

We are continuing our work with Cavendish Primary School, the closest feeder primary school for Malet Lambert, supporting them with their conversion to academy status and they will be joining the trust in 2018. We are very much looking forward to welcoming Machaela Heavens and her pupils and staff into the Education Alliance family and collaborating with them on future projects.

The Education Alliance is now a Trust of 5,500 learners and employs 600 permanent staff across all sites. Alongside its secondary and primary schools, the Trust leads a Teaching School, the only secondary Teaching School in the East Riding of Yorkshire, which comprises of 20 schools from the Yorkshire area. The Trust also offers teacher training as part of our School-Led Initial Teacher Training Programme (Yorkshire Wolds Teacher Training) allowing trainee teachers access to university style resources and expertise, whilst they study towards a post-graduate certificate in education. Again, this is the only organisation of its kind in the county.

The trust website <https://theeducationalliance.org.uk/> is now up and running and it is updated on a regular basis with information and trust policies.

Hunsley Primary

As the flagship Free School for the area, Hunsley Primary benefits from being part of a larger family of schools ensuring that the children receive opportunities to enhance their school experience from Reception, right through to leaving in Year 6. These experiences include Sixth Form Reading Mentors who do a fantastic job in giving the children one-to-one attention when reading independently. Students come into school throughout the week, giving up their own spare time to sit with the children, ask them questions about their books and listen to them read. Year 1 students have benefited from a musical workshop, getting to know the various instruments in the orchestra, a set of workshops were facilitated by Miss Griffin and students. It was quite an amazing experience to see, hear and try out such a wide range of instruments from bassoon to tympani.

SIMs Parent and Student Applications (secondary schools)

Following feedback from both parents/carers and students, we will shortly be rolling out apps for both parents and students which will interface with the current Information Management System. This will allow better access to student specific data to help support students with their learning and also monitor information such as progress, attendance, reports and as well as viewing the school calendar and registered contact details. The student app will allow homework and timetables to be viewed on mobile and tablet devices as feedback has shown that students would welcome the immediate access.

Examination Boards

In all schools each Key Stage 4 and 5 subject follows a specification from a nominated examination board. Historically, each department made the decision on which examination board was used locally. As the trust has grown, we have collaborated more on subject specific matters and as a result of this, examination boards are now aligned across all subjects in the secondary schools. This allows us to share expertise, good practice and resources. We see this as a very positive step for all staff and will maximise the help and support that students receive.

Head of School Surgeries

We continue to hold surgeries in all schools across the trust, these allow parents and carers the opportunity to talk to the Head of School or members of the Senior Leadership Team to seek clarification on any aspect of the experience at their school. Feedback from those who have taken up the opportunity to have an appointment has been very positive and we will continue to offer these each half term.

Yorkshire Wolds Teacher Training

We welcomed our first cohort of Yorkshire Wolds Trainees in September and are delighted with the progress they have made in their first half term. During the core induction programme, in the first week of term, the trainees investigated the role of the teacher, pastoral responsibilities as well as receiving in depth training on safeguarding, child protection and the Prevent Duty. The feedback from this first week was excellent, with one trainee commenting “The Trust ethos is a reality and not just an ethos. I feel I will be encouraged and nurtured to be the best that I can be.”

An orientation week followed with trainees experiencing school life first hand in one of our trust schools, shadowing students and TAs to get a deep understanding of what it's like to be a student. The diversity placement was the first opportunity for our trainees to experience life as a teacher as they observed classes and began to plan their first lessons with their host teachers in their partnership schools.

Lee Cawthorne, Chemistry Trainee says “This has been an exciting term so far with a whole host of new challenges. The diversity placement has been a great opportunity to get into some real teaching. This was my first time in a classroom environment after spending more than 20 years in industry. It is fair to say that it is a little different to the board room, however no less engaging or challenging. The main take out from my first term in teaching is how engaging the students are and how you can make such a positive impact on them in a short period of time if you get it right. My year 7 class is filled with 30 budding scientists that are all phenomenally talented and enthusiastic and I will miss them when I move placements. “

We are currently recruiting for our cohort of trainees for September 2018, anyone interested can find further information at <http://www.ywtt.org.uk/>