



Issue 4
July 2018
Staff Newsletter

School Improvement Officer

Well, the year turned out very different to the planned start. Making the decision to leave Alphington after 12 years was very difficult. Having been head of four schools, I believe headship is a privilege. Working with children and wonderful staff committed to making a difference to children's lives has been such an honour. The last two years have been very different, working alongside colleagues and sharing the joys and the challenges has certainly eased the pressure that a head can often feel. Handing my headship to a colleague has not only strengthened the leadership within the academy, but also made the transition much smoother for Alphington. Sharon Tarr knows the school well and has appointed many of the new staff.

To retain a post within the academy is very exciting, and I am confident my role will be more effective being able to focus on the role without the pressures of headship. My new job title will be 'Director of Teaching and Learning' based in the The Children's Centre in Cowick Street. This is central to all schools and is at the heart of the community. Justin Stone and I will make a brief visit to all schools during the first two inset days in September to introduce ourselves to new staff and discuss the vision for the academy for the next year and how we want to work with you. We want all staff to be able to contribute and feel they have a voice.

There have been many successes this year. The conference at Exeter Racecourse, the opportunity for teachers across all year groups to moderate with Rebecca Cosgrave and the phase staff meetings where staff have shared ideas and good practise. Writing results across the academy continue to improve and this is evidenced from the moderation all of the schools have received. Many of those meetings will continue into next year. September will be exciting as all of our schools have appointed new staff and there has been significant changes at Bowhill, Ide and Alphington.

Alphington Primary School

Headteacher : Sharon Tarr (Ide)
 Foundation : Emma Oakley (NQT)
 Year 1 : Tessa Fenlon
 Year 2 : Flossie Elford
 Year 4 : Lucy Mammott
 Year 4 : Harriet Walker
 Year 5 : Katie Hoy
 Year 5 : Laura Gallagher
 SENDCO : Helen Meuse

Bowhill Primary School

Deputy Headteacher : Sara Thornhill
 Foundation : Amber Dobson
 Foundation : Michelle Pierce
 Year 3/4 : Rosie Williams (English Lead)
 Year 5/6 : Hilda Merttens (Mathematics)
 Year 5/6 : Becca Hogg
 Year 5/6 : Jo Radford (Phase 5/6 lead)

St Thomas Primary School

Year 4 : Nick Luxton (NQT)

Ide Primary School

Headteacher : Alice Purcell
 Foundation : Lucy Brown
 Year 2/3 : Gemma Downing

I am delighted to welcome so many new staff to Exeter Learning Academy Trust, particularly Alice Purcell who is the new Head at Ide. Alice was the Assistant Head of Ottery St Mary.

Early in September we will hold a welcome drinks early evening at the Mill on the Exe.(postponed from the Summer)

Children

After SATS Year 6 children from Bowhill, and St Thomas joined Alphington for a well-earned day of sport. The children split into mixed teams of 10 and participated in a wide range of games. It was a fabulous day and the children enjoyed getting to know each other, in anticipation of meeting again in September.



Writing Workshop

Bowhill hosted a writing workshop for Pupil Premium children. A visiting writer led the two day work shop. The children were provided with a variety of dramatic activities before producing some fantastic writing. This was a fabulous experience for all the children.

Science Day

St Thomas hosted a Science day for able scientists led by their science lead. This was a mixture of bangs, explosions and fizz. Once again a great opportunity for all children involved.



Art Day

Children from Alphington, St Thomas and Bowhill spent a day with an artist designing cogwheels to represent the logo for Exeter Learning Academy Trust. Each school will have their own piece of work to take back to their school. It was a fantastic day which produced stunning art.



Consortium Training

Subject Leader Briefings

Maths 31/10/2018, 28/2/2019

English 8/11/2018, 14/3/2019

Teaching and Learning Symposium

10/10/2018, 23/1/2019, 8/5/2019

Talking Leadership

4/10/2018, 22/11/2018, 17/1/2019, 7/3/2019, 2/5/2019, 20/6/2019

Recently Qualified Teacher Programme

4/10/2018, 22/11/2018, 17/1/2019, 7/3/2019, 2/5/2019, 20/6/2019

Developing Teachers as Leaders

4/10/2018, 22/11/2018, 17/1/2019, 7/3/2019, 2/5/2019, 20/6/2019

All of this training is free and it would be good to have strong representation from the Academy. Please contact me if you would like a place.

My email is dbuckingham@elatschools.com

Thankyou for all your support this year. Have a fantastic Summer and a well earned rest and good luck to the staff who are leaving us!

