communication, I intend to revisit every school to give an update on progress towards these goals and to address some of the key challenges we face. Just as importantly I wish to take the opportunity to celebrate with you the

excellent work that goes on every day in schools across this Trust. Finally, I will also be inviting you to respond to an updated version of the Trust staff questionnaire later in the year. The results of the first questionnaire were published in the last issue of this magazine and I hope you will find it useful to receive an updated set of information.



*Andrew Campbell*

## NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF

The Trust is very pleased to welcome some new members of staff who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our schools.



### LEAD TEACHER KS1 & KS2 JULIA DICKINSON

Julia Dickinson has been appointed as a lead teacher to provide support to the Trust's primaries in areas where the schools have identified the need for development.

Previously, Julia worked at Falconbrook Primary School in Battersea, London. Having started there as an NQT, by the time she left she held the posts of Literacy Subject Leader and Key Stage 2 Co-ordinator alongside her role as a class teacher. Julia was also a Leading Teacher for Literacy in the London Borough of Wandsworth. Prior to gaining her PGCE at London Metropolitan University, Julia worked in fundraising and as an event co-ordinator for a charity running leadership development programmes.



### LEAD TEACHER EYFS NICOLA MCDONALD

Nicola McDonald has been appointed as the Trust's lead primary practitioner specialising in Early Years Foundation Stage.

Her main role will be to support the improvement across the EYFS classes. Nicola has been teaching for 11 years across early years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

She specialised in early years at university and for the past seven years, has been a Foundation Stage area leader, teaching in both nursery and reception.



## NEW ROLE FOR VICE PRINCIPAL

Vice Principal Ruth Hurcombe brings a wealth of experience to a role which has seen her working across two academies within the Trust. Ruth splits her time between Corby Business Academy - where her main focus is on English and setting up intervention to target students in Year 7, 8 and 9 in order to increase progress - and Thomas Clarkson Academy, where her focus is on improving homework and also using Schemes for Learning as a tool for school improvement.

Previously Ruth worked for the Harris Federation in London and spent 11 years working at Harris City Academy Crystal Palace, an outstanding secondary school. As well as her role as Vice Principal, she was also involved in setting up Initial Teacher Training via the School Direct route, gaining SCITT accreditation and being co-leader of the CPD strand.

Ruth said: "When I knew that I was relocating I was keen to continue working within a group of schools and having started my career at Brooke Weston, I already knew and valued the ethos of the Trust. After a few weeks in my new role I've been made incredibly welcome by staff within both Corby Business Academy and Thomas Clarkson. Developing links and working together offers really exciting opportunities to make a difference to all our students. The opportunity to be involved in this was one of the aspects which made working for the Trust really appealing to me."

## IMPROVING ATTENDANCE

A concerted effort across all our schools to improve attendance has resulted in the Trust average now being above 95%.

At Peckover Primary School, attendance used to be around 91-92% but that has risen this academic year to 96% after processes were re-examined and staff roles identified. For instance, parents have been invited into school for meetings at an earlier stage and if they fail to attend, it is followed up as a priority. The school has also been working closely with Thomas Clarkson Academy to ensure consistency with sibling links.

Martine Boyd, the Trust's Education Welfare Officer, said: "As we review our practice in light of national guidelines, we need to be absolutely clear with parents about the expectations in relation to attendance alongside our own responsibilities."

## ENSURING VALUE FOR MONEY

The Trust central team has been looking closely at supplier contracts to ensure value for money across its main services, including catering, facilities and IT. The first focus is catering and the procurement process is due to start in June as the Trust starts to identify preferred suppliers based on value for money, quality and frequency of use. The Trust has been working with its sponsor, Associated British Foods, to develop its use of the scan market procurement system. The Trust's requirements are entered on to the online system and this information is then sent out to a network of suppliers who have the opportunity to put in an interested bid.





# KETTERING SCIENCE ACADEMY

[www.ketteringscienceacademy.org](http://www.ketteringscienceacademy.org)

## SECONDARY PHASE

### A NEW ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGIES DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO DEVELOP COMPUTING ALONGSIDE ICT AT KSA.

In line with the government's emphasis on digital literacy, computing and ICT as a joint programme will be introduced to Key Stage 4. There will also be blended learning for Key Stage 3 through project-based learning. For example, students could be given the challenge of opening a shop and will have to look at the different software required to design and run the shop, the customer databases that would be needed and how the till could be programmed. In addition, KSA's dedicated

Cisco suite will offer students the opportunity to strip back and then re-build computers.

The music department has also seen some changes and Year 7s have been receiving singing lessons from a specialist teacher, as well as free taster sessions on the guitar and violin by external teachers. The aim is to encourage more students to take up peripatetic lessons and to build an Academy orchestra and rock band. Instrument repair lessons are also being introduced.

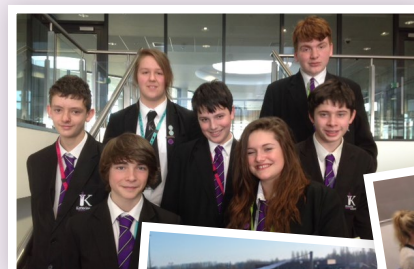
Another exciting development has seen the Academy set up a Football Academy in conjunction with Kettering Town Football Club, which will offer training sessions alongside sixth form study.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Academy recorded its best-ever set of results at this year's national Intermediate Maths Challenge. Students achieved four gold awards, six silver awards and 13 bronze awards. Two students went on to compete in a European Maths Challenge and another was invited to take part in the Cayley Mathematical Olympiad, which is only open to the top 500 students in Year 9 from across the country.
- A group of sixth formers have taken up paid positions in the Academy after being offered the position of Sports Assistants to help with KSA's community bookings programme.

*Maths success*



*Music tuition*

*Alien invasion*



## PRIMARY PHASE

A monitoring visit by the DfE this term proved to be very successful. Inspectors were pleased with the progress that has been made and the actions that have been put in place to bring about further improvements, commenting that the school is on track to get to good at the next inspection. They were particularly impressed with the school's use of Assertive Mentoring files for each pupil, saying KSA's enthusiasm and use of the system is the best they have seen across the schools they have visited.

To offer further support to pupils, a well-being mentor has been appointed. Claire Miller, who has a background in counselling and life-coaching, will support pupils' emotional and behavioural needs in a dedicated area, the Rainbow Room.

The term ended with a bang when pupils arrived to discover aliens had invaded their school! It was part of a week-long literacy project, designed to create awe and inspiration for their writing. They arrived on Monday morning to discover the remains of a spaceship in the grounds of the school, complete with skid marks where it had crashed landed. Police investigators and scientists were soon on the scene to help children work out what had happened – and to assist in the safe return of Head Teacher Jo Fallowell! It culminated with each year group producing a newspaper report about their experience.



# OAKLEY VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

[www.oakleyvaleprimary.org.uk](http://www.oakleyvaleprimary.org.uk)

### TEACHERS AT OAKLEY VALE RECENTLY ENJOYED A TRAINING SESSION ON PHILOSOPHY FOR CHILDREN (P4C) LED BY ONE OF THE SCHOOL'S HLTAS.

The training was very well received, leading to reflection by teachers on their use of questioning and engagement strategies within their own pedagogy while also provoking discussion regarding the use of philosophy throughout the school. Children in KS2 currently enjoy P4C sessions each week.

Oakley Vale has sponsored a member of staff, Mrs Sulley, to study on a Reading Recovery Teacher course through the Institute of Education in London. The course involves her working with 8

specifically targeted Year 1 children who are experiencing difficulties with their reading and writing. Individual learning programmes are devised by her and these are implemented on a daily basis. These interventions are proving to be highly effective as the children's progress in reading and writing has been accelerated.



*Girls' football team*



## NEWS IN BRIEF

- At Oakley Vale Primary all pupils in Year 3 have violin lessons and many of them continue these into Year 4 and beyond by having individual lessons with a peripatetic teacher. All the children who play the violin performed in a concert for their parents and the whole school.
- The girls' football team progressed through the local heats to represent the town at the county finals earlier this term. Following success in county finals, the team played in the ESFA/Danone Under 11 Girls 7 a side cup in Nottingham. They even met Casey Stoney, captain of the Team GB squad at the 2012 London Olympics.

*Y3 violin concert*





## GRETTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

[www.grettonprimary.org](http://www.grettonprimary.org)

### GRETTON CONTINUES TO DEVELOP ITS FACILITIES WITH THE ADDITION OF A NEW OUTDOOR AREA FOR EYFS INCLUDING A MUD KITCHEN, WHICH IS ONE AREA OF BEST PRACTICE FOR EYFS EDUCATION.

It also includes a special turret which provides a unique teaching or creative space, plus lots of surfaces made from different materials. This latest development is in addition to another new outdoor area for older pupils, which includes large-scale musical instruments.

The school has also benefitted from new PE equipment now the sports hall is complete. This includes indoor athletic and gymnastic equipment which means pupils can now enter competitions in these sports.

Guided reading has been further developed in the Academy to ensure that it has maximum effect on children's understanding of inference and deduction and prepares them well for better access to the level 6 SAT test. Pupils take part in a carousel of activities linked to spelling, grammar and hand-writing with an emphasis on Bloom's Taxonomy higher order questioning. Parents are also involved as staff share the types of questions with them so that children can be supported at home.

In addition, a new ICT scheme of work has been introduced in line with the new computing curriculum, which incorporates more programming. It is delivered as part of each class's topic work.



### NEWS IN BRIEF

- Gretton smashed its target of reading 300 books for the Read For My School challenge, with pupils completing more than 350.
- Congratulations to site supervisor Jenny Cowley who recently received an award for donating 50 pints of blood to help patients in need.

### PECKOVER HAS BEEN DEVELOPING A BROAD CURRICULUM RICH IN MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES.

For example, a recent project was *The Titanic*, where children came to school dressed in role as passengers, were taught to waltz, planned and prepared afternoon tea and were served by members of staff. They also met the captain of the Titanic and prepared a speech to appeal to him to give them a place on a lifeboat.

Parents spent time in lessons with their children at a recent phonics café before meeting staff and other parents over coffee. A parent support network has also been established with the help of the school's Early Family Intervention worker. A very successful first meeting saw parents talking and supporting each other with parenting issues.



### NEWS IN BRIEF

- Peckover is very proud to have the National Chess Champion in its ranks. Sophie Turijna won the National Chess Championship in the under-8 category.
- Peckover launched '2 Cool 4 School' which saw parents coming to school for the morning to join in with lessons and stay for lunch.
- There was also a DT challenge where parents were invited along to work with their child on an exciting construction project.

*Parents visit lessons*



## PECKOVER PRIMARY SCHOOL

[www.peckoverprimary.org](http://www.peckoverprimary.org)



*Chess champion*



## BEANFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

[www.beanfieldprimary.org](http://www.beanfieldprimary.org)

### A TEACHING AND LEARNING BUDDY SYSTEM HAS BEEN SET UP TO ALLOW GROUPS OF STAFF WITH MIXED EXPERIENCE TO LOOK AT KEY FOCUS AREAS IN MORE DETAIL TOGETHER.

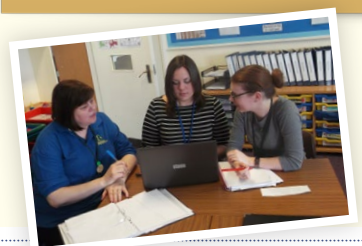
Working in cross-phase groups of three, this term's focus has been on planning. Members of staff in each group identified their individual strengths and areas for improvement before devising a strategy for the group as a whole, including tips and ideas to use. At the end of each particular focus, staff feed back to all their colleagues so that the whole school gets the benefit of what has been learnt.

A new programme to aid pupils with their mental arithmetic is proving to be very popular. Beanfield recently introduced Rockstar Times Tables, which sees pupils complete as many mental maths questions as they can while a song such as Eye of the Tiger is being played. Their paper is marked and is revisited again later to a different song.



### NEWS IN BRIEF

- Congratulations to Emma Goodwin and Sam Eathorne on passing their NPQH.
- Congratulations to the Unit Provision on a successful LA review and the children winning silver medals in a New Age Curling competition at Area Sports.





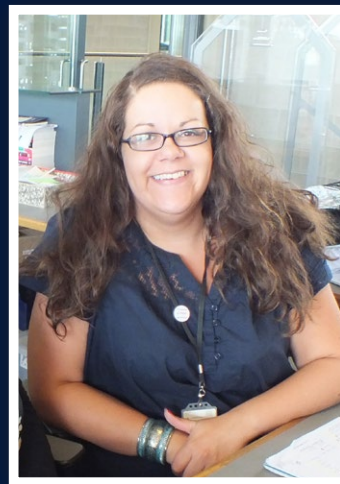
## NEW AWARDS ROLE FOR LIBRARIAN

Corby Business Academy librarian Amy McKay is this year's co-ordinator of the Cilip Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Children's Book Awards. The awards are given to outstanding examples of writing and illustrations respectively.

Miss McKay, who has been a judge for the competition in the past, said: "It's really interesting to go from judging to the next step up. There's a lot of hard work involved and I'm developing a lot of new skills.

"It's also opening up a lot of new opportunities for me. I've given talks to trainee teachers, I've helped train librarians in South London and I've spoken at several conferences."

Miss McKay acts as a point of contact for the judges and the authors, makes sure the judges stick to the strict criteria of the competition rules and helps organise the awards ceremony.



## PAUL'S MARATHON FUNDRAISER

Brooke Weston Academy staff member Paul Twamley is running the London Marathon to raise money for a cancer charity in recognition of a colleague who is battling leukaemia. Paul started his fundraising effort in assembly and he plans to raise thousands for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

Paul decided on the charity as Jean Cowley, who has worked in the Brooke Weston restaurant for years, was diagnosed with leukaemia and is undergoing treatment. In tribute to Jean, and to boost his fundraising, Paul plans to dress as her for the entire race,

donning a wig, hairnet, lipstick, and, if he gets enough money pledged, he plans to even run in a skirt.

He has received generous sponsorship from Rodger's Coaches, who have kindly donated a bus to allow colleagues to travel to London to support Paul on the big day. Paul has been busy organising fundraising events which have recently included a Race Night which raised over £1200. Brooke Weston have also been involved in the fundraising for Paul with an impressive £1,570 raised from mufti days and Christmas markets.

Paul said: "I had always wanted to do the London marathon, so I would always enter on the off-chance that I would get in so, when I got that letter in October I started my running up again."

Paul told the students in assembly: "You all know Jean, she is the one with the great big smile on her face and she is renowned for her lipstick, so that is why I wanted to raise money for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research. Ultimately our thoughts are with Jean and we are all wishing her a very speedy recovery."



## STAFF FUNDRAISE FOR STUDENTS' VOLUNTEER TRIP

KSA maths teacher Stephen Ready completed four 10k and half marathon races in just a couple of months to fundraise for students who are off to Africa on a volunteer trip.

Mr Ready started with the Bath half marathon in February, followed by a 10k run in Naseby (where he knocked three minutes off his lifetime best) and then another 10k run in Brixworth in March.

On April 6th, he was joined by Head of House Meg Kedie and the Principal's PA Amy Brooks for the Sheffield half marathon.

Mr Ready is fundraising for the Camps International Tanzania trip that a group of Year 11 and sixth formers are going on over the summer. During their time there, they will work on local community and conservation projects but in order to go, they have to raise more than £3,000 each.

Mr Ready said: "The trip will give students the opportunity to do voluntary work and have some amazing experiences. We want to do our bit to ensure they get the money to be able to go."

Other teachers are also donning their training kit in the name of charity – Jason Mitchell-Bunce is looking to complete his first official 10k run in almost 30 years. He is hoping to raise money for the Myotubular Trust, a charity close to the heart of former photography teacher Mike Leski because his son suffers from Myotubular Myopathy.





## EMMA GOODWIN

Vice Principal at Beanfield Primary School

### Describe what a typical working day is like for you:

Exciting, always different with many challenges and solutions to seek for children, staff and often parents. Never a dull moment.

### What 3 things have you learnt from being in your current role?

Supporting different groups of people to recognise potential and assisting them to realise it themselves.

Becoming a more whole school strategic thinker - developing key areas including behaviour management and curriculum development.

A more analytical understanding of assessing whole school performance including setting challenging targets to ensure accelerated progress in all year groups.

### What aspect of your job do you enjoy the most?

Teaching in Year 3 on a Monday afternoon, being with the children and seeing them achieve - this is what gives me job satisfaction and focus that I want all our children to achieve their full potential.

### If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

New Zealand. I went there 13 years ago and enjoyed every minute - the scenery is fantastic and I would like to maybe be braver and try a bungee jump which I avoided last time.

I would also like to find out more about their educational approaches including 'Reading Recovery' and the use of outdoor learning.

### If you could invite 4 famous people to a dinner party, who would you invite and why?

Kelly Holmes because I enjoy running and have done the odd half marathon and also the fact that she is an inspiration in terms of how she overcame many challenges to achieve her ultimate gold.

Brian Cox because I have a real interest in science, in particular physics and I think he makes the subject really appealing and accessible for all.

Miranda Hart because of her sense of humour.

Dynamo as entertainment for my guests - how does he do it?

### If you won the lottery, how would you spend your winnings?

I would make sure that all of my family were well provided for and had a comfortable standard of living.

I would arrange for me and my husband to go on an amazing holiday.

If my win was significant (i.e. several millions) I would finance a new build for Beanfield.

### What is your greatest accomplishment?

Most recently achieving my NPQH.

### What is your secret ambition?

To drive the Mercedes safety car at a Formula 1 Grand Prix.

### What word describes you best?

Determined.



## TRACY KEOGH

Receptionist at Corby Technical School

### Describe what a typical working day is like for you:

Very busy and can be challenging but also very positive and enjoyable. There are never two days the same.

### What 3 things have you learnt from being in your current role?

Communication helps all areas run smoothly.

Never assume anything - always clarify.

Always be positive, it keeps the day enjoyable.

### What aspect of your job do you enjoy the most?

All aspects. I like to meet and greet people, staff, students and visitors.

### If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Harry Potter World because I hope I never grow out of loving the magic.

### If you could invite a group of famous people to a dinner party, who would you invite and why?

Dr Brian Cox, Stephen Fry and Ross Noble because they are all very interesting with a marvellous sense of humour.

### If you won the lottery, how would you spend your winnings?

Share some amongst family, holidays and look for a few worthy causes to help.

### What is your greatest accomplishment?

Having a wonderful family.

### What is your secret ambition?

It wouldn't be secret if I told!

### What word describes you best?

Indecisive.





# CORBY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

[www.corbytechnicalschool.org](http://www.corbytechnicalschool.org)

## CTS HAS LAUNCHED WEEKLY LITERACY AND NUMERACY TESTS DURING FORM TIME.

Students compete to be the best in their form and the best in their school house. The project is already making a difference to students' literacy and numeracy skills. Year 7 and 8 students have received rugby coaching from East Midlands Rugby. Community Rugby Coach Jon Perks has been working with students during the past term to help the school develop its rugby programme.

In addition, mechanical engineer John Page has been working with students after school in the new Model Flying Club. Students have made British Model Flying Association darts under his supervision. The club is part of CTS's STEM sessions.

Two new exciting projects have been launched for students at CTS as part of the Go4Set initiative. The first is to redesign an existing railway station and the second involves looking at ways to make the school more energy efficient.



Rugby coaching



Model flying club



## NEWS IN BRIEF

- Year 7 and 8 students visited major IT manufacturer Stone Computers in Staffordshire for a tour of its sales floor, factory and warehouse. The 30 students saw the firm's production line and learned how it recycles computers. They also learned about different careers and apprenticeships in the industry.
- Nearly 50 families have toured Corby Technical School's new building. Parents were invited to look around our facilities, provide feedback and raise questions during the visit.
- Students acted as Young Leaders at the Northamptonshire School Games Project Ability Level 3 Sportshall Competition for disabled children. They helped to lead the competitors through the activities and helped record results.

## Young interpreters



## THE MATHS TEAM AT TCA HAS SET UP THE FIRST PHASE OF THE YEAR 11, 12 AND 13 INTERVENTION MODEL.

The program devised by Lead Teacher Steve Blades and Curriculum Leader Andry Joannou paired Year 11s with Year 12s and 12s with 13s to offer intensive 1-2-1 support during tutor time. The students targeted were C/D borderline GCSE pupils due to sit their exam in June 2014. The experience of the Year 12s who sat the exam last year has been invaluable and mock results have seen the target students make excellent progress. The sessions have been held in the restaurant for 25 minutes each day and Year 12 students who have offered support have received intervention sessions from the Year

13s in return for their hard work.

Other target students have had intensive sessions in classrooms from Mrs Joannou and maths teacher Mr Farr during tutor time. The model has been refined for the second phase with more students looking to join and more focused sessions as the exams near. Mr Blades has also set up an online revision program for students at [www.m4ths.com](http://www.m4ths.com). Five minute videos are posted daily and tweeted out (@m4thsdotcom) to students who have to spot the mistakes made on GCSE Foundation and Higher exam questions.



Maths intervention



Thomas Clarkson Academy

# THOMAS CLARKSON ACADEMY

[www.thomasclarksonacademy.org](http://www.thomasclarksonacademy.org)



## NEWS IN BRIEF

- 78 students have graduated from Thomas Clarkson Academy's Accelerated Curriculum Entry programme. The innovative scheme takes Year 7 students out of the usual curriculum until they have reached level 4 for literacy and numeracy. Once they have reached this level they join the Year 7 curriculum.
- Recruitment is soon to start for more Young Interpreters. The successful scheme is aimed at providing support for the students who join the school with little English language skills. Students of the same nationality buddy up with the new students, giving them a school tour, attending taster lessons and where required translating written pieces. The nationalities involved in the scheme so far are Lithuanian, Portuguese, Polish, Russian and Latvian.





## BROOKE WESTON

[www.brookeweston.org](http://www.brookeweston.org)

STUDENTS FROM BROOKE WESTON HAVE BEEN INVITED TO EVALUATE AN ONLINE SERVICE DEVELOPED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON TO HELP STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY USERS WITH THEIR STUDY SKILLS.

The Skills Hub has been running from September and the university is now seeking feedback so they can refine the content and make it more user-friendly. A group of Sixth Formers and staff from Brooke Weston will road-test the site and submit their comments and ideas.

There has been an increased focus on boosting careers advice for all age groups at

Brooke Weston as part of the CEIAG (Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance) initiative. Outreach officer Marie Muir from De Montfort University spoke to Year 8 students about subject options, employment, apprenticeships and further and higher education opportunities.

Finally, Brooke Weston students have been very successful in securing high quality financial and business apprenticeships this year with Ross Freeman being offered a placement at KPMG, Jack Crane securing a place at Pricewaterhouse Cooper and Emily Stubbins gaining employment at Grant Thornton. Congratulations also go to Marko Stojakovic who has been given an amazing opportunity working at Google's London headquarters.



Skills hub



Health and fitness suite



Spelling bee champion

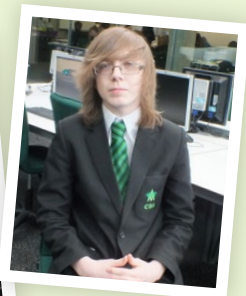


### NEWS IN BRIEF

- Congratulations to student India Bond who has beaten nearly 7,000 other East Midlands students to be crowned the region's best Spanish speller in a Spelling Bee. She will now go through to the national finals of the competition, which is organised by Routes into Languages and tests Year 7 students on their spelling skills in French, German, Spanish or Welsh.
- Author Chris Bradford delivered a high-octane presentation to students that started with gunfire and an attempted assassination and ended with a demonstration of swordsmanship.
- Work is now well underway on the health and fitness suite that is being built in the grounds of Brooke Weston. In addition to a welcoming reception and changing facilities it will house a range of sports machines and free weights.



Unit students



Joshua Champion

## CORBY BUSINESS ACADEMY

[www.corbybusinessacademy.org](http://www.corbybusinessacademy.org)

### A NEW SOFTWARE PACKAGE IS BEING IMPLEMENTED TO RECORD LESSON OBSERVATIONS AND TRACK WHOLE-SCHOOL TEACHING AND LEARNING.

It allows for the tracking of elements of best practice in lessons so staff can identify where the strengths and areas for development are in teaching and learning. All lesson observations are linked to the whole school data system.

CBA's VLE is being developed to share best practice and support the work of

the Academy's Bar group (good and outstanding practitioners). Staff have started to record some lessons with elements of good and outstanding practice and upload video clips to the VLE.

All sixth formers now have the opportunity to buy a Chromebook at a subsidised rate which will allow them to access the Academy's systems remotely from home. Members of the senior leadership team are also trialling Chromebooks with a view to rolling them out to each faculty and to see where it may be more appropriate for staff to use them instead of more costly laptops.



### NEWS IN BRIEF

- GCSE maths success - Year 11 students achieved nine A\* grades, 29 A grades and 8 B grades.
- Sir Chris Hoy met CBA's Unit students at Adrenaline Alley.
- Year 11/10/9 students did very well at the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge. Many received gold, silver, bronze awards and three made it through to the next stage of the competition, including Year 11 student Joshua Champion who scored 91 out of 100.



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE BWT

The Trust prides itself on offering opportunities for professional development to all members of staff. Here we speak to two members of staff who have progressed within the Trust.



## JANE MACDONALD

PRINCIPAL AT  
GRETTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

"I worked as Assistant and then Deputy Head Teacher when Oakley Vale Primary School opened in September 2008. The journey of opening a new school presented many challenges but was a great learning experience and one which significantly advanced my professional development.

"In 2012 I was given the opportunity by the Brooke Weston Trust to train as a facilitator for the Middle Leader Development Programme (MLDP) and subsequently delivered the training to colleagues from within the Trust and across the region. The MLDP was withdrawn by the National College in 2013 and aware of the ongoing need for professional development opportunities for middle leaders across our Trust, my co-facilitator and I decided to write our own Aspirant Middle Leader Programme. This has been fully endorsed by the Brooke Weston Teaching School and our first cohort are currently working on their leadership challenge gap tasks in schools.

"My own professional development and leadership skills have been enhanced through my work with the BW Teaching School and I have recently been given an opportunity for further development by taking on the role of the Principal at Gretton Primary Academy."



## CARRIE NORMAN

ACTING PRINCIPAL AT  
PECKOVER PRIMARY SCHOOL

"I had reached the point in my career where I was ready for the next challenge – I'd taught for 20 years, been a Leading EAL and maths teacher for Cambridgeshire and then Deputy Head Teacher at Peckover. When the position of Principal at Peckover became available, I was proud and excited to be given the opportunity by the Brooke Weston Trust to step up to the Acting Principal role.

"Since I began the position, the support I have received from the Trust, both to develop my leadership and management skills and to move the school forward, has been excellent. I feel fortunate to work with professionals with a wealth of experience in school improvement and a group of Principals who work together and share strengths.

"I am now able to afford my staff the same opportunities to develop. We already have staff enrolled in the Outstanding Teacher Programme, Effective Lesson Observation training and Developing Middle Leaders course with the Brooke Weston Teaching school. Also my staff benefit from networking and sharing best practice with colleagues from other Trust schools.

"It is exciting to be part of a Trust that strives for excellence and looks to the future, a Trust where you are encouraged to be part of the journey and creates many varied career opportunities."



# NEWS FROM THE BROOKE WESTON TEACHING SCHOOL

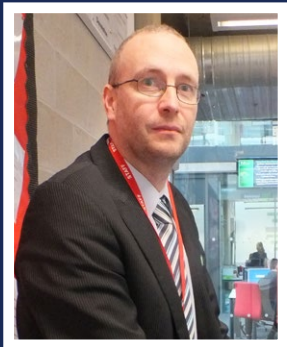
Congratulations to the latest cohort of Outstanding Teachers who have just successfully completed the eight session course. A total of 15 teachers from local schools took part and it is proving so popular that the next cohort, which starts in June, is fully booked up already.

NQTs participating in our popular Professional Studies Programme had the opportunity to visit Thomas Clarkson Academy in Wisbech where they met the senior leadership team, underwent training and met inspirational students over a working lunch.

Finally the Teaching School was selected as one of the first in the country to undergo a pilot inspection process. Director of Teaching School Cristina Taboada-Naya spoke to representatives from NCTL about a number of operational matters and, more specifically, the Teaching School's role in Initial Teacher Training.



## QUICK QUESTION: HOW DO YOU START YOUR LESSONS?



**TIM HAWKINS**

English and Media Teacher at CBA

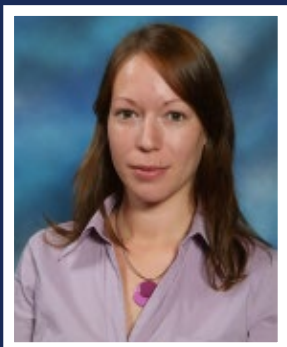
"I make sure all students have written down the learning objectives and understand them. We then do a quick activity related to the aims of the lesson which will either recap or reinforce prior and potential learning."



**NIGEL BARRETT**

Design and Technology Teacher at CTS

"I make sure I have clear lesson objectives. The students need to know how each lesson fits in to the scheme they are working on. They need to know where their starting point is and where they are heading to each lesson."



**LUCY-BETH HEIGHTON**

Leader of History at TCA

"I usually start my lessons with handing out something to students as they come into the classroom so that learning starts straight away. I'm a big believer in students not having to come in and sit down in order to start the learning process. This has ranged from parts of a picture that have to be matched up with other students and discussed, to a Post-It note which students have to use as a voting slip for a question on the board. They write their name on the Post-It and stick it to a certain area in the classroom. This engages students straight away with the focus of the lesson and feeds a discussion where students have to justify their decision."



**HELEN GREEN**

Year 6 Teacher at KSA

"To start my lessons we begin with a warm up activity in talk partners. If it's numeracy it is usually quick fire questions/recall to promote mental maths supported with equipment or use of individual whiteboards. In literacy we begin with activities related to grammar and punctuation or spellings. Lesson objectives are set and success criteria is clarified by the teacher or devised by the children."



## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE APPROVES COMBINED CADET FORCE

The Ministry of Defence has formally approved the establishment of a Combined Cadet Force between Brooke Weston Trust and Oundle School. It marks the next exciting chapter in the development of the cadet programme, which will provide current Year 9 students with a unique opportunity to learn new skills and gain qualifications.

Staff Potential Officers have now completed their applications to the MoD which, once approved, will allow them to progress forward to officer training. They will attend their second field weekend at the end of April at STANTA, a military training area in Norfolk.

The training will include ambushes, navigation exercises, blank firing and section attacks.

A student recruitment drive across all the Trust's secondary schools has taken place recently, with some outstanding applications.

Any members of staff who would like to get involved with the CCF should contact Matt Isherwood on [misherwood@brookeweston.org](mailto:misherwood@brookeweston.org).



## THE GREAT BWT BAKE-OFF

STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE TRUST WILL GO HEAD-TO-HEAD IN THE KITCHEN IN THE GRAND FINALE OF THE GREAT BWT BAKE-OFF, AN IDEA CONCEIVED BY CBA'S RESTAURANT MANAGER.

Chris Lapsley ran a bake-off challenge at CBA last year but this year, extended it across the Trust. Every week, students at each secondary school compete in a masterclass where they all cook the same dish. They are aiming to impress the judges in three areas - presentation, taste and hygiene. Chris said: "Last year we held

the very first CBA Bake-Off and it was so popular that this year the competition has been opened up to other Brooke Weston Trust schools too. The masterclass gives students the base to work from but if they want to win they have to enhance the recipe and do more with it. "I think we've got some really good competitors this

year and it's great to see some of the students who took part last year taking part again this time."

The students from each school with the highest point score from the six-week challenge will go on to the final. They will take part in a whole day of challenges when they will make everything they

have learned during the course of the competition to create an afternoon tea.

They will be judged by a panel of independent judges from the catering industry.

