



## Focus on Ouseburn Learning Trust

### Update from the Chair

The Ouseburn Learning Trust is now in its third year of formally working together as a group of eight schools. There have been some significant changes to the day to day running of the Trust recently and I would like to update you with those.

The Trust Manager, Andy Gaskell, resigned from his post in November. With that in mind, and the impending changes as Heaton Manor becomes an academy and leaves the OLT, it was appropriate to review the way forward.



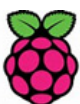
A discussion group of Board members recommended not to appoint a new Trust Manager but to expand the administrative assistant role to that of Trust Officer. Hannah Hales has now been working in this new position since the beginning of March, initially on the governance of the Trust. Leadership for specific strategic areas for the Trust will come from senior leaders across the schools, starting with Gary Wallis-Clarke (Executive Headteacher at West Jesmond) focussing on school improvement. This work began after February half-term in all the Trust schools and it is envisaged that this strategic focus will continue for a year. The impact of all Trust work will be monitored by the Trust Monitoring and Impact group. Other groups that meet regularly include Headteachers, Deputy Headteachers, SENDCos and School Business Managers. A number of network groups to share practice are now established covering Maths, English and Early Years—these are open to all interested staff. A group of Lead Practitioners have been identified to support staff development, and the practice of visiting other Trust schools for one training day has continued. Colleagues across schools have established good working relationships and mutual support. We are delighted that Heaton Manor has continued to work closely with the primary schools and hope that this relationship will continue after academisation takes place.

*Shirley Mills, Chair of Ouseburn Learning Trust*

## Focus on STEM

*(Science, technology, engineering and maths)*

**REECE**  
**FOUNDATION**



RaspberryPi

Thanks to funding from the Reece Foundation, we have been able to continue our support to primary schools in providing extra –curricular STEM clubs. STEM Officer Shane Colclough has worked with Cragside teachers and parents to deliver a series of exciting engineering sessions looking at structures, bridge building and forces, and electricity. Shane will be working with Christ Church CE and Chillingham Road primary schools during the summer term.

Funding from the Reece Foundation is also helping schools to utilise the Raspberry Pi equipment purchased last year. We have been able to provide specialist support to schools to develop curriculum based projects and further work will take place in the summer term

## Focus on Arts and Culture

OLT schools continue to develop outstanding cultural educational experiences for our pupils.

Hotspur and Ravenswood schools were awarded Artsmark in the autumn term; several other Trust schools are not far behind and expect to complete their awards this year. Artsmark is run by the Arts Council and the award recognises schools that are making the arts come alive. The framework provides a practical tool for enriching a school's arts provision whatever the starting point. The OLT aims to establish a 'cultural' network to support arts provision and practice in our schools in the way that our Maths and English school network groups support teaching in those subjects.

Singing in the Ouseburn Learning Trust goes from strength to strength. The annual Ouseburn schools concert saw our largest ever number of singers performing to a full house at the City Hall. The standard of singing improves every year and individual school performances on the theme of 'Imagine the World' covered a wide range of musical styles and accompaniments. The Concordia Vocal Project has contributed enormously to the flourishing of singing in our schools. Over 60 staff have received training and confidence building in leading singing—some of them led their schools on stage for the first time at the City Hall performance.



Schools continue to establish strong ties with cultural organisations in the city, especially the Great North Museum and Laing Gallery. All the primary schools will be involved in the Great Exhibition of The North next term - look out for specific details from your child's school. You can find out more about what will be happening across the city at the Great Exhibition of the North website: <https://getnorth2018.com/>

## Focus on P.E.

Sport continues to go from strength to strength in the Trust. Individual school websites and social media are full of success stories of participation and competition.

*"...the Trust are a shining light for the City in terms of their engagement with Level 2 Schools Games competitions, and whilst I know it is not the be all and end all, the number of instances where the Ouseburn Trust Schools have gone on to represent the city is really impressive; as are their performances when attending those County Finals."*

*Ian Kendall, Schools Games Organiser for Newcastle PE and Sports Service*

This year, the Trust has staged competitions for our primary school pupils in: cross country, badminton, basketball, football, and hockey. These take place at schools across the Trust; including Heaton Manor where pupils have the chance to experience the facilities of a large secondary school. Further competitions in cricket and tag rugby are planned for the summer term. The competitions offer additional opportunities for children to represent their schools and build links between pupils across the Trust. Heaton Manor also offers an after school sports club with a variety of games to KS2 OLT primary school pupils.

The Trust has established a relationship with TyneMet college that sees students supporting playground games and activities in some of our primary schools as well as helping to run the OLT competitions.