

Coombe Academy Trust Newsletter

Edition 2 March 2019

www.coombeschools.org

The latest news from The Coombe Academy Trust

PARTNERSHIP AND CELEBRATION!

TRUST INSET DAY 31st OCTOBER 2018

We were very pleased to welcome Simon Hardwick, Deputy Headteacher at Dartford Grammar School, as our keynote speaker. Simon spoke to us about 'challenge for all' and provided numerous strategies that could easily be incorporated into our lessons from the Early Years to Year 13 to ensure that all of our learners are making outstanding progress. We have seen evidence of this high level of challenge across the schools in lessons since and our students and pupils are certainly thinking hard!

Other workshops offered on the Joint Inset day included: how to ensure that the curriculum is accessible for children with SEND; an introduction to British Sign Language; building revision and memory skills; using technology to provide meaningful feedback & marking; closing the vocabulary gap; focus on questioning; how the primary approach to reading can help at secondary school; supporting children's emotional well-being; and evidence based practice.

The Trust Inset Day offers a fantastic annual opportunity for all the staff to come together to build relationships across the schools and enjoy bespoke professional development led by colleagues at the same time. We are already planning next year's event which will include a strong focus on inclusion, understanding special educational needs including autism and sensory impairment and a presentation from our cross-school working group who are researching 'how to close the vocabulary gap'.

OUTSTANDING INCLUSION AND PROVISION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AT KNOLLMEAD

This academic year, our Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) for children with hearing impairment and the SRP for children with social communication needs including autism have been reviewed by the Local Authority. We are very proud that in both SRPs: the partnership with parents, carers and pupils; the quality of teaching, learning and assessment; personal development, behaviour and welfare; outcomes for pupils; the effectiveness of leadership and management; and overall effectiveness, have been judged outstanding.

Our ethos, is to ensure and promote that every pupil should have equality and access to an education in direct response to their individual needs, therefore enabling each child to flourish and meet their potential; this has been acknowledged and celebrated throughout both evaluation reports.

Congratulations to the team at Knollmead!



COOMBE
preparing you
for a world of
opportunity



CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

- FUNDING

One of our biggest opportunities as a Trust at this time is maintaining financial stability. Our fundraising committee, made up of trustees, senior staff and skilled parents with expertise in the finance/charity and fundraising sectors met earlier this term and a number of exciting actions were planned to support the schools with future prospects and opportunities to source additional income. The next meeting of the committee will be on Tuesday 30th April so please do contact us should you have the necessary skills to support.

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

- TEACHER RECRUITMENT TRAIN TO TEACH!

If you, a family member or a friend, are interested in training or returning to teach, please do contact Nick Power at Coombe Girls' School for a bespoke induction and professional development programme.

The schools across the MAT continue to benefit from our 'home grown' teachers who are supported by a whole raft of professional development opportunities and learning from the adept and highly skilled staff currently within the Trust.

THE COOMBE ACADEMY TRUST AND KING'S COLLEGE SCHOOL (KCS), WIMBLEDON

Our partnership with King's continues to flourish and our students are able to enjoy a wide range of additional opportunities:

Coombe Sixth Formers benefit from guidance and advice on competitive university applications as well as invitations to lectures and masterclasses. In Years 10 & 11, boys and girls at Coombe participate in the senior aspirations project as well as GCSE enhancement classes in a wide range of subjects. The weekly Student View project at Coombe Boys' has been a particular success and our talented singers at Coombe Girls' have enjoyed participating in the Partnership Choir production.

Knollmead's Year 5 class visited King's for a magnificent science display and are very much looking forward to participating again this year in the annual Sports Day in June. From September, the current Year 4 class will participate in fortnightly art and literacy workshops. This summer term, pupils in Year 5 at Green Lane will visit King's for their opportunity to view the science display and a cross year group team will be attending cricket training on a Friday afternoon.

I am exceptionally proud of our partnership with King's, it is an excellent opportunity to work with colleagues at KCS and ensures that we keep former governor Heather McKissack's memory alive.

KNOLLMEAD CELEBRATES BECOMING 60!

On 11th January Knollmead celebrated its 60th birthday and to mark the event an afternoon tea party was held for former staff and pupils from across the years. The Mayor, Councillor Thay Thayalan and Governors attended and the children put on a fantastic show, performing songs from each decade starting with the 1950s right up to present day. There was memorabilia on display including a daily log book maintained by the Headteacher in 1959 and photographs from over the years which included pictures from when Princess Diana visited the school in 1989. One of our visitors had actually presented the Princess with a bouquet and she was delighted to see the photograph of her doing this when she came to the party. The visitors remarked on how 'warm and welcoming' the atmosphere had been, how confidently the children performed and how impressed they were with the tours of the school.

It was truly an event that further enforced the many reasons why we are all proud to be part of the Knollmead community!