



## In Brief:

### A Yorkshire Welcome

The children of Richard Taylor School were excited to welcome Bishop Helen-Ann to their school on her first day in post.

### Celebrations at North Rigton Primary

Pupils, staff and governors celebrate as North Rigton Primary School officially joins the Trust.

### Goodbye Mrs Robson

The children of Oatlands Infant School will say goodbye to their Headteacher, Elizabeth Robson at the end of the Autumn term.

### Masterchef Comes to Harrogate

Three Trust schools were represented in the interschool finals of Masterchef at St Aidan's School. See page 3 to find out who were the Master Bakers!

### Holy Trinity Day

Never has learning about the Holy Trinity been such fun! Pupils enjoyed dance, music and art activities whilst learning about the Holy Trinity.

### It's a Wrap!

Pupils from across all the Trust schools recently took part in the filming of a promotional video which will feature on the Trust website.

### Governance News

The Trust Conference, a new Governor Handbook, Trust email addresses and governor training.

## Welcome

This Autumn term always seems long and especially so this year as we continue teaching almost until Christmas Day itself. The children are understandably exhausted from all their efforts over the weeks as well as the excitement of Christmas events planned for the end of term.

A huge 'thank you' to every colleague working within the Trust for the way in which you engage with and challenge all the pupils in our care – be assured that your time, commitment, energy and professionalism is never taken for granted by anyone responsible for leadership of our schools.

I wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a healthy start to 2018.

John Wood  
Executive Principal, YCST

## Visit of the Bishop of Ripon

On Thursday 9th November, Richard Taylor School was honoured to receive a visit from the newly appointed Bishop of Ripon, Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley.



She was accompanied by Bishop Nick on her first day in post and was warmly welcomed by children and staff from the school during her visit as part of a wider tour of her Diocese. Bishop Helen-Ann has already made the education of children in the Ripon Diocese one of her priorities. She made a very positive impression on everyone she met and we look forward to working with her in the future.

# Masterchef Comes to St. Aidan's School

Yorkshire Causeway MAT primary schools Richard Taylor, St Peter's and Pannal visited St. Aidan's last week with a team of budding chefs – all finalists in the inter school Masterchef Competition.

The teams prepared, cooked and presented a healthy savoury snack, complete with associated packaging showing ingredients and nutritional information. Two Year 12 Food Technology students, alongside former chef and English teacher Mrs McNally, found the judging very hard and said the standard was incredibly high.

Parents arrived in time to watch the presentation of a special team prize - a VIP trip to Sainsburys Harrogate to tour the store, talk to their food professionals and choose the ingredients for a celebration team picnic! Sarah Ford accompanied the winning team from Pannal School and said, "Thank you so much for a great afternoon. The children had a wonderful time and were incredibly excited about winning and that fantastic Sainsburys prize. They were bouncing out of the place!"



# Trinity Day Friendships



Whilst the nation turned out to vote in the last General Election on the 8th June, three MAT schools, St. Peter's, Richard Taylor and St. Aidan's came together for a very special day and the first of its kind, to celebrate and learn about the Holy Trinity.

The Year 5 and 6 children from St. Peter's travelled to Richard Taylor School whilst their Year 3 and 4 children swapped and came to St. Peter's School. All the children then worked with new friends in their learning. Activities included dance, music and art to explore God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. St. Aidan's students supported the primary children.

The day was a great success where lasting new friendships were formed. The children also made a personal response to what they had learnt through their art work.

# Goodbye Mrs Robson

After 8 happy and successful years as Headteacher at Oatlands Infant School, Elizabeth Robson will be retiring at the end of the Autumn term. A number of events will take place to celebrate Elizabeth's retirement. All her colleagues within the Trust wish her a happy retirement and look forward to news of her new adventures.

John Wood, Executive Principal of the Trust said "I have had the pleasure of working with Elizabeth for a number of years. She has been a great asset to the Trust and I know she will be missed by colleagues and pupils alike. We all wish her a very happy and well deserved retirement."



## North Rigton Primary School Joins the MAT

On Friday 1st December 2017, North Rigton CE Primary School officially became a part of Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust and celebrated in very seasonal fashion with mince pies adorned with YCST flags!

Headteacher, Amber Andrews told the school, "The staff and governors worked very hard to ensure this academy conversion took place and we are all very excited as we look to the future as an academy school in YCST." Jo Williams, Chair of Governors at the school added, "I believe that this is a very positive step forward for our school. I look forward to working with YCST and all North Rigton staff in taking the school forward in its next stage of development; growing, blossoming and flourishing into the future!"

Staff from North Rigton Primary will be welcomed by colleagues from other Trust primary schools at the joint Training Day which takes place on Monday 8th January 2018 at Pannal Primary School.



## It's A Wrap!

On Friday 24th November, children from schools across the MAT came together to produce a short film which promotes the core values of the Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust.

It is the culmination of a process that started 12 months ago. Children from each school have been asked to share their views about the Trust; what our shared values are and what being part of the Trust means to their school. The result will be a fantastic and highly creative presentation of the mission and values which drive our Trust.

The message places children firmly at the heart of everything that the Trust does and will appear on the Trust website in the Spring term 2018. The Trust would like to thank Chris Lever and Cath Harrison for their hard work in bringing this project together as well as all of the children for their ideas, talents and hard work.

Abi from Pannal Primary School said of the filming, "We all had great fun making the film for the MAT - it was really nice to meet up with children from other schools".

## Governance

At the end of the summer term, governors, clerks and school staff gathered to discuss the strategic direction of the Trust and to agree priorities for the next year.

Tessa Mason, Regional Teaching and Leadership Advisor for the Regional Schools Commissioners in the North and West of England, gave a keynote speech and facilitated an interesting discussion focusing on seven key areas; Growth, Finance, Governance, Inclusion, Teacher Training, Information Technology and Teaching and Learning.

The two key areas identified by governors as crucial as the MAT grows in size, were economies of scale and communication. Both of these topics are being addressed and developments will be reported back to governors.

A number of governor training sessions have taken place, most recently training for new or recently appointed governors. Further training sessions will be provided during the Spring and Summer terms. Governors should advise their clerk of any training need so that MAT-wide sessions can be offered to all LGBs.

All YCST governors have been issued with Trust email accounts. The use of Trust email addresses will ensure that confidential information is held securely and will negate the need for governors to disclose personal email addresses when carrying out governance or school business. Using personal email addresses for governance business raises data protection concerns and should be avoided.

The Governor Handbook is now complete and is about to be circulated. It is intended that this handbook will offer advice and clarity to both new and existing governors regarding the role of a governor within the structure of a MAT. The Trust is hugely grateful to all governors for the important role they undertake on behalf of our schools.

## Let the Music Play

As part of the Kirkby Overblow Summer Arts Festival, All Saints Primary School invited North Rigton Primary School to take part in a school art extravaganza day. The children enjoyed gospel singing workshops with Leroy Johnson and drama workshops with KONFLUX theatre company. Workshops were also provided by staff at All Saints and the children took part in dance, drumming, animation, creative art and storytelling and creative cooking workshops. An amazing experience for two partner schools to enjoy learning and working together!



## SIAMS Recognition

In October 2017, Richard Taylor School was inspected by SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). The report published recently judges the school outstanding in its provision for pupils which is a fantastic result for everyone associated with RTS.

The quotes below give you a flavour of the inspection report which can be found on the school's website.

"Relationships are of the highest quality and children are growing up in a context where they know that they are loved by God."

"School leaders provide a nurturing environment based upon Christian values. This enables children to thrive personally, enjoy school life, achieve well and make very good progress academically."

"The Christian character and caring ethos of the school are demonstrated in exemplary relationships and a strong focus on shared values, which include trust, peace, forgiveness and service."

Congratulations to everyone at Richard Taylor School on the excellent report.

## YCST Development Plan

At the heart of the work of the Trust is the MAT Development Plan. It is a structured plan to address the shared priorities faced by all schools within the MAT. It has been created following a review of the challenges identified by our schools and aims to make use of the expertise and strengths across the MAT to support improved outcomes for the children within our schools.

It is a tool used by school leaders and trustees to make sure that as a Trust we are clearly accountable for the actions taken to raise standards across the MAT. Each of the headline targets will link to priorities within the development plans of each individual school. This year's priorities are:

1. To ensure that governance at local governing body level is well informed, well trained and highly effective at providing support and challenge at individual school level.
2. To ensure that school self-evaluation is used effectively both within individual schools and the MAT to support judgements on standards, strengths and areas of identified challenge.
3. To ensure that the MAT builds a clear and robust structure which will support the future growth of the Trust and ensure that it is fully prepared for the possible adoption of sponsor academy status.
4. To identify a particular aspect of teaching and learning across the MAT. This has been confirmed as phonics, spelling, grammar and punctuation.
5. To develop the teaching of computing and ICT within the Trust primary schools.
6. To ensure the MAT is meeting the needs of vulnerable learners with a particular focus on the progress and attainment of disadvantaged children with directed pupil premium funding.

Each of these targets will be addressed through the use of networks, training events and agreed actions across the MAT. The Trust monitors the impact of the actions taken on outcomes for children in the MAT using systems familiar to all members of local governing bodies.

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