



Collaboration & Community News

GOVERNOR BULLETIN

June 2024

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As ever, do contact the Trust offices and/or Andrew as Director of Governance if any further clarity is required.

STAYING IN TOUCH

A joint bulletin from the CEO & Director of Governance

It has been an exciting year as Great Heights Academy Trust colleagues have steered our way together through a transitioning phase to become a 2-18 trust with nearly 5,000 students and 700 staff! With the collaborative support of all we are progressing as 'one trust' – welcoming in new schools, communities and colleagues.

As we continue to flourish, we wish to ensure governors are connected to all the community and collaboration news around our trust. This bulletin is designed to celebrate and connect LGBs, trustees and members within the area of community news. It will be separate to the operational expectations of leaders within the 'Scheme of Delegation', reportable expectations linked to 'Terms of Reference' and the Ofsted leadership grade expectations – as we are all mindful of workload friendly ways to remain compliant and keep connected.


★ Communication within this bulletin should support the regular in-between reportable time frames between board members and leaders, again within a workload friendly backdrop.

★ Principals and Heads of School have just recently been reminded of the importance of keeping their board updated on significant changes, emergency activation or near misses in 'real timeframes.' We are working on guidance and best practice sharing to further articulate the importance.

COLLABORATION NEWS

1. GHAT Attendance Collaborative

The Trust recognises that attendance is currently a high-profile focus and a national issue which is impacting on many of our schools. In order to work collaboratively we wish to understand better this complex issue and so have formed a new working party made up of members of the central team and the schools with an attendance area of risk. The group are being supported by our Great Heights Research School to look at new ways of unpicking the barriers around poor attendance with three main aims to:

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 - assist in the development of a trust strategy
 - enable specific real time data on specific school/family barriers/issues/challenges
 - shape collaborative responses to common barriers, underpinned by relevant research

Our Research School is utilising the current guidance and is supporting leaders to better understand how to support school attendance - <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/leadership-and-planning/supporting-attendance>

The Research School have devised a questionnaire to capture pupil views and the group are meeting in July to analyse the results and work on next steps. Updates and outcomes will be continuously shared to hopefully shape broader attendance strategy developments... with a project with the RAF currently being investigated!

Community News



COLNE VALLEY
HIGH SCHOOL

Community Hub Support



CVHS continue to support the local Colne Valley Community Hub as they meet at CVHS. This provides an important and valued opportunity to pull together strategy and support for the people of the Colne Valley.

SEND Coffee Morning



CVHS has recently connected Kirklees external support agencies and members of the community were invited to come into school to increase awareness of what support is available inside and outside of school for young people in the CVHS community.

A Rising Star



CVHS sporting excellence with Year 11 student Mo recently offered a professional contract with Huddersfield Town Football Club.

COLLABORATION NEWS

2. Fixing Fluency Collaborative Project



GHAT Research School and English Hub have successfully gained a funding grant for their Fixing Fluency project, from SHINE, an education charity <https://shinetrust.org.uk/>. The initiative will enable project work to develop materials for primary pupils and support primary and secondary colleagues. Do look out for updates within future reports.

The project will develop a whole class approach to the explicit teaching of reading fluency for pupils as part of a balanced diet of reading development. The grant will enable us to develop a package of materials to trial in year 4 and year 5 across our GHAT schools and beyond (initially up to 15 schools in total), providing a range of pedagogic tools that can add to a school's reading curriculum and a teachers' 'toolbox'.

The term 'fluency' is one of the most frequently searched terms on the [Education Endowment Foundation website](https://www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/) demonstrating an appetite and need amongst GHAT colleagues. In addition, reading in its entirety continues to be one of the most frequently identified barriers within Pupil Premium strategy statements.

As pupils gain fluency, their motivation increases: they start to enjoy reading more and are willing to do more of it. The importance of this is highlighted by the [National Literacy Trust's survey of children's reading \(2023\)](https://www.nationalliteracytrust.org.uk/survey-of-childrens-reading-2023/) which indicates that children's reading enjoyment levels are at their lowest since records began. It is intended that as this project develops, a Fixing Fluency school will develop a shared language of fluent reading and so will support communication with and between teachers and pupils. See the current press release –

<https://shinetrust.org.uk/2024/06/13/let-teachers-shine-winner-2024-jessica-mellor-fixing-fluency/>

3. Marsden Junior School Stakeholder Engagement

MJS have recently been engaging with their stakeholders to revisit their values. Stakeholders were asked: 'What personal qualities are important for children at Marsden Junior School to develop?' Top answers were kindness, respect and resilience.



4. Joint CPD collaborations

West Vale Academy and Bowling Green Academy recently enjoyed a collaborative Design Technology staff CDP session to share expertise and develop further their curriculum offer.

Linking Governors to existing communication

Please do connect to your academy leaders on these trust communications for regular updates.

- New school welcome [letters](#), Nields Academy 1st April '24
- Leadership Update [Newsletter](#) 11.6.24
- Chairs of LGB Network Meeting 17.6.24 @ Riverside Offices
- Launch of new websites – MFG & MJS June '24 <https://themfg.co.uk/> <https://themjs.org/>

