



Melland High School
BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Bright Futures
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

MELLAND STAR

SUMMER TERM 2015



Message from our Principal - Sue Warner

As another fantastic year comes to a close it's always a real pleasure to reflect on the outstanding achievements of all of our pupils at Melland and across Bright Futures Educational Trust.

We have faced the challenge of the SEN Reforms this year, converting pupils' statements to Education Health and Care Plans at Years 9, 11 and 14. As ever pupils, parents, carers and staff have risen admirably to that challenge and the Reviews have been well prepared and supported by all concerned. The pupils' contributions at every level have been particularly inspiring as they have taken the opportunity to make a real impact on their future outcomes.

In a similar way expectations of what our young people are able to achieve continue to grow and the extension of work related learning opportunities, whether in school or within the local community, have been particularly successful. Students are making increasingly informed choices and projects such as "Bridging the Gap" in partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University offer students a true workplace experience.

Having recently attended a PE celebration I am always so impressed by the range of activities undertaken and the outstanding sporting achievements of our pupils and students. Groups of young people continue to access sensory, interactive water based activities in the hydrotherapy pool for example, while others are taking part in a range of experiences from ice skating to golf!

Finally on behalf of the whole school community I would like to congratulate Mrs O'Kane on her outstanding and influential career and to send our very best wishes and thanks to retiring teachers, Mrs Durdey, Mr Gallagher and Mr White.

As we celebrate another great year for Melland High School many thanks must also go to our amazing, hardworking pupils, our exceptionally supportive parents and carers and our outstanding and committed staff and governors.

Have a great summer break and I look forward to another exciting and successful year ahead.



Melland High School Annual Celebration of Whole School Improvement

Parents and Carers joined staff, students, community and business partners, friends from partner schools and colleagues from across BFET for our annual celebration of whole school improvement. Achievements across the Ofsted four key areas of Leadership and Management, Behaviour and Safety, Quality of Teaching and Achievement were celebrated and everyone enjoyed performances from Rawchestra musicians and our talented singers.

September 2015 sees changes in the Ofsted framework and we look forward to demonstrating our students' achievements in the four Ofsted key areas of Leadership and Management, Teaching, Learning and Assessment, Personal development, Behaviour, Welfare and Outcomes for Pupils.

A big **Melland** thank you to all our performers and to everyone who worked hard and contributed to such a special occasion.



Improving Reading Skills

The C group has been working extremely hard this academic year to develop their literacy skills. Every week the students practise their reading with a member of staff, use computer reading software, work on their ASDAN accredited unit in reading (KS4) or spelling targets (KS3). A wide range of technology and software is used within the classroom including: the early reading programme 'Teach Your Monster to Read', the spelling app 'High Frequency' which practises commonly used words, the award winning 'Espresso' for whole class spelling games, the interactive reading scheme 'Rapid Readers' and a selection of ebooks on Kindle Fire.



Living Egg Project

We were all very excited to be receiving some hens eggs, but we were not going to eat them! Our delivery on the first Monday morning after the Easter holidays was an incubator, a brooder box, chick food, dish, water dispenser, a bag of sawdust and 10 very precious eggs, almost ready to hatch.

Before the holidays, we had collected newspapers to line the brooder box and had bought a spare light bulb in case the one in the box did not work. We were ready! The gentleman who delivered the eggs helped to set everything up correctly and then it was just a case of waiting patiently. Not a great deal happened on the Tuesday.

On Wednesday there was lots of activity. Six of the eggs hatched and we used an ipad to video some of the chicks hatching. We also used the classroom Apple TV, linked to the ipad camera, so that everyone could see the live action on the interactive whiteboard. We all agreed that this was great because nobody missed out on seeing events as they happened! By Friday, eight eggs had hatched and we knew that the other two eggs would not hatch.

Unfortunately, one of the eight chicks was very weak and died on the Thursday. We were all very sad, but the seven chicks that were left were very healthy and were eating and drinking well. We decided to name them after the seven dwarves from the 'Snow White' story. It is very difficult to remember who is who!

In the three weeks since the eggs were delivered we have learnt so much about life cycles and how to care for pets. We had four healthy hens (girls) and three cockerels (boys). They are now at their new home at Wythenshawe Park Community Farm and we hope that they will like it.



Melland Celebrates An Outstanding Career!

Melland High School's Executive Principal, Judith O'Kane OBE will retire at the end of this academic year. Mrs O'Kane will however remain as Director of SEND for Bright Future Educational Trust and Executive Principal for Melland High School on a part time basis. We had the pleasure of celebrating Mrs O'Kane's outstanding contribution within and beyond Melland High School with colleagues and friends on July 7th.



Our Chair of Governors, Sarah Fuller writes this well deserved accolade on behalf of our whole school community;

"Having known Judith O'Kane for over twenty years as a colleague in the local authority, as a governor and chair of governors of Melland High School as well as a friend I have had the opportunity to witness and experience her kindness, honesty, integrity and determination coupled with her professional excellence in the roles of headteacher and Principal of Melland and Director of SEND within BFET.

Judith O'Kane has equality of opportunity written right through her like a stick of rock. Throughout her career she has been determined that students with special and additional needs are provided with a curriculum, a learning environment and learning experiences that empowers and enables them all to achieve their full potential. Her aim is always to support students to be able to confidently contribute to their community using and demonstrating their social, emotional and academic skills and talents.

Judith O'Kane's beliefs are also demonstrated in her empowerment of the staff in the teams she leads. She provides opportunities for staff to develop their skills and their professional expertise through initiating creative ways of working and challenging all staff and leaders, including governors in professional dialogues and training. She expects nothing less than outstanding from all who work with her as she believes the students deserve nothing less than outstanding in every aspect of their learning experiences.

The joy of working with Judith O'Kane is that you always come away feeling motivated and enthused. You feel you have been challenged and learned together whilst having fun and laughing a lot in the process. It has been a privilege to work with her all these years and I will greatly miss our working together.

She has been an outstanding ambassador for special education through her work in the school, Local Authority, the Trust, nationally and internationally and she will be missed by us all. We all wish her well on her retirement and know that she will continue to find opportunities to influence the quality of provision for pupils with special educational needs in schools"

Warmest Congratulations from us all!

BFET Moving Forward Together

Our joint trust training day on July 3rd was a resounding success. This was our fourth joint trust training day and staff were split over three BFET sites: AGGS, MCMA and GEV.

The purpose of the day was for staff to work in their subject, departments to share knowledge and ideas. The specific aims were to bring people together, to focus on wellbeing, exchange of knowledge and team building.

At all three, sites the day began with a welcome address by one of our BFET executive team. This included an excellent video of our CEO Dame Dana Ross-Wawrzynski outlining the importance of the leader in us all. This was followed by a very poignant video of our pupils and students reminding us of the significance and value of our work.

Nearly all of the training on this day was delivered by staff from each academy, which highlights the many skills and interests of our colleagues across the trust. Overall, it was an excellent opportunity for staff to meet with staff from other BFET schools in Greater Manchester and Blackpool and we hope that people will continue to network now the day is over.



Happy Retirement to three of our outstanding teachers



Mr White



Mrs Durdey



Mr Gallagher

Good luck for the future, we will miss you all!

A big welcome to our new outstanding teachers
Mr Hughes, Mr Gleeson and Miss Dolan

Parent/Carer Working Party Update

A huge thank you to members of our parent/carers working party, Cath Stone, Dr Fassah Bibi, Joanne Bell, Michaela Georgiou, Debbie Wojas, Mobeena Mahmood and Nasira Tufail for all their hard work and commitment. Along with our ethnic minority achievement support worker Ghazala Jamil and school staff, they have organised and supported our parents and carers in a variety of outstanding and informative events this year.



Parent and carer involvement in school has been particularly impressive this year with three key events proving extremely successful; the "Parent/Carer Information Day", "Jobs Fair" and "Fit Families Event" were all exceptionally well attended with great feedback from all concerned. All three events will definitely be repeated over the coming year.



Regular monthly coffee mornings have been established this year and parents/carers have had the opportunity to meet with school staff as well as a variety of professionals including the school nurse and representatives from 'Short Breaks'. School Improvement tours have been particularly well attended and parents/carers have been particularly impressed with the development in the use of iPads and Augmented Reality.



Congratulations



Outstanding



Well Done



Year 6 Transition

As the summer fast approaches and we draw towards the conclusion of the school year we can look back on all the wonderful achievements and celebrations that have taken place throughout the last 12 months with a great sense of pride. The summer term also brings with it the start of a new chapter with the year 6 / year 7 transition period taking place.

This is a time when all year 6 students across the country start visiting the secondary schools they will be joining in September. Here at Melland High School this has been really successful with students visiting us and tours being conducted for the parents of not only our year 6 pupils but the parents of those in year 5 who are getting ready to make their school selections in the autumn term. At the time of writing we have 26 new students destined to join us; they come to us from a range of primary Schools including: The Birches, Ashgate, Chapel Street, Camberwell Park, Medlock, St Lukes, Abbey Hey and St Chrysostom's.



Here to receive the new year 7 pupils on the 2nd September will be our student leaders. They are pupils that have been chosen from across our diverse population to pull together the views of their fellow students, support new pupils and contribute to developments and activities across the school. One important role they look forward to each year is being involved in the transition process. They pride themselves as being always on hand to offer support, guidance and a friendly face to our new pupils during their initial few weeks and beyond.

Melland High School looks forward to welcoming its new pupils and seeing their progress and achievement in the years to come.

Calender

Friday 17 July 2015
School Closes for Summer
Holidays

Tuesday 1 Sept 2015
Staff Training Day

Wednesday 2 Sept 2015
School Re-opens for Pupils

Thursday 21st Sept 2015
BFET SEND Network
12.00 - 3.00

Thursday 24th Sept 2015
Parent/Carer Working
Party Meeting
9.30 - 11.30

Thursday 15th Oct 2015
Parent/Carer Coffee
Morning
9.30 - 11.30

Thursday 22nd Oct 2015
School Closes for Half term

Thursday 26th Nov 2015
Parent/Carer Information
Day
10.00 - 13.00



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Principal: Mrs. Sue Warner
Executive Principal:
Mrs Judith O'Kane OBE



Sports Update



A whole host of exciting activities have taken place in PE and Sport since our last update. Our sixth form volunteers attended a once in a life time training camp in Loughborough where they won £400 in a "Dragon's Den" style competition. They are going to use the money to deliver a fabulous sitting volleyball session to some of the younger students in school which is fantastic! On top of their amazing winning streak, Deraí O'Brien won an outstanding award in Loughborough for "Challenging Perceptions". He was awarded a certificate and prize in front of the 120 other volunteers at the weekend away, we were very proud. An additional exciting part to Deraí's prizes is that we had a visit from one of the athlete mentors who worked with the students whilst they were away. This hugely talented paralympian swimmer, Kate Grey, joined us for a one off celebration last month.

Bridging the Gap



Tyrone Gordon

Eddie Daly

Dylan Hughes

Bridging the Gap is a work based traineeship that supports young people with learning disabilities into employment. Working in partnership with MMU and New Bridge School Oldham, students from Melland High gain employability skills by working alongside MMU staff in a range of work locations during three work experience placements. Students learn a range of practical skills as well as the softer skills of self-confidence, communication and problem solving required to advance and progress in the modern world.

Challenge Partners Review

Melland's outstanding status was again confirmed in March when we welcomed a team from National Challenge Partners to review our provision. In particular they focussed on our areas of excellence in both Teaching and Learning and Media and Technology. The team commented positively on the "enhanced learning experiences" offered to all students such as the interactive media, science and sensory studios and the "powerful effect they have on pupil outcomes, engagement and motivation."

