



**Issue 5  
December 2018  
Staff Newsletter**

**CEO- Justin Stone**

I can not believe that the Exeter Learning Academy Trust has been running for two years! It seems like quite a journey when as four Head Teachers and the Governors at the time set about creating an organisation that could serve our communities effectively with local accountability. Whilst it is still early days so much has been achieved during this time. First and foremost our goal was to ensure that the schools continued to run smoothly and the transition from the Local Authority to the Trust did not affect the children. It has been lovely to see the children so settled, happy and working with real purpose during visits this term and how our new staff, or staff that have moved within the trust, are settling into their new roles. Each school is different and this is something that we have been keen to celebrate as we also look at those areas that it would be more efficient if they were aligned across the trust.

It was really heartening in our recent Directors meeting to hear the accountants explain to directors that at a time when many schools can not set a balanced budget and have over spent as a trust we have managed our resources well. That is not to say things are not tight but by careful management by the schools and the business teams in each school we are not having to make drastic cuts! In our Audit report there were only a few minor tweaks to be made to procedures. It has been the business side of the schools that have seen the most changes and I would like to thank all the staff involved for their hard work and dedication in minimising the impact of some of these changes.

Director of teaching and learning-Debbie Buckingham

I hope you are enjoying the Christmas festivities and looking forward to your holiday. I cannot believe how quickly this term has gone. It has been a real privilege to be able to spend quality time with each phase across the school, talking to teachers and leaders. Both Justin and I have developed a very strong understanding of the strengths across the academy. There have been many changes this year across all the schools in terms of leadership and teachers and it has been very heartening so see how well everyone has settled and doing so well. There is no doubt there are challenges ahead, both financially and academically, but there is a good feeling across the academy

Priorities for this year: 2018-19

- Continue to diminish the gap between Pupil Premium and Non-Pupil Premium pupils
- Improve channels of communication at every level for all stakeholders
- Employ incremental coaching, to facilitate and focus on quality first teaching and school improvement
- Use high quality research and evidence to drive CPD and initiatives across the academy
- Develop leaders across the academy at every level to support school to school improvement

Curriculum and learning

Since the introduction of the National Curriculum, there has been a plethora of research based around learning and the curriculum. This is summarised in this very readable article.

<https://primarytimery.com/2017/09/16/memory-not-memories-teaching-for-long-term-learning/>

As an academy we need to make sure that all schools are very clear about the following:

- What is the school's vision?
- How is this vision shown in the curriculum?
- Where and why does the curriculum narrow?  
What do you already do that works?
- Where are the opportunities to investigate the spiritual, moral, social and cultural questions?
- Where can aspects of English, maths and science be taught through other subjects?

This is a priority for all the schools and as an academy we need to ensure that each school has their own vision, statement of intent and implementation, plan and that there is an over-arching statement for the academy.

Consortium Training

Subject Leader Briefings

Maths 28/2/2019

English 14/3/2019

Teaching and Learning Symposium

23/1/2019, 8/5/2019

Talking Leadership

17/1/2019, 7/3/2019, 2/5/2019, 20/6/2019

Recently Qualified Teacher Programme

17/1/2019, 7/3/2019, 2/5/2019, 20/6/2019

Developing Teachers as Leaders

17/1/2019, 7/3/2019, 2/5/2019, 20/6/2019

### Jurassic Maths Hub

**The Maths Hub are organising some fantastic opportunities for teachers. They are also offering access to funding for supply and resources.** Please [click here](#) to look through their catalogue for more information.

The Maths Hub organise a wide range of professional development groups which schools are able to join.

The Jurassic Maths Hub website can be accessed here: <http://www.jurassicmaths.com/>

where you will find a link to sign up to their newsletters and emails.

[Click here](#) to see the Work Groups of the Jurassic Maths Hub

[Click here](#) to see more information about the Primary Shanghai exchanges

[Click here](#) to see more information about the Secondary Shanghai exchanges

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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](mailto:dbuckingham@elatschools.com)

Thankyou for all your support this year. Have a fantastic christmas, a well earned rest and enjoy these lovely pictures from our Nativities.

Ide, Alphington, Bowhill and St Thomas

