

# NEWSLETTER

The latest news from South Bank Academy Trust

ISSUE 2: September 2017

## Congratulations to our leavers at all 3 schools

Working together... **Better education**

As we start a new academic year, we are celebrating some excellent results across the MAT. Year 6 pupils at Knavesmire Primary School gave a first-rate performance in Reading, Writing and Maths. These pupils also made really good progress over the four years since they left the infants.

Performance at Scarcroft in Year 6 was good in Reading and Maths. A significant proportion of these pupils managed to achieve the higher standard in both of these subjects. Pupils in Year 1 also performed particularly well in Phonics compared

with the rest of the country.

There were happy scenes as pupils at Millthorpe collected their GCSE results over the summer. Congratulations to all the Year 11 leavers and good luck as they move onto further education or into the world of work.

In news that deserves a special celebration, ex-Millthorpe pupil Jack Hughes and ex-Millthorpe/Scarcroft pupil Will Osborne secured places at Cambridge and Oxford respectively. Staff at both schools were delighted to hear of their success.

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## Meeting with Lord Nash

Millthorpe School was selected by Lord Nash (parliamentary Under-Secretary for the School System) for a visit in early July. He is currently visiting MATs across the country and it is particularly pleasing—given that we are the youngest of the York MATs—that he chose the South Bank MAT to visit.

He spent time with Trevor Burton (Headteacher at Millthorpe School) discussing how the school provides pastoral care for its pupils, including how the school had responded to the impact on some of its pupils of the Manchester bombing incident. He met with students from the school and was taken on a tour of

the building.

He then met with MAT leaders, including Edwin Thomas (Trust Chair) and Anna Cornhill (Trust Principal) to discuss the progress that the MAT has made so far and the plans for supporting York High School from September. He was particularly complementary about the presentation given to him by Edwin Thomas.

MAT leaders took the opportunity to remind him of their concerns over the uncertainty about school funding over recent months, particularly in relation to the lack of confirmation about the proposed National Funding Formula. He

acknowledged our concerns and stated his intention to share these worries at government level.



Working together... **Better Leadership**

## National Leader of Governance

Our very own Chair of Trustees Edwin Thomas has been selected for a top role—he has been chosen from applicants across the country to be a National Leader of Governance (NLG).

Fewer than 500 governors now hold this role and it is a real achievement for Edwin and for the MAT. He will be using his expertise and knowledge of governance to support other schools, adding capacity and expertise where it is most needed.

Roger Pope, Chair of the National College for Teaching & Leadership said "I'd like to congratulate Edwin on being appointed as a National Leader of Governance and for being prepared to volunteer even more of his time for the benefit of other schools."

## Award for school governor

Micklegate councillor and Scarcroft Governor Jonny Crawshaw has been given the Fred and Anne Jarvis Award for his campaigning work on education. This National Award is given out by the NUT (National Union of Teachers) and was first instigated in 2008.

Jonny is a founder member and spokesperson for the national parent group "Rescue our schools" and he has campaigned about comprehensive education. Jonny said "This is a huge honour and I'm very grateful to the NUT here in York for nominating me for the prestigious award. Education should be broad-ranging, stimulating and fulfilling, but sadly schools are being pushed away from providing this breadth of experience."

## New Trustees with educational expertise

In the last newsletter I set out the reasons why the Trust had to make changes to its initial Governance structure. As a result of the three founder school Headteachers having to step down as Trustees, the Trust was left with a skills gap in that there were no voting members with school leadership experience at a senior level.

A recruitment drive was subsequently implemented and as a result, 4 new Trustees have been successfully appointed to start in September 2017. They bring a mix of primary and secondary expertise to the MAT, as well as significant experience of school improvement at a system level.

### **Jill Hodges**

Jill is an ex-secondary school Headteacher in the North Yorkshire area. She went on to become Assistant Director for School Improvement in York and then moved across to North Yorkshire Local Authority to fulfil the same roll. She has recently retired, but is keen to stay involved with education.

### **Graham Wilson**

Prior to his retirement, Graham was formerly Headteacher of two different primary schools in Hull. Since then he has built a reputation as a School Improvement consultant within York and Hull. He is also a Trustee of a MAT in Hull.

### **Pat Boyle**

Pat is well-known within the York educational community, having been the Headteacher at Wigginton Primary School for the last 15 years. She has just retired this summer, but is keen to put her expertise to good use in a different context.

### **Paul Edwards**

Paul is a practising Headteacher at St Martin's C of E Primary School and has been in post since 2011. The school is situated in the small village of Fangfoss, in the East Riding Local Authority. Paul is keen to gain experience outside his own school and to widen his understanding of how academy trusts work.

We look forward to welcoming these new trustees onto the Trust Board and benefiting from their wide-ranging expertise.

Working together... **Better education**

## Early Years Art competition

Pupils in Reception at Knavesmire and Scarcroft Primary Schools set themselves the challenge of making a pencil drawing of their own school and sending their work to each other to judge. Each school selected three winners from their partner class in the opposite school and held a celebration where prizes were awarded.. Good fun was had by all and some lovely art work was produced in the process. Some of these five-year-olds are clearly setting out to be the Art Critics of the future!



Scarcroft School, by Ella (age 5)

## South Bank MAT welcomes Woodthorpe School

Woodthorpe Primary School has been patiently waiting to convert to Academy Status and join the South Bank Academy Trust. Due to delays in the City of York Council's administrative procedures, its initial conversion date of 1st April was pushed back to 1st October.

In just over a week's time we will finally welcome the school into the organisation of the MAT. Headteacher James McGann has been attending meetings of the MAT's Headteacher Group for over a year now and is looking forward to being officially on board.

## In capable hands



Meet the Vice-Chair of Trustees **Nicki Mitchell**

Nicki is Vice Chair of the Trust Board and Chair of the Education & Standards Committee. She was a governor at Millthorpe School between 2011 and 2016.

Nicki grew up in York. After studying German and Italian at the University of Bath she moved to Valencia, Spain. On her return to the UK, Nicki studied technical translation and went on to work as an in-house translator for a multinational company. Her life took a different turn when she retrained in the law. She now practises as a solicitor in York, specialising in family law.

Nicki lives locally and has two children who have both had the privilege of an education at Scarcroft and Millthorpe. She is a keen road cyclist, baker and Zumba enthusiast!

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