

YCAT Newsletter DECEMBER 2018

CEO Update:

This has been another successful year for YCAT schools. There has been stronger school performance with a consistently high proportion of our children achieving expected standards and above in key stage national assessments.

We are effectively embedding collaborative working practices throughout the Trust and this is nurturing and supporting the further development of staff expertise across many areas: teaching, leadership, finance, governance etc. Our joint training days and teacher's networks are a vital element in the continued professional development of YCATs workforce.

We have established a strong focus on compliance of policies and aligning governance across the Trust and this has been further enhanced by developing bespoke governors' training modules for all key areas of leadership.

Reading Plus (computerised Reading Programme) has been provided for key stage 2 pupils in our schools and our review of the programmes impact on pupil's reading progress has been positive with improved catch up rates in reading for many pupils.

Our school review system continues to be developed to support schools' leadership and improvement. This year we have established a pilot safeguarding audit for schools and initial evaluations show schools have found the process very supportive.

Sarah Beveridge has established focused support for staff health and well-being and more initiatives will follow in this area.

Our wide range of achievements in 2017/18 have been a result of the high level of commitment by all members of our learning community.

Thank you to you all, your hard work is greatly appreciated.

Don



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

to all of the staff
at YCAT schools

We hope you have
a wonderful
Christmas
and a very
Happy New Year



Main priorities for 2019:

- Continue to establish a more evidence based approach to our Trusts' collaborative working practice so that we share effective practice for different pupil groups.
- Establish a more knowledge-rich teaching approach by September 2019.
- Explore ways to further support staff health and well-being
- Increase the range of leadership support across the Trust
- Further develop training support for governance at all levels



Building and Estates Management update

Following a successful year in obtaining CIF funding for Hawes, who received £80k worth of funding for a new fire alarm system and Bilton Grange, who received £105k worth of funding to replace the boilers in school, we are working hard to collate evidence for the next stage of bids. The deadline for 2018/2019 is the 14th December which is fast approaching.

We are putting applications together for new boilers and pipework at Askwith, Leyburn and Lothersdale and focusing on new roof applications for Hawes and Bilton Grange. We have supporting letters from all Head teachers of the impact of failing boilers and leaking roofs on the day to day running of schools and are working closely with Eddisons who are supporting YCAT with the bids.

Once the bids are submitted on the 14th December we will have to wait till April for the results. We will be keeping our fingers crossed to hear good news!

CFO Update

This term we have survived our third year's financial audit! All has gone well and we are pleased that YCAT is in a relatively strong financial position compared to many schools in North Yorkshire. The auditors were happy with the way we are managing our finances and didn't have any major concerns.

We have been looking at a number of contracts this term and have made some significant savings on our broadband contract through a competitive tender.

Staff Health and Well-being Update

Although the project with Leeds Beckett has been completed, this important piece of work to support all staff across YCAT schools continues to gain momentum. Don, Jane and Sarah met with Sue of Westfield Health to explore the possibility of a health support scheme for all YCAT employees. Sarah is also sharing the findings of the project across other groups involved with Leeds Beckett on the 11th December and 11th January, to see if there is further work that can be done with them. Leyburn has begun to use the Workload Reduction toolkit from the DfE.

On the 16th November, Sarah went with Susan McGinn (NYCCHR) to the Headspace Conference in Leeds. This is a project run by Leeds City Council to support leaders in all schools. Whilst there, a link was made with Education Support Partnership who will be speaking at the Leadership Conference for all schools on the 3rd May 2019. Part of YCAT's ethos is to support all colleagues across the sector and we are very proud to be leading the way in this area.



YCAT Schools Celebrating Diversity!

On October 16th, year 6 children from all the Wensleydale Primary schools took part in a special Diversity Day organised by Rebecca Swift, the Equalities adviser for NYCC, which was held at Leyburn Primary School. Each child took part in four workshops where they found out about: what it's like to live with a disability from Jamie who is blind; explored gender stereotypes with Sarah and Christos from Barnardo's; listened to the story of Maria, a Syrian refugee, and found out all about Nepalese culture from Sumitra. They played games, ate food, dressed up and listened thoughtfully to the workshop leaders' stories. The response from the children and staff was overwhelmingly positive and we plan to hold more of these events where we can find out more about other people's lives and respect and celebrate difference.

Continuing Professional Development for YCAT Schools

This year, as the changes to the curriculum are being looked at by schools, HART are running two robust training programmes for teachers and leaders so that they can design, implement and improve their curriculum.

Middle and Subject Leader Training:

The first session was on November 13th and 28 Middle and Subject Leaders attended from around HART and within YCAT. This session was entitled 'Intent'.

The next two sessions take place on: 21st January – Implementation and 8th April - Impact

The Knowledge Rich Curriculum was also launched this year with the first session on 19th November – entitled Intent took place and 25 leaders from across HART attended. The content included the following areas: Key developments in Curriculum theory, what is meant by 'Knowledge Rich' and what does research tell us about effective teaching of knowledge to support the pupils' development of long term memory.

Further sessions are planned for the following days: 21st January – Implementation and 8th April - Impact

YCAT Staff Training Day – Monday 7th January 2019

Our January training day will be at Leyburn Primary School – arriving from 9am for a 9:30am start and finishing at approx. 2:30pm. Lunch will be provided.

More information will follow but a brief outline for the day is:

9:30 – 9:40am - Welcome and updates by YCAT CEO ~ Don Parker

Morning:

Teachers - 2, 1 hour workshops led by Richard Street and Elaine Nayler – 'Planning knowledge rich lessons in maths and English'.

Teaching Assistants –2, 1 hour workshops led by Jo Robinson – 'Understanding the Knowledge Rich Curriculum'

Afternoon:

Network meetings for EYFS staff, English and Maths. Time for individual schools to meet.

