

Update from the Chair

The Ouseburn Learning Trust has been under constant review – pretty much since it came into being in 2014 – keeping up with changes and different strategic priorities. In the last year we have had changes in our administrative support and there will be further changes ahead as our current Trust Administrator, Gemma McNab, leaves to take up a career in teaching. Heaton Manor will leave just as soon as certain legal questions are resolved and will become Jesmond Park Academy, under the umbrella of the Gosforth Federated Academies Trust. Much of my time recently has been taken up with the transfer procedures associated with that. I am delighted that although Heaton Manor will no longer be part of the Ouseburn Learning Trust, there are plans for the Head Teacher, Karen Blackburn, to continue to work closely with the Heads of all of the primaries.



There have been some changes to membership of the Board – Gordon Bell who represented Hotspur Primary, stood down and was replaced by Jon Bryan; Waz Baquir stepped in to represent Cragside in place of Emma Wardle. We welcomed Professor Greta Defeyter – nationally known for her work with Food Poverty and Holiday Hunger – representing Northumbria University, to replace David Littlefair, and Lorna Wright to replace Ed Milner, for Sage Gateshead. Lucy Backhurst who represented Newcastle University is in the process of stepping down and helping us to find a suitable replacement. The partnerships with these important external organisations are a vital part of our work and offer enrichment and opportunities for our children and students as well as helping our partners to understand the ever changing landscape for schools. I want to thank all of the past and current members of the Board for their energy, enthusiasm and commitment to the Ouseburn Learning Trust.

The interschool work goes from strength to strength with regular networking and training opportunities for staff at all levels – and we are creating a network for governors from each of the schools to work together from Autumn 2019. Children from all of the schools meet for various activities – music, drama, opera, sport and recently a meeting was held for all of the school councils. Children make new friendships with their counterparts from the other schools and this stands them in very good stead when they move on to secondary school.

Shirley Mills

Chair of Ouseburn Learning Trust

Focus on Culture

We continue to be strongly represented in cultural and arts events, with two further schools gaining Artsmark this year. Benton Park and West Jesmond both received the gold award. In the summer term we worked again with Scottish Opera. Four schools performed to parents with Cragside and Benton Park working together on a joint production. At the end of the Spring term we came together to sing at the City Hall in a shared event on the theme of identity and many schools took part in the Newcastle dance festival later in the same week. Cragside excelled this year as regional winners of the DDMIX dance competition. Pictures of events can be found throughout the newsletter but plans are already underway for some further shared events next year and several of the schools will take to the stage in the Autumn term in the Shakespeare in School's festival.



Hotspur Primary working with Scottish Opera



Above Left: West Jesmond Scottish Opera Performance. **Above Right:** Cragside Dancers with Darcey Bussell

Focus on Sports and PE

Another amazing year of sporting success

PE and Sport continue to be incredibly important to the schools and pupils of the Ouseburn Learning Trust. All children receive a quality physical education curriculum in school, but it is the commitment to extra-curricular sport that continues to develop through inter-Trust competition. This is a springboard for selecting and entering teams in city competitions and success in these has meant that the OLT has been represented in regional finals in the Tyne and Wear Games events.

Diana Hales has again supported the Trust this year both in school curriculum PE and in organising the OLT events. She is a member of Heaton Manor's PE staff, but has spent time teaching at Benton Park, Cragside and Ravenswood across the year. She will continue in this role next year.

As a Trust we organise half termly events for pupils across the primary age range. They are hosted either at one of the primary schools or at Heaton Manor. This year we have been supported in organising these events by Diana Hales, Newcastle Schools Sport Service and staff and students from Tyne Met College.

Here is a summary of this year's events:

Competition	Cross Country	Hockey	Basketball	Badminton	Football	Cricket	Tag Rugby	Netball	Basketball	Girls Football	Cross Country
Age Range	Y1/Y2	Y3/Y4	Y5/Y6	Y5/Y6	Y3/Y4	Y5/Y6	Y3/Y4	Y5/Y6	Y5/Y6	Y3/Y4	Y3/Y4
Half Term	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2				
Venue	Ravenswood	Heaton Manor	Heaton Manor	Heaton Manor	Benton Park	Ravenswood	Cragside				
Schools Taking Part	Benton Park Christchurch Cragside Hotspur Ravenswood West Jesmond	Benton Park Christchurch Cragside Hotspur Ravenswood West Jesmond	Benton Park Cragside Hotspur Ravenswood West Jesmond	Benton Park Cragside Hotspur Ravenswood West Jesmond	Benton Park Christchurch Cragside Hotspur Ravenswood West Jesmond	Benton Park Christchurch Hotspur Ravenswood West Jesmond	Benton Park Cragside Hotspur Ravenswood West Jesmond	Benton Park Cragside Hotspur Ravenswood West Jesmond	Benton Park Cragside Hotspur Ravenswood West Jesmond	Benton Park Cragside Hotspur Ravenswood West Jesmond	Benton Park Chillingham Road Hotspur West Jesmond
Winners	Benton Park	West Jesmond	Benton Park	Ravenswood	Benton Park, Ravenswood	Ravenswood	Festival - all winners	Benton Park	Benton Park	Cragside	Benton Park

Special mention must go to the furthest travelled team. The trusts smallest school Christchurch travelled all the way to Birmingham to play in the Danone Nationals Cup at after finishing joint 1st in a local tournament!



Above: Christchurch Primary football team play at Birmingham City Football Stadium

Left: OLT Schools sing at the city hall.