

Standing out, standing together.

TERMLY BULLETIN #5 - WINTER 2023

What an amazing start to 2023 it has been across our schools! We love to see the ever increasing collaboration of colleagues and teams bringing together the immense talent, knowledge and experience we have across our six schools to ensure we continue to provide magical experiences to all our pupils. This sense of togetherness is essential to ensure we make the most of the immense opportunities that being part of a trust brings for our children and young people but also for our fabulous staff, the difference makers, who make our schools such wonderful places to be.

Together Learning Trust news from the last term

Come together - trust wide INSET day

2023 kicked off magnificently with our annual trust wide training day "Come Together", with primary and secondary school events. Staff from across our schools worked so hard to provide colleagues with a day of high quality training and development. The atmosphere throughout was electric, with meaningful, professional collaboration at the heart.

Thank you to everyone who presented and who delivered workshops and training sessions. In particular a huge thanks to the organising teams of Stephanie Hansom, Verina Cipolla, Joëlle McNichol, Nicola Ramsden and Laura Farley (secondaries) and Liz Woodfield, Paul Kelesidis and Emma Barker (primaries).

Education Support: Launching an Employee Assistance Programme

As part of our commitment to staff welfare, all Together Learning Trust staff now have access to a programme of support for issues both at home and at work, provided by Education Support who specialise in our sector and understand the challenges faced by school staff. What if you could find a sympathetic ear, and the information you need to move forward, just at the right time?

The package includes: a confidential 24/7 support line; counselling services with counsellors who understand education; financial, legal and practical support; a dedicated support and coaching programme for managers; online health and wellbeing resources. The service is also available to immediate family members of employees. We're launching this with webinars for leaders and staff. Look out for information in your own school.



Highlights from around our schools

The Brooksbank School

It has been an incredible start to the year from a sporting perspective with a range of teams becoming champions both locally and regionally. Our Year 7, 8 and 10 girls football teams are all Calderdale champions, along with our Year 7, 8, 10 and 11 girls rugby teams. Year 7 boys football team are the West Yorkshire cup winners. Huge congratulations to you all.

Thank you to everyone involved in the amazing fundraising efforts so far this year. Staff and pupils have raised an amazing £1538 for Children in Need and a further £800 for new school sports kits. Brilliant effort by everyone involved.



Amazing dancing from Meltham Moor on stage at Lawrence Batley Theatre.

Honley High School

Thank you to all the staff and pupils who organised and participated in Restart A Heart day alongside colleagues from the Yorkshire Ambulance Service. It was an incredibly beneficial day as pupils were taught essential life saving skills alongside the opportunity to hear first hand the experiences of our amazing colleagues in the NHS.

Huge thanks to our Cadet Force for organising and delivering such a superb remembrance day parade. It is a hairs on the back of your neck moment watching the cadets march across the front of the school before laying wreaths at the schools memorial site, a fitting tribute to the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Meltham Moor Primary School

Thank you to the staff and Meltham Moor PTA for organising the recent school disco. It was a fantastic evening which captured the true essence of the school community.

As part of Children's Mental Health week, pupils were treated to a thought provoking and inspiring assembly titled "Let's Connect" which explored the importance of human connection and kindness.

Star performers have been getting a taste for the stage too, with pupils dancing at Lawrence Batley Theatre for 'Strictly Pennine' and the choir singing at Huddersfield Town Hall as part of the Mrs Sunderland Performing Arts Festival. A fantastic experience.



Runners brave snow and ice at the Brooksbank School's Hammerstone track to raise £800 for new sports kit.

Ryburn Valley High School

The recent Student Ambassadors Residential was a huge success. Our Student Ambassadors work very hard on all kinds of projects for the school and are always helping out at the many events we hold. During the residential trip this year, they took part in team-building activities, a zip wire, an escape room and a murder... mystery party. It was great to see Ambassadors in different year groups working together and building relationships. Everybody had a fantastic time.

It's not only staff who collaborate across the trust. Sixth form student leaders from Brooksbank visited those at Ryburn to share ideas for making a real difference in their roles, and to think about ways they can work together in the future. We look forward to seeing what comes next.



Centres of Celebration: Ryburn's dedicated Reading Leaders enjoy a thank you breakfast in the Library ahead of World Book Day

Netherton Infant and Nursery School

It was great to see so many families attend the recent "Open House" event, enabling our parents and family members to visit the school and see the amazing work being produced by pupils. Thank you to everyone who attended.

We have been delighted to see the launch of Reading Bingo, a fun and ingenious way for pupils and their families to record and celebrate the various books they are enjoying together.

Bolton Brow Primary Academy

Thank you to everyone who donated to the school's "festive harvest". Due to the generosity of the school community, we were able to ensure 40 people received food and other vital supplies over the Christmas period.

Year 1 recently visited the Piece Hall in Halifax as part of the school's "history enquiry" learning scheme. They spent the afternoon carrying out a treasure hunt, locating key parts of the historic building and learning more about its history. It was a wonderful day and the children as always were superb.

Thank you

Every day, staff, governors and trustees across our organisation continue to make incredible contributions which have direct and meaningful impact on our pupils, our colleagues and our school communities.



Verina with pupils at Bolton Brow's School Museum last year.

In this issue we would like to say a special thanks and good luck to our very own Verina Cipolla. Verina has worked as an integral part of the trust's central team for the last three years, playing a key role in our development over that time. Verina is moving onto pastures new. She will be greatly missed and we wish her all the very best for the future.

What's coming up for the central team

The central team is focussed on continuing to develop and improve its offer to our schools. We are currently overseeing some key leadership appointments within our secondary schools, which in turn will support the future growth and development of our trust. We are working closely with leaders to manage the very difficult financial situation facing all UK schools in the country at present and ensure our schools are financially sustainable.

We continue to work alongside leaders to devise and develop ways in which we can align systems which will benefit all of our schools. We want our team to continue to be highly present, highly visible professionals within schools, supporting and challenging leaders to ensure our schools continue to be exceptional places to work and learn.

Growing, Excelling and Learning Together

We would like to thank all of our staff, pupils and stakeholders for their incredible support and contributions so far this academic year. Our trust continues to make great strides forward. We know that there are challenges ahead, as with any organisation, however we are more confident than ever that together we will continue to be successful, a confidence that stems from the amazing people we work with. Here's to a fantastic 2023!

Over to you

In each issue of this bulletin, we will leave you with a question or idea to reflect upon.

CONSIDER:

What achievement or action - big or small - from a colleague could you recognise and celebrate somehow?