

In Brief:

St. Peter's Shines

St. Peter's Primary School shines following two external inspections.

Chris Burt Appointed

Chris Burt has been appointed Executive Leader of YCST with effect from September 2019.

Students Impress with Research Project

Student scientists from Richard Taylor School youngest to showcase at national exhibition.

News from the Fellowship

News from the Trust Fellowship of North Rigton and All Saints Primary Schools.

A Night Under the Stars

Children from three Trust primary schools enjoy overnight Space Camps.

Leaders Consider New Ofsted Framework

Senior leaders from across Trust schools meet to consider the new Ofsted framework.

Teacher Training Opportunities

Information about teacher training opportunities with Yorkshire Teaching School Alliance.

Vacancies

Career opportunities at schools within YCST.

Welcome

I am delighted to report that, following a thorough and robust assessment process which included consideration of external candidates, Chris Burt has been appointed Executive Leader of YCST and Headteacher of St. Aidan's CE High School. I know that Chris will continue to move the Trust forward in an effective way, mindful at all times of the need to ensure that all pupils within Trust schools continue to be provided with the very highest standard of education.

As we reach the end of another busy term, I would like to thank colleagues across all Trust schools for the tremendous work which has been carried out this term. The teamwork and dedication of staff, no matter what their role, in making sure all of our pupils thrive, is recognised and appreciated greatly.

Wishing you all a relaxing Easter break.

John Wood
Executive Principal, YCST

St. Peter's Shines the Light!

"The supportive and respectful harmony of St. Peter's Primary School is effective, inclusive, welcoming and impressive."

These are the words of the inspector who recently undertook a church school inspection of St. Peter's Primary, which resulted in the school becoming the first in the Diocese of Leeds to become 'Excellent' under a new and rigorous inspection framework. This inspection came just four weeks after an Ofsted inspection where it was confirmed that the school provides a good, quality education with an outstanding Early Years unit. A Church school inspection considers the impact that a church school education has on its pupils and families. Parents said the school was a, "Shining example of a caring and compassionate school". The report makes reference to how, "Governors rigorously measure the impact of the school's vision statement which is to 'Shine and share your light.'" Leaders both in School and in Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust prioritise good mental health and wellbeing for everyone, with pastoral support readily available for those who need it at St. Peter's. Spiritual growth of pupils occurs naturally through a challenging, crafted curriculum to answer life's big questions. Pupils show exceptional behaviour and are taught about good and bad choices, how to disagree well and seek forgiveness". The report also praised staff, saying that they, "Go above and beyond what would be expected in order to support the children and families in the school community and beyond."

The School is rightly very proud of what it has achieved and huge congratulations go to all the staff, children, governors and parents who, with the support of YCST, work so hard to achieve the very best they can.



Chris Burt Appointed New Leader of YCST

Chris Burt will assume the role of Headteacher of St. Aidan's CE High School from September 2019. He will also lead Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust, the multi academy trust of which St. Aidan's is a part.

Chris was selected from a strong field of candidates following a rigorous assessment process. He has taught at St. Aidan's for 28 years and has been a member of the senior leadership team of the School for the last 18 years. In June 2017 he was appointed Associate Headteacher of the School and since then he and John Wood have led the School collaboratively.

Claire Kelley, Chair of Governors of the School said of Chris' appointment, "The governing body of the School is delighted with the outcome of this recruitment exercise. Governors are confident that the School will continue to flourish under the leadership of Chris, who is committed to preserving the unique ethos and Christian values that are so important to the St. Aidan's community, whilst also ensuring that outcomes for our students remain a priority".

Alison Glover, Chair of the YCST board commented, "We are delighted to have appointed Chris Burt as the new Executive Leader of the Trust and Headteacher of St Aidan's with effect from 1 September 2019.

The recruitment process was very thorough and left trustees and governors in no doubt that Chris was absolutely the right person to take on the executive leadership role. In an educational environment where we continually face new opportunities and challenges, it is clear that Chris is passionate for the Trust to continue to be a place where students and staff flourish, enabling all to live life in its fullness. I know that Chris is excited to be working with such a strong and dedicated team of leaders and other colleagues across the Trust."

Following his appointment, Chris said, "I am delighted and feel very privileged to have been appointed Headteacher of St. Aidan's Church of England High School and Executive Leader of Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust.

St. Aidan's is an exceptional school with a superb team of staff, totally committed to working with all of the pupils in our care, helping them to achieve outcomes that reflect the best of their abilities. The School's distinctive ethos will remain unchanged and looking ahead, I am ambitious and optimistic about the future for St. Aidan's and its pupils.

I have been heavily involved in the development of Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust since its formation in 2015 and am excited to take on the role of Executive Leader of the Trust, which now comprises eight wonderful schools. The collaboration between these schools is having a hugely positive impact and plans exist to further develop these important partnerships.

I look forward to working with pupils, parents, staff and the wider community in this new role."



Richard Taylor Students in London to Present Research Findings

As part of their Well World project, Richard Taylor students have been measuring the biodiversity in The Nidd Gorge and Bilton fields area and comparing it to their school grounds. The children have been assessing their own wellbeing when they are at Bilton Fields and found that being in an area of rich biodiversity gives the highest results in terms of wellbeing.

The students have been working in the community to promote the importance of the area as there are proposals to build a relief road through this Green Belt. Students have been writing letters and creating posters and art work for displays in the community and have written and recited poetry about it.

Professor Becky Parker MBE, Director of the Institute for Research in Schools, said:

“Huge congratulations to our student scientists at Richard Taylor CE Primary School. It was wonderful to celebrate their important contribution to wellbeing and biodiversity and learning through history and science at our third anniversary.”

Emma Crisell, STEM lead and Deputy Headteacher at Richard Taylor CE Primary School, said:

“We are incredibly proud of the contribution our students are making through their research projects. Their passion and motivation to learn through real scientific research is infectious. I would urge all schools to embrace the opportunities that working with IRIS brings.”

Frankie Kwai, Year 5 student, said:

“Taking part in real scientific research, as part of the well world project, makes me feel I have made a positive difference to my community.”



Goodbye to Reverend Lewis

On Friday 15th February North Rigton and All Saints Kirkby Overblow said 'Good Bye' to Stuart - their Vicar.

After 18 years of service to both schools Stuart has decided to hang up his dog collar and retire. Ten of the North Rigton children travelled over to their Fellowship school, All Saints Kirkby Overblow, for a farewell assembly. They presented Stuart with cards, gifts and best wishes for his retirement, as well as a wonderful cake made by the cook at All Saints, Kirkby Overblow.

Bye-bye Stuart – you will be missed.



Cycle to Ethiopia

This term the staff, children and parents at All Saints Kirkby Overblow started their Cycle to Ethiopia Challenge - raising money for Link Ethiopia. They are using exercise bikes to cycle 5700km to Gondar, Ethiopia. The money raised will go towards improving tuition for young people so that they have a greater opportunity to attend university and further education.



The children, staff and parents cycled in the Victoria Shopping Centre on Saturday 23rd March between 10am and 2pm, creating an awareness and raising money for this excellent cause. The children loved the cycling and did a great job interacting with the public.

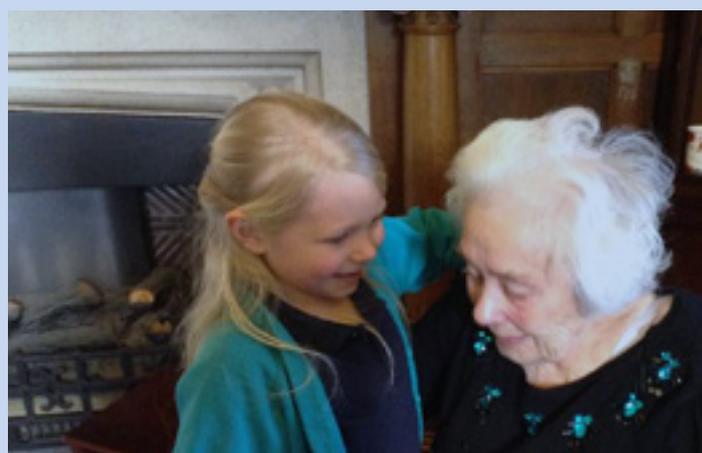
Over the four hours, they raised £285, which will be added to the money already raised from their other events. All the children are continuing to cycle in school until they reach the goal of 5700km!

Friendships Blossom Across the Years

Inspired by the Channel 4 series, *Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds*, Oatlands Infant School is arranging visits to Larchfield Manor care home throughout the year. Every class and every pupil, has the chance to meet residents, share stories, and enjoy activities like arts and crafts and reading together. Just like the TV show, this link is already having a big impact on both the pupils and the residents. Intergenerational friendships are blossoming, increasing the empathy and understanding of pupils, and tackling issues such as loneliness and isolation. The deputy manager of Larchfield Manor, Nicola Goodsall, said: "Our residents are fortunate that they live in a home where there are others to interact with, but not all of our residents have family or friends that can visit regularly. The management team, staff and residents wanted to establish a partnership with a primary school in our area. We are lucky to have a primary school within walking distance, and that Oatlands Infant School were just as excited as we were to establish a link."

Oatlands Infant School's Deputy Headteacher, Kathryn Haddon, said: "We think these intergenerational links are really beneficial to our children - it develops their empathy and understanding, and their communication skills. It's also really beneficial for the residents, as our children are full of energy and enjoy chatting with them. I think it gives residents a boost. There is a big push towards mental health and wellbeing at the moment, and it would be lovely to see more schools building this kind of relationship with care homes."

And the boost that it gives to Larchfield Manor residents has already been very tangible. Deputy manager Nicola said, "We have a gentleman who does not attend a lot of activities, but when he knows the children are coming he is straight up to the lounge, he always has a big smile on his face. Going forward as the weather gets warmer, we hope to take advantage of our lovely garden and hold some of the activities outside to get a bit more active. We also intend to invite the children, teachers and their families to events we will be holding over the year, and become a real part of the community."



Trust Leaders Consider Impact of Proposed New Ofsted Framework

On Thursday 4th April, Senior Leaders from across YCST met to discuss the upcoming changes to the Ofsted Inspection Schedule with particular reference to curriculum.

Mark Colbourn, Deputy Head from Pannal, presented some of the research materials that Ofsted have considered in their change to a more curriculum centred framework and encouraged schools to focus on 'knowledge' as the root to learning. Three case studies were presented from Pannal, North Rigton and St Aidan's describing recent changes that had been made to their curriculums and documents were shared.

In the afternoon Amber Andrews, Headteacher of the Fellowship Schools of North Rigton and All Saints Kirkby Overblow led a discussion on where Curriculum should fit into YCST development, management and leadership planning structures.

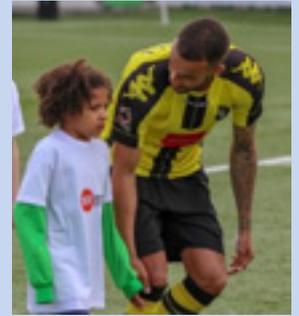
Further training will be delivered to senior leaders in preparation for the implementation of the new inspection schedule from September 2019 onwards.

The Annual Trust Conference for governors and trustees will also focus on the new framework and the implications for those governing our schools and the Trust.

Oatlands Pupil Leads Harrogate Town onto Pitch

In association with Harrogate Town AFC Community Foundation and Centrepont, Precise Education invited a pupil from Oatlands Infant School to be an official mascot for Harrogate Town AFC on Saturday 30th March for the match against Maidstone United.

Pupils were asked to write a short piece explaining why they thought they would make a good mascot. Aleah Rhind from Penguins in Year 2 won the competition and is pictured leading the players out at the start of the game.



Astronauts, Telescopes and Bacon Butties Under the Stars

Initiated by staff at Richard Taylor School as part of work by the Stephen Hawking Foundation, Space Camp has been taking off at schools across the Trust! Children at Hampsthwaite and Pannal had a great time in their Space Camp sleepover, learning about different aspects of outer space, the experience of astronauts, the stars, telescopes and much more. Assisted by St Aidan's staff Matt and Sean, the children enjoyed stargazing and watched the International Space Station pass overhead.

Richard Taylor's Coverdale class have been enjoying their first space camp, where they had the opportunity to spend the night in school and learn about the mysteries and wonders of the night sky. They were delighted to have clear skies, enjoy a google hangout with Mullard Space Observatory and tuck into bacon butties after a good night's sleep! A big thank you to The Stephen Hawking Foundation who have funded the project and Space Camp Sam who has been busy teaching the pupils to train like an astronaut. Space Camp is a really memorable learning experience and all the children taking part have had a great time.



Yorkshire Teaching School Alliance Initial Teacher Training

Yorkshire Teaching School Alliance is a partnership of 26 Yorkshire Secondary Schools, The University of York, Leeds Beckett University, York St John University and Leeds Trinity University.

Together, the alliance provides a unique training opportunity for prospective teachers through the government's teacher training initiative, School Direct.

School Direct allows schools and academies to select and train recruits to the profession. If accepted on to the programme students undertake school placements across the partnership and have access to high quality academic support at The University of York, Leeds Beckett University, York St John University and Leeds Trinity University.

The ITT (Initial Teacher Training) programmes have been designed to build confidence and subject knowledge and equip students with the necessary skills to become an effective classroom practitioner.

On completion of training, students are awarded a PGCE with QTS. Graduates of Yorkshire Teaching School Alliance are confident, knowledgeable and reflective teachers, ready to embark on a rewarding and fulfilling career, often taking up positions that arise within our partnership of schools.



Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust Vacancies

The following schools within YCST currently have vacancies:

Oatlands Infant School

School Administrator, full time

Pannal Primary School

KS1 Teacher, full time

St. Aidan's CE High School

Head of Dance, part time, maternity post

Teacher of Business and Economics, part time, fixed term to end August 2020

Senior Science Technician, part time

General Teaching Assistant, part time, fixed term to end August 2020

Facilities Manager, full time

Careers Advisor, part time

For more information about any of these positions, please visit the relevant school website.

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