



The 2016/2017 academic year has started off very well with the new leadership team making a big impact already across our four schools. The new Directors of Learning and Lead Practitioners are already making a big difference, with our quality of teaching improving, and this in turn is positively impacting our child outcomes predicted for the end of the academic year. Our new Heads of School at Waterman and Stambridge are also having a big impact with the self-assessments of both schools showing some excellent progress. We are confident that all of our schools will be good or better when Ofsted next turn up to inspect us. We want to say a big thank you to Mrs Barnett, who has been our Headteacher at Briscoe for some time and is leaving us at the end of this term. We wish her lots of luck in her new school and thank her for leaving the school in such a good place. Good luck also to Mrs Chudleigh and Mrs Coggin who will be jointly leading Briscoe for the rest of this academic year.

We are so proud of our lead school in the Trust, Wickford CoE, which is in the top 2% of schools in Essex and nationally. Mrs Johnson is doing an outstanding job and the school in this academic year is showing even greater signs of improvement from last year, which in itself was an outstanding year. Our nursery and early years provision continues to grow and our alternate provision is also very strong. Our central team has also done a super job centralising our finances and procurement. On the governance side, we have two new Directors, Mrs Hopkins and Mr Jessup and also a new Chair of Governors at Waterman/Stambridge, Mrs Bradbury. Good luck to all of them, and we know they will make a big difference in the future.

Finally, thanks to all our staff who are the major reason why we are so successful and our children who always represent us at outside events with great behaviour and make us so proud. Our great team is led by Mrs Rogan who is always an excellent role model for all of us and spends countless hours embedding all the right outcomes across Hearts. A big thanks to her and the fantastic recognition of her OBE, which she collected in October at the palace. Have a lovely Xmas and we hope 2017 is a very successful and prosperous year.

Dave Faulkner

On behalf of the Directors and Governors at HEARTS Academy Trust

Highlights and proud moments from our four schools.....

Wickford Church of England School

Wickford C of E had an exciting morning when Olympic Judo athlete Theo Spalding came in to lead each class in a fun fitness circuit before giving an inspirational speech and demonstration. Everyone had lots of fun completing the sponsored fitness circuit and raised lots of money at home to help athletes like Theo as well as earning new PE equipment for the school.

We definitely recommend other schools to use Sports for Schools to inspire more children across the trust.



This weekend, the Wickford Church of England Infants choir performed in front of 100s of spectators at Wickford at Christmas. The crowd enjoyed the eclectic mix of songs and it was great to spread the joy of Christmas to our local community.



Photo with dinosaurs - FS exploring the outdoors and searching for different objects in the environment

Harvest - Harvest celebrations at the Little Teds breakfast.



Finally, huge congratulations to Mrs Johnson for passing the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH)!

Waterman Primary School

Waterman Primary was successful in gaining reaccreditation of the International School Award for sustaining partnerships with schools in Spain and Kenya.

Year 6 pupils visited King Edmunds Secondary School for a taster day and were commended for their behaviour and conduct.

Year 6 Play Activity Leaders were set up and training started. Academy Ambassadors and Student Council set up.



STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) club started with children. Each session begins with a mission and children use their skills from the STEM curricular areas to achieve the mission.



A Geography afternoon was held where children 'visited' Scotland for some country dancing, Italy to design and test gondolas, Brazil to create masks and India to learn about life there. Pupils worked collaboratively in their house teams developing their art and design skills, scientific thinking and dance skills, as well as their social skills as they worked alongside pupils other than their classmates.



We launched a competition for pupils to design a new school logo.

Years 2, 3 and 4 enjoyed a sleepover at school. The children created pitta pizzas, made salt dough models and sang songs around a campfire before falling asleep in our school hall.

Remembrance Day activities were held, including making poppies for a wreath. The children also held a two-minute silence.

Our very first Head Boy and Head Girl were appointed, after a strict application and interview process.



Our Christmas Bazaar was held, which focused on an Enterprise event for each class. Calendars, Christmas decorations, reindeer food and photographs from a Christmas photobooth were all sold and £100 was raised to add to the Ambassadors lunchtime club fund. The Scholastic book fair also visited the school and £300 of books were sold which meant £300 of books were donated to the school library and class book corner areas.

We also held a cross-Federation cricket match with Stambridge Primary and Waterman were the overall winners!

We also invited parents in to join pupils for their Christmas dinner and held a Nativity service for parents. Our Y5/6 class visited two local retirement complexes and performed carols, establishing links within the community.

Stambridge Primary School

We have had a great term at Stambridge and have managed to pack lots of exciting activities in. We have hosted a mini sports event for years 1 and 2 across the trust; the children really enjoyed the afternoon and the chance to mix with children from the other schools.



As part of Anti-Bullying week, the whole school dressed up in 'Something that made them feel powerful or confident.' The money raised has meant we have bought a friendship stop sign for our playground.

For Remembrance Day, year 5 and 6 visited the graves of the Stambridge Soldiers who used to attend the school. They did us proud and showed the Hearts value of respect.



We have had lots of visitors to the school including the dogs trust, NSPCC and our pupils got an opportunity to experience a planetarium.

Stambridge have also won £12,000 from Tesco bags of help to develop their outside space. A very big thank you to Becky Thomas who spent a lot of time putting the bid together. We are really looking forward to seeing how our outdoor space develops!



Briscoe Primary and Nursery School



Year 3, Hazel Class - Picasso style self portraits

DT - Sewing. A Brazilian carnival banner - Hazel loves Brazil.



Miss Rymer with Year 6 and Mrs Patel our governor, at the cake stall

Sid visiting Santa



Update from Jane Robinson, Director of Wickford Teaching School Alliance

We successfully bid and obtained funding to promote LGBTQI teachers into leadership positions. We have recruited 9 of the required 10 teachers who are looking for promotion. We also obtained funding to support us to become a TSA Centre of Excellence for EYFS. This funding will allow us to work collaboratively with our alliance schools to support local EYFS provision.



Our half-termly Teach Meets continue to be a success. The last one, hosted by Grange Primary, had 60 teachers in attendance. The feedback from those teachers was outstanding.

We have also introduced half-termly Network meetings. Ruth Thomas, our Maths SLE, has coordinated the last two successful Maths Network meetings.



Last month we worked in collaboration with Thurrock & Billericay TSAs to hold an ensuring success at KS2 event. There were 80 delegates, our Directors of Learning contributed to the agenda, both sharing a success and facilitating the ensuing discussions. Debbie Rogan OBE compered the event.

The Head Teacher Triads continue to meet successfully. Wickford Church of England has welcomed Rettendon Primary into its triad with Cray's Hill Primary. This term's focus has been writing.

We have 5 teacher training places to fill. We have interviewed 5 candidates so far and offered 4 of them a conditional place; we have another candidate lined up for interview in January.

Our twitter site has over 1,100 followers and we continue to promote the TSA through daily tweets.

Debbie Rogan, HEARTS CEO would like to add a thank you to the board and in particular Dave Faulkner for all of their support which has helped us move things along. We acknowledge that everything they do is voluntary and we are very grateful for their expertise and support. Also a thank you and farewell to Erica Barnett, Head of Briscoe Primary School who leaves us at the end of term. We will miss her and Sid enormously and we thank her for her dedication and love for the children and staff. The school has been transformed under her leadership and will go on to greater success after she leaves because of her development of others.

