

YEAT Newsletter

Autumn Term 2018



We are almost at our year anniversary of setting up Yorkshire Endeavour Academy Trust, so we felt this would be a good time to update you on some of our changes and developments within the trust – it has been an exciting and busy year!

Firstly our Trustees. Tom Cooper (Chair of Trustees) resigned at the end of the summer. We thank Tom massively for everything that he did to get us this far on our journey! We also lost Helen Brown as a Trustee due to work commitments, and again we are very grateful for the valuable contributions she made. Andrew Parker has now been appointed as Chair of the Trust Board and we have been joined by 2 new Trustees– Mari Palmer (Headteacher of Settrington Primary and Research School) and Wendy Parkin (recently retired Health and Safety officer for North Yorkshire). We are also pleased to let you know that Denise Davidson has also joined the Trust as a Member. Denise brings with her a wealth of experience in Education, including Headship and work with Ofsted. Denise is also a very experienced Governor. All of these ladies bring very valuable skills to our board, and we are delighted they have joined us.

Our CEO, Jane Douglass, recently retired as Headteacher of Castleton and Glaisdale Primary School and has now also stepped down as CEO of the Trust. She is succeeded by Christina Zanelli, who is the Headteacher of West Cliff Primary School and formerly the Deputy CEO. We extend huge thanks to Jane for her relentless hard work and commitment to the setting up of Yorkshire Endeavour – we would not be here without her! Jane is hoping to return to the Trust in the spring to provide school improvement support to the schools.



Other exciting news is that we had our first round of KS2 SAT results, which were very pleasing indeed! And our recent 5 day audit of our finances told us we only had minor tweaks to make in our financial processes. We are about to publish our first Trustee report and end of year accounts – which will be available on our Trust website (www.yeat.co.uk). We are also delighted to have been designated as a National English Hub – one of only 32 in the country. The Yorkshire Endeavour English Hub will be led by Lisa Ponter.

New Initiatives

It is very pleasing to be able to announce the launch of two new initiatives that will support the development of literacy in our area.

The first is the Yorkshire Endeavour English Hub, which will be based at Lealholm Primary School. This is one of 32 hubs being developed nationwide, with the aim of raising standards in schools through the promotion and sharing of effective practice, focusing on the key areas of developing language and closing the word gap, developing early reading through systematic systemic phonics and - very importantly – promoting a love of reading.



The other initiative, organised by the National Literacy Trust and called locally 'Our Stories', is a community based project aimed at encouraging a culture of reading, including the recruitment of people in the community as Literacy Champions. Anyone can be a Literacy Champion - you could be a parent, business

professional, student, sports coach or just passionate about making a difference in your local area. The Trust are looking for volunteers to promote talking, reading and writing, as research indicates that communities working together is the best way to create positive, sustainable change. Training and materials will be provided in a number of areas to enable you to make a real difference. Please visit their website if you are interested in knowing more or considering offering your time as a volunteer.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/communities/north-yorkshire-coast/>

News from the Schools

As usual, this is a very busy time of year in our schools, with Christmas plays and other festive activities taking place. There has also been time for some other activities as well.

Children from Glaisdale, Castleton and Lealholm schools recently had a visit from Billy Bob Buttons, who is the award-winning author of a number of books aimed at children, including the hysterical Muffin Monster and the UK People's Book Prize winner, I Think I Murdered Miss. He read extracts from some of his books and explained the process that he goes through to create his work.



Airy Hill School children have been supporting their local library, with various classes visiting to choose books to take back to school. Following this, the children then return the books to exchange them or extend the loan.

It is very pleasing that members of the public commented upon the children's enthusiasm and excellent behaviour.

At West Cliff School, some of the children have been tourists for the day whilst visiting the local area, impressing people with their local knowledge and their sensible attitude. They saw so much of Whitby on their walking tour, including Whitby Abbey from many viewing points and getting really close to the Endeavour.

