



From the CEO

As another school year draws rapidly to a close, I am pleased to offer you another ACES newsletter with some of the highlights from each of our schools.

I said a year ago that 'we are a small group of four Academies with lots of big ideas' and, thanks to the restrictions and demands of managing the Covid epidemic receding, some of those have now been able to be progressed.

It would be a mistake to think that Covid has disappeared completely, and schools are still finding themselves having to manage absences which are Covid-related from time to time, but there is nevertheless a sense of life returning to normality when compared to the recent past. End of term celebrations, school trips and face to face meetings have largely resumed, much to the relief of staff and students.

We have successfully implemented a new MIS called ARBOR into our primary schools and it will be rolled out at Hinchbrook from September. This will facilitate higher levels of consistency across the MAT as all schools will be using it for many of the routine and regular processes throughout the year.

Last Easter we were delighted to welcome Spaldwick Primary School to ACES Academies Trust. Spaldwick is one of two of the most northerly feeder schools to Hinchbrook and, though a small village school serving some 90 children, it will add to our expertise and sense of family. We welcome them wholeheartedly, as indeed we would any of the remaining feeder schools that have not yet joined us.

Our partnership working with the schools in Stevenage has come to an end and we are now working closely with another MAT called HEART based in Bedford. They are similar in size to ACES and, more importantly, aligned very closely to our way of doing things with a very similar culture and ethos. There has been a round of 'peer review' activity, which has not only given staff in the partner schools a chance to get to know each other but has also provided an opportunity to share practice and learn from each other. We intend to continue our close working with them next year.

We have a number of staff moving on to pastures new at the end of this academic year and I would add my thanks to those expressed by the Headteachers to all who have contributed to ACES in any capacity. From our central team I would like to make a special mention of three colleagues: Bonnie Goodwin who has been an invaluable 'specialist leader of education' (SLE) working in our primary schools; Rebecca Birtton who has been our SEND specialist and latterly has also taken on the role of primary standards and Margaret Medwell who has worked tirelessly in the Finance team, initially at Hinchbrook and then for ACES, for over 22 years. Thank you and very best wishes for the future.

I am pleased to say that we have made two new and excellent appointments to the central education team for next year. Simon Eardley joins us as Director of Primary Education after a highly successful career in education in Cambridgeshire schools culminating in 17 years of headship experience in Peterborough. In recent years he has been a founder member of the OWN Education Trust and also served as a lead Ofsted inspector. He brings a very valuable skill set to our trust and has already begun to get to know our schools. Antonia Drysdale is equally experienced in the area of SEND. Following a highly successful career in both mainstream and special schools, she has most recently been Headteacher of a special school in Bedford and her wealth of knowledge and experience, which includes opening a new free school, will be a very welcome addition to our team at ACES.

Finally, I would like to offer my thanks to all the Headteachers, senior teams and their staff in our schools; members of the Central Team, whether in the educational section or the 'back office'; the teams of governors and trustees that oversee our work and hold us to account and the many friends and supporters that have helped out along the way from the parent bodies and communities we serve.

With all good wishes for the summer break.



WELCOME SPALDWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL

This year, we have welcomed the easing of covid restrictions, and whilst we have continued to experience significant challenges children, staff and parents have all enjoyed the opportunity for more collaboration.

We have launched our forest school provision and invested in training for staff. All classes have had the opportunity for regular sessions and have thoroughly enjoyed getting their hands dirty and learning skills. We have also launched the 'Daily Mile', come rain and shine, our KS2 children can be found completing their laps of the field. In the future, we would like to invest in a dedicated running track.

A highlight of the year was the return to trips and visits and our children have had lots of opportunities to get involved. In January we joined six thousand children at the Genting Arena, to perform as part of the Young Voices choir. Nothing can prepare you for the sound of so many children singing together, it makes for one of the most exciting and memorable musical experiences you can imagine, and our children loved every minute!

On World Maths Day, our children participated in a Mathletics competition. More than five million children in over 14,000 schools across the world use Mathletics so we were excited to hear that not only was one of our Year 6 children first in the UK but they were also sixth in the world. We could not have been prouder!

In the summer term, our Year 6 children enjoyed a fabulous residential at Condover Hall and our Year 3 and 4 children joined in with a sleepover at school. Our youngest children ended the year with a fabulous finale, visiting Woburn Safari Park.

All in all, it has been a busy year at Spaldwick with the move from the Local Authority to ACES Academies Trust and we are all looking forward to the adventures ahead.

Louise Worrall, Headteacher



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GODMANCHESTER BRIDGE ACADEMY

It has been a great year for GBA and a pleasure to be open to all children all year. There have been some points of high absence of staff and children due to Covid but we have managed to keep going by pulling together and with great support from governors and parents.

The children have been fantastic and have engaged fully in school life. They have enjoyed after-school clubs again and many exciting learning opportunities. All year groups have had the opportunity to take part in whole school curriculum days, year group curriculum days and out of school visits. Year 6 had an amazing time at our first GBA residential at Grafham Water.

These last few days of the summer term have been particularly exciting with Sports days, a music day where each class has performed their music learning; a Shakespeare Day where a theatre company work with each class on a part of Midsummer Night's Dream and then there is a whole school performance at the end of the day; a Happy Puzzle Maths day and a Kidz fit day.

We are sadly losing our Assistant Head of School Miss Watts but we wish her the best in her first headship. We also say goodbye to Miss Downing and Miss Marshall. We look forward to welcoming new staff: Mrs McAuley-Eccles as Deputy SENDCo and Mr Williams and Miss Simpson as class teachers.

We were really pleased to welcome many parents back into the school for our open afternoon. We look forward to next year when we will be full as a one form entry school.

Claire Pirrie, Headteacher



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July 2022

HINCHINGBROOKE SCHOOL

We started the school year with a degree of normality, after two years that had been hugely COVID-affected. The COVID rate amongst students and staff spiked at various times throughout the year, but overall the school has managed very well; for example, we have not had to shut the school or send a year group or year groups home at any point this year.

We increased the pupil admission number from September 2021, admitting 350 students into Year 7 (an increase of 50 students) for the first time. Coping with the increased admission number each year for the next four years will require careful management, but we are pleased to be able to meet the ongoing high demand for places at HBK.

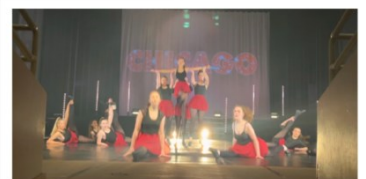


In November 2021, the school was inspected by Ofsted under Section 8 of the Education Act. A Section 8 inspection of a school judged Good at its previous inspection seeks to determine whether the school remains Good. This was confirmed by the inspection outcome and the school is now on a journey 'From Good to Great' with both a 4-year strategic plan and one-year School Development Plans.

We have done a lot of work this year to embed the new Mission, Values and Key Focuses, and to embed the Hinchingsbrooke Approach to Teaching – we see these as key to achieving our aim to be Great.

The summer term, in particular, has seen the very welcome resumption of key school events such as 'Glastonbrooke' and 'Picnic at the House', alongside our hugely impressive Dance Event, our School Production and our Sports Day!

Our students in Year 11 and Year 13 behaved impeccably throughout the exam season and we wait with high expectation, and optimism, to celebrate their achievements when the results are announced in August 2022.



Mark Patterson
Principal





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Cromwell Academy



Dream... Believe... Achieve...!

What a year!... Again!

Having successfully secured a Good OFSTED grading in the midst of the pandemic, this year has seen the return of some of our much-loved school events and activities and it has been marvellous to witness the joy that has been shared through these. We have enjoyed welcoming parents back into school and the children have been particularly enthused by the wonderful school trips, visits and visitors we have finally been able to arrange.



After the last-minute, curve-ball cancellation of our Year 6 residential trip, we managed to pack them all off for a couple of nights to Caldecotte Adventure and were delighted to be able to give our children this final experience before they leave us, despite the setbacks.

We were inspired by a visit from James Ketchell, who gave a talk and some workshops to children on his adventures. He linked his experiences to our school values of readiness, resilience, reflection, relationships and responsibility; showing our children that they can do anything they put their minds to.



As well as our outdoor learning and local visits, other trips have sent classes off to the seaside, the Holocaust Museum, Duxford, a Mosque, a safari park and even on the local bus to hold a wedding at the Church! We are hopeful that this is a sign of things to come and normality finally resuming.

Our Summer "Musical Showcase" was an absolute joy! It was wonderful to be able to prepare and share this with our parents.

We were delighted to welcome students from year 12 at Hinchbrook, who visited our school and gave an incredible performance. They performed and demonstrated a range of instruments; saxophone, clarinet, flute, drums, piano and voice! They interacted brilliantly with the children— getting the whole school participating by singing in a beautifully harmonised round! The students were an exceptional example of the opportunities our children will go on to have, and our hope is that our love of music at Cromwell will give them the best platform for this. Huge thanks to Kate from the music department and her Year 12 students.



Our school results from the recent Key Stage 2 SATs have really impressed us. The children at Cromwell are a credit to us all and we are very proud of all they have achieved and worked through. The children have done exceptionally well and managed to achieve well above national averages across the board! A real testament to all their hard work and resilience.

I would like to thank all the staff for another highly successful year- we do have the most dedicated and motivated team at Cromwell and this transpires in happy, motivated and successful children. Mrs Blyth will be leaving us at the start of the new school year to have her baby. We wish her and her family all the very best with their new arrival, Mrs Parker and I will do our very best to keep things steady until her return!

Hannah Connor-James, Headteacher



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Whilst this academic year has not been without its trials and tribulations, we are thrilled to be ending the year with our usual summer term antics of whole school events, trips, visitors and performances jostling for timetable space alongside our broad and ambitious curriculum.

We are incredibly proud of the journey our school has been on this year and how our pupils and staff have not just coped with, but flourished within, the 'new normal'. We have continued to work on our curriculum offer throughout this year, ensuring that our curriculum is well sequenced, progressive and engaging. We believe what we offer our pupils both in terms of the core subjects and the wider curriculum is broad, imaginative and will prepare them successfully for their transitions into secondary school and life beyond education.

In November, we welcomed our first visitor back into school when James Ketchell discussed the importance of hard work, perseverance and aspiration with our pupils whilst sharing stories of his adventures in completing 'The Ultimate Triathlon'. Following on from James, our Year 5 pupils experienced a workshop about Hinduism with Sinita and multiple year groups have immersed themselves in British history thanks to 'History off the Page'.

Our pupils have once again benefitted from visits and trips out of school. From the National Space centre to Shepreth Wildlife Park; Burleigh House to Young Voices at the NEC; and a PGL residential to regular visits within our local community, we have been able to further cement our pupil's learning by providing them with hands on experiences in a range of contexts.

Additional highlights of the year have included gaining the Eco-Schools' Green Flag accreditation; launching 'GCA Reads Together'; celebrating World Book Day, Number Day, Green Day and a range of charity events; coming together as a community to support the United Kids for Ukraine shoebox appeal, collecting goods for the Godmanchester foodbank and Diamond Hampers and holding charity sales for causes close to our pupils hearts; and recently welcoming our parents and carers into school for our first Sports Day in three years!

It's hard to believe that all of this has taken place since September. As always we are incredibly grateful to our pupils, staff and community for their hard work, positive outlook and kindness and support. Plans for next academic year are well underway and we are looking forward to what September will bring.

Tess Fielden & Richard Bakker, Co-Headteachers





Primary Schools SATs Results



Congratulations to all the staff and pupils at all our Primary schools for such excellent SAT's results this year. It has been a challenging year for staff in many ways but the dedication shown to ensuring the pupils were as ready as possible for their SAT's tests has been phenomenal.

All our Primaries achieved a combined expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths of over 60% of the cohort which was well above the national combined of 52% of pupils at the expected standard. Areas of note are Godmanchester Bridge Academy Writing outcomes being formally moderated and achieving 73% at the expected standard. Godmanchester Community Academy achieved 82% of the cohort at expected standard in Maths and Spaldwick Primary School achieved 90% of pupils at the expected standard in the Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling assessment, 29% of these being at the Greater Depth standard. Cromwell Academy pupils achieved 87% at the expected standard in Reading and 40% at the Greater Depth standard.

A wonderful achievement for all out Year 6 leavers as they prepare for the next step of their education into Key Stage 3.

	Reading Expected Standard	Reading Greater Depth	Writing Expected Standard	Writing Greater Depth	Maths Expected Standard	Maths Greater Depth	Combined Expected Standard	Combined Greater Depth
Godmanchester Bridge Academy	73%	20%	73%	-	67%	-	60%	-
Spaldwick Primary School	86%	24%	71%	19%	81%	24%	62%	5%
Godmanchester Community Academy	78%	30%	75%	7%	82%	15%	67%	5%
Cromwell Academy	87%	40%	73%	17%	80%	40%	67%	13%
National Outcomes	74%		69%		71%		59%	

Our ACES Transition Project!

"Creating opportunities to collaborate cross phase and share good practice across our different settings, to secure the very best learning experiences for our children and young people."

We are delighted to have set up a two-year programme to look at curriculum transition and pedagogy across our communities. This term we have been focusing on:

- Supporting children and their families entitled to the Pupil Premium Fund through the transition from Y6 into Y7
- Reflecting on Y7 homework practices and offering Homework workshops to local Y6 classes.
- Development of Y6/7 phrase books where we identify key vocabulary for subject areas and make links between Primary and Secondary terminology.
- Identifying resources and techniques which support learning in Y6 and sharing this information with Y7 staff as they prepare their autumn term provision.

Would you like to get involved with our project? We are keen to hear from any of our ACES team! We are particularly keen to hear suggestions for ways in which staff might collaborate with their ACES colleagues in the other settings. Do you have any ideas for activities we could offer our ACES children/students?

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any questions or comments.

Thank you so much for your support.

Emma Smith, ACES Transition Project Lead
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