

Palladian Academy Trust

NEWSLETTER



Issue 1 | Oct 2018

Dear parents, carers and friends

Welcome to our autumn newsletter - keeping you up to date with developments and events in the Palladian Academy Trust.

Introduction from Alison Watts, Headteacher, Widcombe Infant School

We hope all pupils and students are settled and enjoying their new schools and classes. We wish to extend a warm welcome to all parents joining Palladian Academy Trust schools for the first time. On 1 November all schools will have been part of the Palladian Academy Trust for two years. Many of the foundations for the Trust have been laid and we have exciting plans for the future, especially for our pupils and students. Following on from the success of One Night at the Palladian, celebrating arts throughout the schools, there will be continued events in the arts, as well as opportunities for sport and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). Look out for information in future newsletters.

Two important appointments have recently been made to the Palladian Academy Trust. Mr Paul Jacobs has been appointed as the Director of School Improvement one day a week. He has a long career as a teacher and school leader. For the past 15 years he has undertaken advisory and school improvement work in North Somerset and Bristol. He is experienced with the world of multi-academy trusts. Mr Mark Gunning has been appointed as the Palladian Academy Trust Sports Coordinator to develop sporting opportunities across the Trust. He is highly experienced in this area of the curriculum and has great plans for the future.

The Palladian Academy Trust is currently supporting 27 Bath Spa student teachers across its schools, which is so important in contributing to the future of education, as well as providing increased opportunities for the pupils and

students whose classes the student teachers are working in. We have also become a partner in the Great Western Teaching School Alliance with Wellsway Multi-Academy Trust, which has just been designated as a Teaching School. There will be a particular focus on STEM and will result in opportunities to work with schools in Bristol, Wiltshire, South Gloucester and B&NES.

Since September, the Trust has been working with Chartwell's Catering Company to provide lunches for six of the schools. The aim of this is to provide better quality lunches and to reduce the cost of providing free school meals for infant students.

Update from Tim Withers, CEO

Several PAT schools have held their open mornings in recent days and it has been a real pleasure to discuss what makes them unique, as well as the collaborations in the MAT which support achievement and opportunity every week. Parents have been extremely positive, and – it must be said – very engaged and aware of the family choices which lie ahead of them.

Without any difficulty, I recently compiled a list of benefits of belonging to a MAT and got to 20 things without drawing breath! Personally, I have always believed in the strength of partnership, and that together we can be stronger and offer far more to children. I won't post the full list here, but available on request!

Our profile of exam and test results as well as other assessments is very encouraging in the group – the result of a lot of hard work by pupils, students and their teachers. As ever, though, our focus is on the broad and balanced

education which leads to good results, rather than focussing on assessment solely.

'Enrichment' is one of our five values, and it is sometimes experiences which are additional that can be life-changing.

This term we have begun to plot and plan our Teaching School Alliance with the Wellsway MAT group for a launch next summer. This aligns very well with another of our values: professional development. As you know, things move very fast in education, and we are committed to staying ahead of the curve.

Lastly, several schools are planning to join the PAT in 2019, which is exciting. In truth, they are already working closely and collaboratively with PAT schools, and we look forward to confirming this officially in due course. One educational year is certainly never the same as another. In my 35th year in education, I can honestly say that the challenge and rewards of working in an educational community are as strong as ever.

Palladian Promise

Our Palladian Promise was formally launched at a meeting for staff across the Trust in September. All schools in PAT will offer learning opportunities to pupils and students so that they can develop a strong character for life-long learning.



Being a positive role model to others, for example:

- Consistently high levels of focus in a lesson
- Showing kindness
- Having work on display
- Offering to help without being asked

Offering leadership

- Leading learning in a lesson
- School Council representative
- Captain of a school team
- Bringing an idea to improve your school

Adopting a healthy and active lifestyle

- Taking up a new sport
- Walking every day
- Giving up unhealthy foods
- Taking up yoga, meditation, or just finding time to think

Performing or presenting to an audience

- Being in a school production or concert
- Creating a podcast
- Taking part in a student assembly
- Poetry reading or debating

Participating regularly in co-curricular activities

- Regular attendance at a club
- Helping in the Library
- Learning an instrument
- Going to the theatre

Helping the learning of others

- Being an ambassador for a subject; teaching younger pupils
- Leading a group activity in a lesson
- Taking a warm up in PE, or leading a practice
- Being involved in peer mentoring

Developing local and global awareness

- Being involved in a local cultural visit, or visit abroad
- Learning about different parts of the world
- Performing a carol in another language
- Visiting another PAT school

Supporting charities or other good causes

- Sponsored walk/silence
- Amnesty International awareness activity
- Cake sale for charity
- Fund raising activity such as bag packing

Showing resilience and grit in the face of difficulty

- A greatly improved report
- Re-writing a homework to improve it
- Improving sports performance through dedication and practice
- Never giving up!

News

One Night at the Palladian

We were really proud to be in the audience on Mon 18 June, enjoying a fabulous night in the theatre, and hosting our special guests who all absolutely loved it! The feedback from the audience was hugely positive, and there was so much appreciation and pride amongst the parents.

It is especially important because it shows us what is possible in a partnership, where we are so much more than the sum of our parts, and is emblematic of this. We are about giving children opportunities to shine, which is exactly what they did, and it lines up perfectly with our value of 'enrichment'.

Thanks so much again to everyone who worked with the pupils and students, making costumes, rehearsing, helping edit the film and presentation, practising, practising. And thank you to parents for all you did to support and cheer our young people on.

Below: young people from across the Trust taking part in One Night at the Palladian, June 2018



'The concert was extremely enjoyable with a high level of performance throughout, I particularly enjoyed the introductions made by the students, some of whom were very young but seemed unfazed by the substantial audience in front of them!'



'We were blown away by the evening, every performance was given so beautifully and passionately. We were so impressed by the energy and dedication of all the teachers. We understand now the impact of being an academy.'



'We thought it was a great show and the children did brilliantly. We thoroughly enjoyed the whole evening.'



Arts workshops

Following last year's successful event, we are organising another series of arts workshops for pupils and students attending Palladian Academy Trust schools, 2-5pm, on Sat 9 Feb 2019 at Ralph Allen School. In order for this to happen, we need a range of arts practitioners to run workshops, e.g. dance, drama, photography, creative writing, textiles or needlework, printing, painting, music, animation etc. You do not need to have any training or qualifications, just a passion and love of your chosen activity. The pupils and students will be supervised by a parent so a DBS certificate is not required. We warmly encourage and welcome people with all experiences who would like to lead workshops to contact Jess Pembridge: jpembridge@widcombeinfants.bathnes.sch.uk with the following information by Fri 14 Dec.

- Type of workshop
- Age suitable for (between 4 and 17 years)
- Maximum number
- Length of time for the workshop (you may be able to run the workshop two or three times during the afternoon)
- Cost of any materials you require, which we will cover

Further details of the afternoon, including how to book places, will be shared nearer the time. We are sure it will be another wonderful opportunity for our young people to explore their interests in the arts.

Staff activities

Our second Trust INSET day took place at Ralph Allen School on Fri 29 June with 'wellbeing' as the theme, one of our Trust values. Many colleagues commented that they found the day useful and thought-provoking. The wellbeing session in the morning was enjoyed particularly. Some even said that it was 'the best INSET ever!' Some staff have been inspired to explore after-school opportunities to get involved in singing, rounders and yoga.

This term our four staff networks have met. These networks are for English, Maths, Special Educational Needs and Pupil Premium. The aim is to promote and develop these areas across the schools, as well as create commonality to

our approach. We are also launching an equalities group in November, another important aspect of our work within our schools.

In the community

Over the summer, St Martin's Garden Primary School was voted Sainsbury's Odd Down Charity of the Year 2018 by customers and the local community. Sainsbury's will work with the school over the next year to help raise funds to repair and/or replace play equipment.



Two artists on behalf of MIND recently worked with a Year 5 pupil at St Martin's Garden Primary School to create an art installation outside Bath train station on Weds 10 Oct as part of community awareness-raising activities for World Mental Health Day. The installation was interactive, with members of the public and groups of children deleting worries and making and receiving tokens of good wishes. Year 5 and 6 pupils at St Martin's enjoyed workshops with the artists leading up to their visit.



Parent orchestra



The Orchestra of Everything are a local orchestra, consisting mainly of parents from Widcombe schools and pre-schools, but also an increasing number of staff, secondary school students, and parents from Moorlands, St Philip's, Hayesfield, Ralph Allen and other local schools. We started last year, are now up to 30, and are still growing. We play a wide range of music, tailored to fit our members. We rehearse once a month in Widcombe Junior School's hall and gig every couple of months. We're very chilled out - people turn up whenever they can, often with various children and other family members in tow.

So if you are, or once were, a musician - whatever instrument, whatever level, and however long it's been since you last played - please do get in contact at JonLGore@gmail.com, or via our website at www.orchestraofeverything.com. We hope to see you at a rehearsal soon!