



Melland High School  
BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST



Bright Futures  
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

# MELLAND STAR

Winter 2016



Message from our  
Principal - Sue Warner

As a successful autumn term comes to a close it's great to reflect on the achievements of our fantastic students and our committed and hard-working staff, governors and partners.

Excellent support from parents and carers is evident and much appreciated at events such as the Parent/Carer Information Event, which was extremely well attended yet again and saw representation from the whole school and local communities.

I would also like to acknowledge the excellent work undertaken by the Melland High School Governing Body in terms of the support and challenge they bring to the school and to thank them for their on-going commitment to our pupils and their families.

Our pupils continue to benefit from a range of exciting and innovative activities which were celebrated recently with our Quality Assurance Consultant during her Autumn visit; she commented that "wider curriculum opportunities broaden and enthuse the pupils in their learning".

Activities such as Key Stage 3 Cross Curricular Assemblies, Key Stage 4's "Flexible Friday" and 6th Form Study Sessions are supporting our pupils in their journey to becoming successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

Finally I would like to congratulate everyone who contributed to and participated in the Schools Shakespeare Festival. Melland High School's production of Macbeth at the Contact Theatre was heralded as "creative, expressive and inspiring" and I was exceptionally proud of all involved.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and wonderful holiday

## Christmas Pantomime



For this year's Christmas production it was decided we would try and capture something of the spirit of traditional pantomime with its celebration of sheer fun and nonsense along with a healthy dose of cross dressing. Mr Barry's drama group wrote and rehearsed a succession of micro sketches which were dovetailed into the main narrative and brought a cheerful anarchy to proceedings. Meanwhile elsewhere in the building Chloe, Aaron and Jack, all novices to the dramatic arts were rehearsing their starring roles along with Alex, a grnarled old stager whose depiction of infamous German Dictators has brought him much deserved acclaim through the years. Many thanks go too to their parents who helped to coach them on their lines. Elsewhere again Rawchestra and the Rawchestra choir were busy learning their songs, while in the Media Studio the media elves were hard at work concocting the video components of the production.

The trickiest part of these productions is putting all the ingredients together into one seamless whole, a process that normally only begins two days before the final production. Not only do the musicians, the singers, the various groups of actors and extras, as well as the technicians and stage hands, all have to learn their cues, the exits and their entrances; not only do the teachers who have unwittingly agreed to be in the thing have to learn their lines as well as the other backstage duties with which they have been lumbered at the last minute; not only do the lighting, video and sound effects all have to be cued down to the last second, but the whole thing then has to be imbued with that indefinable fairy dust that is the magic of theatre. Eyes are rolled, people tear their hair, lips are bitten and students start to moan when they find there will be yet another run through. But in the end it is the fairy dust that makes it all worthwhile and which makes everyone involved clamour to book their place in next year's production.



## Calendar

Thursday 22nd Dec 2016  
School Closes for  
Christmas Holidays

Monday 9th January 2017  
School reopens

Thursday 12th January  
2016. KS4 Parent/Carer  
Coffee Morning.  
9.45 - 12.00

Friday 17th February 2017  
School Closes for Half  
Term

Monday 27th February  
2017 School reopens



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Mrs Judith O'Kane OBE

## Flexible Friday

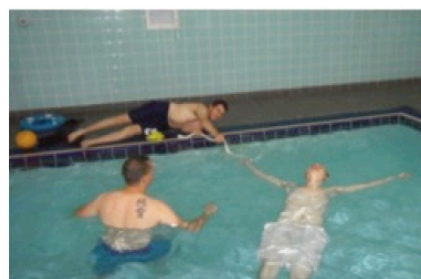
Flexible Friday is a new initiative we are delivering to KS4 this year. Flexible Friday is aimed at providing pupils with a love of learning across a range of activities, either in school or using the local community facilities, that can enhance their learning experiences and give them the opportunity to develop particular skills, interests and talents.

In addition to the national curriculum we aim to develop the whole child as we believe that the teaching of life skills and enriching students is an essential part of preparing them for the future. Key stage 4 offers these enrichment sessions every Friday afternoon from 1:35 – 3:20pm. Pupils sign up for a course that will run for a half term and then switch to another. The sessions are delivered by teachers, support staff and outside providers.

This half term students are getting involved in A History of Manchester, Melland Craft Company, Life Saving Skills and fun with fitness.

Flexible Friday is underpinned with "The 5 R's for lifelong learning" also known as learning to learn, these are:

**Readiness, Resourcefulness, Resilience, Responsibility, Reflectiveness**



## Anti-Bullying Awareness:

You may have seen some of the Anti-Bullying campaign on the TV or on buses and billboards. 4.O. group have used their English lessons to focus on what bullying is and how it can affect people. They watched some scenarios and role played some situations discussing feelings and thoughts and wrote all the words that came to mind when they discussed this issue. They then wrote a poem collectively and delivered it to camera. It was a fantastic project and helped students understand in more detail what bullying is and how to help people if they were ever bullied. Ananya was very proud of her work and felt other students should see the video to help them understand bullying more. Some students overcame anxieties to speak to the camera and all worked fantastically as a team to create this powerful message. Well done to Group 4O.

**Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year!**

