

Learning Matters

July 2019

Issue 8



From the Chief Executive Officer

Welcome to the Summer edition of Learning Matters.



It is so lovely to see the sunshine and I do hope that it continues as the school summer holidays draw nearer.

We have had a very exciting summer term in the Academy Trust with two new schools joining our family. Stamshaw Infant and Junior Schools in Portsmouth have already become an important part of our family of schools and we look forward to working with them further in the new year.

In June held our two day leadership planning conference when our Heads and Deputies worked together to plan for the next academic year. They also met with our Trustees who were impressed with the quality of debate and the determination to do the very best for all the children in our care.

This term we say goodbye to two amazing headteachers, Sarah Sadler and Sue Patrick, who are both retiring at the end of the school year. They have both had an amazing educational career changing the lives of so many children along the way. We thank them for their contribution and wish them all the best for the next phase of their journey. We also welcome three new headteachers, Ashley Howard appointed headteacher at Highbury Primary School, Ricky Leigh appointed headteacher at Berewood Primary School and Rob Jones appointed Headteacher at Stamshaw Junior School. We are very much looking forward to working with them in their new roles in September.

We also say a heartfelt goodbye to Frogmore Junior School. Frogmore Junior School has been with the Academy Trust since the very beginning of the Trust in 2013. The school has been on an incredible journey. It joined the Trust as a school in trouble with an Ofsted rating of Special Measures. It is now been confirmed by Ofsted as a securely good school with many outstanding features. We are incredibly proud of the achievements at Frogmore School. We believe that now is the right time for the school to start the next stage of their journey and have made the decision, along with the headteacher and governors of the school, for the school to join a local academy trust with other schools located nearby in Camberley so that the school can become a system leader in their school community and can benefit from greater local engagement. We hope that you will join us in wishing Frogmore Juniors all the very best for a very bright future.

I wish you all a wonderful summer break and thank you for the work that you do in your schools to provide high quality education for children. I look forward to working with you all over the next academic year in our respective roles to raise achievement and enrich lives.

Best Wishes

Sue Samson
Chief Executive Officer

Our Vision

For all young people to be inspired by an excellent education that raises their aspirations and enriches their lives.

Our Mission

To create a vibrant inclusive and aspirational family of academies, transforming life chances for pupils through excellent teaching, learning and leadership.

As a Trust we believe in:

- promoting high aspirations and success for all;
- ensuring progressive and sustained improvement in standards and progress;
- providing a learning environment which is creative, engaging and relevant;
- supporting and building leadership and management capacity;
- valuing and supporting outstanding teaching and enabling continued professional learning for all staff;
- developing local learning communities where parents and carers are valued, engaged and encouraged to be lifelong learners and working together to be the best that we can be.

In doing so, we will earn recognition for the Academy Trust as expert, collaborative and innovative local and national education leaders.

We would encourage you to contribute to the evolution of our Trust. If you have any suggestions for improvement or development contact the Trust team unicat@chi.ac.uk

News from Academies

Frogmore's incredible journey

Frogmore Junior School joined the Academy Trust in 2013, it was the first school to join the Trust and has been on an incredible journey over the last five years. The school prior to joining the Trust had been in Specials Measures and had been judged inadequate for several years. It is now been confirmed by Ofsted as a securely good school with many outstanding features. We are incredibly proud of the achievements at Frogmore Junior School which has changed from a 'school which requires special measures because it is failing to give its pupils an acceptable standard of education' to a school that has 'high aspirations for all pupils to thrive and achieve well' were 'pupils enjoy learning and make strong progress' and 'the behaviour of pupils is outstanding'.

The school which is based in Camberley on the Surrey border, has been recognised for its high quality leadership and excellent improvement record and has been invited to join a local Trust and lead a cluster of local schools. We believe that now is the right time for the school to start the next phase of their journey and have made the decision, along with the headteacher and governors of the school, to make this move, but with some sadness as the connection to the University of Chichester Academy Trust is strong and has been the driving force to enable the school to make this journey.

Mr McCarthy headteacher said "Frogmore is a school moulded through Sue's inspirational leadership; through James's wit and thoughtful challenge; Helen's tenacious approach to finances and Louise's passion for equality and fairness. Frogmore is a product of all of the hard work of everyone involved in the trust. As far as areas for development are concerned, there are many. But we, most of all, want to get better at working with other schools. In many ways the trust has (like a can of Red Bull!) given us wings. Our challenge, now, is to fly."

Sue Samson said *"I would like to thank all the staff and pupils at Frogmore Junior school for all their work over the last five years to make the school into the special place it is. I want to wish everybody all the very best for the future."*

Ofsted 2018

"Leaders, governors and the academy trust have a strong shared vision for all pupils to achieve the highest possible standards".

"The curriculum is broad, providing a range of carefully selected and useful first-hand experiences. Pupils enjoy learning and make strong progress"

The Trust say goodbye and thank you to two headteachers

The Trust say goodbye to two outstanding headteachers. Sarah Sadler of Highbury Primary School and Sue Patrick of Berewood Primary School who are both retiring at the end of the school year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their years of service to education and for all their work and commitment to their school and to the Trust as a whole. We wish them all the very best in their new adventures.

The Trust enjoys a positive and collaborative Leadership Conference

The Academy Trust held their annual Leadership conference on the 20th and 21st June. The two day event is held every year for Headteachers and senior leadership teams. The event is designed to give senior leadership teams time to plan the school year, look at priorities for the new year and areas of development and work with other schools and the central team.

This year the event included a panel discussion with Academy Improvement Partners all of which work as Inspectors for Ofsted, to discuss the new Ofsted framework, as well as a Chair of Governors workshop focusing on governance in the Trust and a Trustee workshop which looked at the Strategic Plan. The Trustees were invited to meet with the headteachers of the Trust on the first day for lunch to discuss individual schools.

Feedback

"Fantastic Opportunity to network with colleagues as well as all the staff/directors from the Trust. I achieved so much in the last two days"

"It was an excellent day. I took away an enhanced understanding that governors need to be on the same journey of collaborative support across schools and 'ownership' of being part of the Trust family."

"Thank you for an inspirational conference"

Eurovision comes to Berewood Primary School

Berewood Primary School have recently held their first annual singing competition. All classes from reception to year 6 took part in this exciting afternoon by performing a song from the Eurovision Song Contest. Children and staff were treated to numbers such as: 'Making your mind up', 'Teenage Life', 'Puppet on a String' and 'Flying the Flag'.

Mr Davies, who organised the event said, *'I was overwhelmed by the energy and commitment every child showed. It was fantastic seeing the children sing and act in front of their peers and the whole school came together to celebrate everyone's performances.'* After each class voted for their favourite performance, it was announced that Victory Class in Year 3 won with their performance of 'Euphoria by Loreen', just beating Peake Class in Year 5/6 by 2 points.

Stamshaw Junior School rise to the challenge at the Mission Moon First Lego League Junior Expo

MISSION MOON: The IET First LEGO League Jr Portsmouth Expo; 22nd May 2019

A big well done to Alfie Broad, Charlie McPherson, Lucy-Anne Rodgers and Adam Webster for representing Stamshaw Junior school so well at the Mission Moon First Lego League Junior Expo.

The children were set the task of building a moon base out of Lego and researching what it was like to live on the moon. They had to use this research to inform their design ideas. The children worked hard as a team using their problem solving skills and showing great

resilience. At the Expo they had to talk about what they had learnt and built with a panel of judges; all four pupils did themselves and the school very proud.

Twenty-two schools across the city signed up to take part, with six schools attending the Expo itself. Our team of budding designers were placed second by the judges! At the end, they received a medal and certificate. We are looking forward to our school taking part again next year.

Restorative Practice at Langstone Junior School

Following staff training in the method of restorative practice (RP), staff began to use the constructive set of five questions prompting children to recognise their thoughts and feelings, and those of others, during any dispute. In rebuilding relationships, restorative practice teaches children how to manage disagreements effectively.

As part of the school's continual professional development to learn from research, our teaching assistant group discussed how we could make the practice of RP less time consuming and more personal to our school; becoming an embedded process in our day to day practice.

Recognising the children were unaware of the process or the benefits of the RP and therefore had difficulty recognising or articulating their own thoughts and feelings, our research team developed a simplified system of the standard questions to support children in expressing their thoughts and feelings.

The action research predominantly took place across years 4 and 6 in both lesson and break times. When children approached staff with issues each child was given an informal designed slip giving them the opportunity to note down three important factors: their perception of what happened, what they thought at the time and how they were feeling. To help children recognise their feelings, the slips displayed a range of emotions. This method addresses many issues as it allows staff to recognise a child's upset by an incident; in the giving of the slip the children have time to calm down and think about the dispute. When the teacher or TA gather the children later to discuss the incident, children are able to listen to each other and, having had time to consider their part in the dispute, they are more open to understand the other person's view of events and their feelings.

Presenting our research to other teaching assistants, many bought into the idea and fed back to their class teachers. For restorative practice to be effective it has to have a consistent approach and in a PDM we will introduce all staff in the use of the slips. A whole school assembly introduced the idea of RP and further consideration will be given during PSHE lessons. As children become more aware they will be able to, in time, use the questioning without prompts.

Bordon Junior School Year 5 visit the University of Chichester

Four members of Year 5 have had their first taste of university!

Jack, Libby, Callum and Jess went to the University of Chichester to be taught by the lecturers based on STEM with a Maths focus.

They brought this learning back to school and started tackling a project with their peers based on wind turbines. They found the project particularly challenging, however really enjoyed it.

“All of the schools did the same thing but we had different aspects of learning, so it was fun to see what other people did,” said Jess, Squirrel class.

This was the children’s second visit to the University and this time they went to present their findings.

“It was definitely worth it...I know how much Jack has enjoyed what he’s been doing at school and I didn’t realise how much of that has come from the university,” said Jack’s Mum who came to see him present his findings.

We spent our time in the brand new technology park and had our initial session in one of the workshops.

“... the facilities there [the university] are amazing and the enthusiasm from the kids, the staff and the university lecturers was really good,” reported Jess’ Dad, who came with us to see her present her findings.

Well done to our super mathematicians who represented our school so confidently.

Arundel Court Primary’s building project

Arundel Court are at a very exciting time of their Building Project. On the 11th June we were very fortunate enough to witness, over 8 days, our new school being connected together on our old field! 45 modules travelled down from the Carnaby factory, near Bridlington, on huge lorries. It only took 8 full days to put the three story school together! Metal work is now being constructed to make the frames for both halls and our centralised kitchen. This part of the new school will be a traditional build and will take much longer to put together. We are so excited that the new school is really taking shape and we're looking forward to seeing what it's like inside.

Stamshaw Infant School work with University Students

Stamshaw Infant School has developed a very successful programme for training and developing teachers of the future by working with students from the University of Chichester and Portsmouth Primary SCITT. Working with young people to train, inspire and excite them as they develop their pedagogy and flourish as individuals is a strength of the school and has provided excellent partnership opportunities.

Throughout the school year, the Portsmouth SCITT students have developed and enhanced their teaching pedagogy through cross phase placements and gained valuable experiences of school life in preparation for their first teaching posts as NQTs. ‘Bridging the gap’ video opportunities have allowed the students to have bespoke support to improve their teaching and to positively impact their outcomes.

During the spring term, Stamshaw Infant hosted twelve University of Chichester students who had the opportunity to expand their understanding of Early Reading through specialist placements in Early Years, focusing on the teaching of phonics. Observing quality first teaching and being encouraged to implement and develop their own teaching strategies with designated intervention enabled the students to deepen their understanding of phonics, provide quality intervention for the selected pupils and secure the foundations for reading.

First year students, from Chichester, enjoyed a successful paired placement in the summer term enabling them to experience and undertake all the roles and responsibilities of a class teacher, gaining valuable support through coaching and mentoring. The placements

provided all the students with an opportunity to grow and develop as teachers and prepare them for their continuing journey through education.

This successful partnership has also been beneficial for teachers at Stamshaw who have developed their strengths through coaching students and modelling good practice. The school has also helped disseminate new initiatives through a series of planned lectures to the students at Portsmouth SCITT including modules on Safeguarding, Restorative Behaviour, Phonics teaching and 'Surviving your NQT year' all of which have received very positive feedback from the students and the Principal of the SCITT course.

Team GB athletes visit Langstone Infant School

In June Langstone Infant School welcomed Team GB athletes Aiden Syers and Chris Greogry to the school. All the children in years 1 and 2 had a PE session with each of the athletes. The whole school met them and asked them questions in assembly.

Court Lane Infants win in local Ecobrick competition

As part of STEAM week in the Spring term, Court Lane Infant School took part in a local Ecobrick competition. The team who ran the competition, made up of 16-18 year old students, are working towards their National Citizen Service and is led by Jack, an ex-pupil of both Court Lane Schools. Their social action project supported the re-purposing of single-use plastic and was a great way to engage the children in thinking about recycling and the impact on the environment. We were delighted to be declared the winners of the competition and as a school collected **287** Ecobricks; collecting 100 more than the 2nd place school! The team are currently in the process of building a flowerbed, using the Court Lane Ecobricks, in Alton Public Gardens and will soon be ready for the public to view.

Court Lane Junior School and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

On Wednesday 19th June, the whole of Court lane Junior School had the opportunity to experience a live performance from an orchestra. The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra performed their annual live stream from the BIC in Bournemouth, with thousands of children watching over the internet via the live stream.

The orchestra conductor had developed during participatory elements, including Makaton actions and body percussion for the children to learn in advance of the performance. Mrs Rae and Mrs Barrand taught the children the participation elements during singing assembly so they were able to join in for the live performance.

The theme of the performance was Space and Exploration, marking the 50th anniversary of landing on the moon. The Year 5 children were particularly interested in this following on from their learning challenge topic of Space earlier in the year.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance, which ticks off one of our Court Lane Crystals, and eagerly await next years' live stream!

Children at Arundel Court Primary Academy share their ideas with the council for a healthier city

Fifteen classes from Arundel Court Primary Academy took part in activities to show Portsmouth City Council what they think makes the city a healthy place to live, and what could be done to make it healthier.

Pupils from Years 2 to 6 looked at their local environment in different ways and described how it made them feel and if they thought aspects were healthy or unhealthy. The activities included a walk through the centre of town, describing the area where they live and having a classroom debate. Posters, photographs, writing and a video described their findings.

Some of the things that they felt helped their health and wellbeing were green space, including gardens and parks, and the seafront. Some areas that they said weren't good were smoking, car fumes, litter, dog mess, too many fast food restaurants and anti-social behaviour. Some children didn't feel safe walking home or playing outside and bad smells from litter and dog mess also put them off being outdoors.

Cllr Matthew Winnington, Cllr Dave Ashmore and Cllr Lynne Stagg from Portsmouth City Council visited the school to hear about the children's experiences and present them with a certificate to thank them for their work.

Cllr Matthew Winnington, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care, said: "It's been really interesting seeing things through the eyes of the children and finding out the things they think help and hinder their health and wellbeing. It's great they recognise being active is important to being healthy so it's our job to help make sure they have enough opportunities to do this."

Mary Keable, Key Stage 1 Leader at Arundel Court Primary Academy, said: "The children really liked doing this project and I'm proud of how much effort they put in. They're really excited that their feedback is being seen by the council and will be used as part of their plans to help make the city a healthier place to live."

Stamshaw Junior School's D-Day 75 Evacuation Day

As it is the 75th anniversary of the D Day landings this year, Stamshaw Junior School decided that the whole school will be focussing on World War 2 as our topic.

As part of this process, we invited the children to take part in an "Evacuation Day" on Friday 5 July 2019.

The idea behind this was to enable the children to experience what life would have been like for a child being evacuated during the war.

For some wonderful photos of the day please see: [Stamshaw Evacuation Day](#)

Our CEO receives an invitation from the Secretary of State for Education

In April our Chief Executive Officer Sue Samson was invited by the Secretary of State for Education Damian Hinds MP to attend an event at St James's Palace. The event celebrated the success of the Academies and Free Schools programme and was to thank key individuals who had been successful in this field. A small group of CEO's were invited to this event alongside government ministers and officials and leaders of major national organisations.

Sue Samson said: "It was an honour to be invited to an event which celebrated the success of the work we have done together through the University of Chichester Academy Trust. This invitation was a 'thank you' to you all"

Recognition for The Flying Bull Academy

The Flying Bull Academy are a Primary Engineer School and role models in Internet Safety!

A huge amount of work that goes on at The Flying Bull Academy to give the children the range of opportunities they enjoy.

Below is a certificate from Childnet. They visited the school in April and were impressed with our Digital Leaders Programme where the children take the lead in supporting our children to be safe online.

In addition, The Flying Bull Academy have been awarded a certificate as a Primary Engineer School. This is down to the efforts of all staff who provide such rich and exciting STEM opportunities for the children.

What's on offer for staff in the Academy Trust

NPQs and Leadership development

Building on our first year of working with Ambition School Leadership, we are delighted to again be running the National Professional Qualification (NPQ) programmes for aspiring head teachers, senior leaders and middle leaders during 2019-20. The programmes are FREE to members of the Academy Trust.

Evaluation of the impact of the programmes this year is underway, but comments received so far indicate that engagement in the qualification has added considerably to the skills, knowledge and understanding of those taking part, as well as indicating areas in which the programmes can be enhanced even further.

Comments from participants this year have included:

"It has changed my mind set with regards to my own teaching and leadership"

“I am more confident to lead a development in my school and I know more about how to go about that more effectively.”

Each programme consists of a series of face to face sessions which will run across the academic year from October to July as well as requiring participants to develop, lead and report on a project in their school which is assessed against set criteria for each of the courses within a given timeframe.

We have received confirmation that Trust Schools are eligible for free places on all programmes for at least one more year. If you are interested in finding out more about the programme or applying for colleagues from your own school, please contact...

Course leader: Sue Patrick

NPQ Department Administrator: Aziz Rahman

More details can be found here: <https://www.chi.ac.uk/institute-education/professional-learning/national-professional-qualifications> or email npq@chi.ac.uk

School Direct – Primary and Secondary

School Direct provides a one-year, full-time training route into teaching. The Trust's sponsor and School Direct partner is The University of Chichester. The University has a long and rich history of training teachers. Trainees accepted on School Direct are allocated a Trust academy as their lead training school. During the training year they also receive training in other Trust academies, working closely with experienced and knowledgeable staff to develop their skills as teachers. Trainees are immersed in school life, experiencing practical, hands-on training in welcoming and supportive learning environments.

The Trust first started to provide School Direct training during the academic year 2017-18. Three trainees were based in primary academies and one secondary trainee was based at Mill Chase Academy. All four of the trainees achieved the highest possible grade on completion of their training. Their success of the School Direct programme has resulted in all four trainees being employed as newly qualified teachers in Trust academies. This is an outstanding outcome for the academies and trainees. As newly qualified teachers, they are already immersed in the Trust ethos and culture. They are embracing the Trust's mission and are working within a “vibrant, inclusive and aspirational family of academies” with the opportunity to be directly involved in “transforming life chances for pupils through excellent teaching and learning”.

The Trust are currently recruiting trainees for the 2019-20 training year. All applicants must have an undergraduate degree and GCSE grade 5 (previously C) in English, mathematics and science. Experience of working in a school environment is desirable, but not essential. Applicants are required to complete the Professional Skills Tests in literacy and numeracy prior to starting School Direct Training.

If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more about the Trust School Direct training programme, share our values and have the commitment to make difference to the lives of young people, please contact: unicatschooldirect@chi.ac.uk . We will be happy to have an informal discussion and provide further information.

Working with the University

Curriculum Enrichment

The University is providing support for a range of enrichment opportunities in our Academies:

- Fine Art student placements, contact Rachel Johnston, Senior Lecturer in Fine Art r.johnston@chi.ac.uk
- Libraries, contact Ruth Clark, Subject Librarian, University of Chichester r.clark@chi.ac.uk
- Teachers Readers Group – in conjunction with Open University. The University of Chichester currently has a Teachers Readers Group that runs throughout the year. We have an opportunity to extend this for the Trust. Interested teachers should contact R.Webb@chi.ac.uk for more details. (Primary)
- Bespoke Forest School Support– Dr Duncan Reavey, University of Chichester. Contact D.Reavey@chi.ac.uk for more details. (Primary)
- NASENC award - opportunity for guest speaker for an hour during our sessions. The Guest Speaker can be a senior leader, HT, DHT and/or the SENCO but with expertise relevant for **NASENC** award. There are multiple dates and themes. Contact H.Green@chi.ac.uk for more information. (Primary and Secondary)
- Other opportunities to work with the university include: STEM module development, reading opportunities, cultural capital workshops, writing opportunities, Maths, SEND, English TeachMeet and summer conferences including Early years, MFL and SEND. If you are interested in any of these opportunities do please contact your headteacher who has a list of opportunities and contacts.

Use of the University library

All Academy Trust staff can have a free library card which entitles them to 10 loans at a time, from both the Bognor and Chichester libraries. Staff must register at the library reception desks with some ID showing they are part of an academy school and a card will be issued in your name.

Trust staff can also have access to all the Universities library databases if studying in the libraries. For this please ask for a 'walk-in access' password which will provide the databases using the library computers.

Quiz

How well do you know the Trust and its schools?

1. Which school was the first school to join the Trust?
2. Which school is our secondary school?
3. Which school has the vision 'Make a difference. Be outstanding'?
4. How many years has the University of Chichester been teaching Education?
5. Which of our schools is a Forest School?
6. Which of our primary schools has an NFL team?
7. Can you name our Infant schools?
8. Which of our schools have a swan as their logo?
9. Can you name which of our schools is situated in Chichester?
10. What is the name of the university campus in Chichester?

And Finally

We now have a Twitter feed, which we would like to invite you to follow.

If you have a Twitter account, please visit our feed and follow us [@chiuniAcademies](#)

If you have something you would like to share with us for the next newsletter please send your contributions to Heidi Divis h.divis@chi.ac.uk

Answers to the quiz. 1. Frogmore Junior, 2. Mill Chase, 3. Arundel Court Primary
4. 180 years, 5. Fernhurst, 6. The Flying Bull Academy, 7. Court Lane, Langstone, Stamshaw, 8.
Langstones, 9. Kingsham Primary, 10. Bishop Otter Campus