



Collaboration & Community News

GOVERNOR BULLETIN

October 2024

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STAYING IN TOUCH

A joint bulletin from the CEO & Director of Governance

It has been a positive start to the year as Great Heights Academy Trust colleagues continue to work collaboratively as 'one trust'. Our new Strategy Day has helped to set the scene to develop and embed our culture as a Trust – 'Achieving Excellence Together'.

After half term we are having our first Trust wide CPD day of the year based at The MFG. There is a focus on key areas to help our schools and staff develop. They include – Oracy, Early-stage writers across phases, adaptive teaching to meet the needs of all learners, SEMH and neurodivergence, Coaching for impact, SENDCO network, developing pupil independence and then a session for leaders on complaints and the changing national and local picture.

This bulletin is designed to celebrate and connect LGBs, trustees and members within the area of community news. As ever, do contact the Trust offices and/or Andrew as Director of Governance if any further clarity is required.

★ 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. West Vale Academy and Greetland Academy host SEND workshop

West Vale Academy and Greetland Academy led their first shared parent workshop for parents of children with SEND. The workshop focused on sensory processing and provided parents with a knowledge of sensory differences and a bank of useful strategies they could use at home. It was well received by all who attended.



IN THE NEWS

2. Greetland Academy one of six UK schools selected to overcome language barriers in the classroom



Greetland Academy is one of only six schools in the UK that will partner with Pocketalk, after the company launched a nationwide programme designed to overcome language barriers in UK classrooms.

Pocketalk invited schools across the UK to apply to trial up to 10 of their AI-based direct translators, which can facilitate real-time conversations in over 84 languages to help EAL students learn.

Greetland Academy stood out from the competition and was selected by a panel of judges for its commitment to becoming a school of sanctuary, where it prioritises inclusion, making children feel welcome and providing high levels of support. Read the full article [here](#):

7. Family and Community News

Nursery story and craft sessions



West Vale Academy have been strengthening relationships with local nurseries by leading story and craft sessions with their pre-school children. The children have taken part in Halloween story and craft activities to support and develop their school readiness.

Stay & Read with Primary Parents



Raynville Academy have been asking parents for their support in encouraging their children to read. Parents of pupils in Years 1-4 were invited to come into school and read with the children. Reception parents were invited to a session to learn more about the importance of forming good reading habits in the early years.

Bramley Cluster Event



Raynville Academy students were fantastic ambassadors for their school at the October Bramley Cluster event.

The event was designed to engage with the community about what is going on in local schools.

IN THE NEWS

3. Greetland Academy named one of West Yorkshire's best primaries



**THE
GREETLAND
ACADEMY**

The Yorkshire Evening Post has created a league table for West Yorkshire's state primary schools. They have selected only schools which surpassed both the national and local authority area's averages, those with the very highest scores. In the 2022/23 school year, 87% of Greetland Academy pupils once again met the expected standards in reading, writing and maths, compared to 60% both locally and nationally. See the league table [here](#).

SPOTLIGHT ON THE MIRFIELD FREE GRAMMAR

4. The MFG Staff tackle the Yorkshire 3 Peaks

This month staff from The MFG completed the Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge, to raise money for The Brain Tumour Charity.

Last year, one of MFG's Year 11 students, Alissa, was diagnosed with a brain tumour. Despite undergoing extensive tests, chemotherapy, and considerable time away from school, she demonstrated remarkable resilience and determination by successfully completing her GCSE examinations. Inspired by Alissa's tenacity, MFG staff came together to join her and others in the Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge to raise funds. Alissa's mother has organised a JustGiving page, where contributions currently exceed £8,000 towards a target of £10,000. With additional fundraising initiatives led by Alissa and her mother, we are confident they will surpass this goal.



The 3 Peaks was a hard challenge for The MFG staff, but all finished with a smile on their face (just!) and a real sense of achievement. View the Dewsbury Reporter's story on the challenge [here](#).

5. The MFG raise over £700 in one day for children's hospice



The MFG raised a whopping £700 for Forget Me Not Children's Hospice during Equity Day - an event that enabled students to learn about equity, diversity and different cultures through a range of fun-filled enrichment activities.

6. Open Evening success ★

The October Open Evening was a great success, with many more attendees than last year. We asked guests for feedback on their favourite bits of the event:

"Getting to see what goes on and seeing the students represent the school well"

"Talks from students"

"Looking around with our tour guide, playing the maths games, doing the textiles"

Linking Governors to existing communication

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

- Leadership Update [Newsletter](#) October 2024
- Chairs of LGB Network Meeting 18.11.24 @ Riverside Offices
- Launch of new website - Nields Academy: <https://nields.ghat.org.uk/> and Colne Valley High School: <https://thecvhs.co.uk/>

