



CHILTERN
LEARNING
TRUST

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TOGETHER TOWARDS EXCELLENCE AMBITION AND INSPIRATION

Our Trust has grown and developed over time, but remains committed to a clear vision and values. While each school operates independently and has established relationships with the local community, it is important to know that the vision and values is what unites our schools in partnership and allows us to offer more support and opportunities to our communities.



Our Vision

Our vision is to educate, empower and inspire generations of children through a network of outstanding schools that are recognised at a local, regional and national level as being the absolute benchmark in teaching and learning.

Our schools will be recognised as the most forward thinking and innovative organisations within the communities that they serve, and all children will leave our care as well rounded individuals who have achieved high levels of academic success and are well prepared for life in modern Britain.



Our Values

The Chiltern Learning Trust is characterised by its passionate and unrelenting drive to ensure that every one of its students makes extraordinary progress, achieves exceptional standards and realises his or her huge potential within schools where best practice is commonplace, and which pride themselves at being at the cutting edge of innovation and best practice.

The Trust is committed to developing the whole person so that young people know what they care about in life and what drives them; know their strengths and aspirations; know how to remain optimistic and bounce back from setbacks; know how to deal with their emotions;

know what makes them happy and how to stay that way; know the importance of humour; know how to look after themselves and live healthy fulfilling lives and know how to support others and how they can contribute to making society a better place for themselves, others and future generations.

The Trust will do this by offering them a first class education within each individual academy, and by offering outstanding enrichment opportunities which will offer them unique experiences and see them truly stand apart from others.



Valuing our students

We passionately believe that all children and young people, however challenging their circumstances and whatever their background, can achieve. Our students will practise the values of integrity, compassion, understanding and tolerance.



Valuing our staff

We are passionate about our staff, as we are about our students. We want to employ and create outstanding teachers, leaders and non-teaching staff, who genuinely aspire to excellence, are truly excited by challenge, love to take risks, and have a passion to co-develop and co-construct best practice with their students and fellow practitioners.





Introduction from the CEO

As we welcome students and colleagues back to school across the Trust, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I hope everyone had a restful holiday and is ready to start the new Spring term afresh.

Whilst we are looking forward to a brand-new year, it is important to look back and reflect on the Autumn term. I would like to thank everyone including staff and students for working extremely hard during the term.

In this newsletter we catch up on the news from each school and celebrate their achievements. All schools have seen students enjoying the curriculum and achieving great sporting successes, alongside taking part in some exciting experiences.

It was also lovely to see that our new Year 7 students and newer schools to the Trust have settled into life within our community. We are very glad to have you all on board.

There were lots of exciting new developments for our schools during the Autumn term. Putteridge High School has now been awarded £21 million from the Department for Education to undertake a major re-build and refurbishment of the school buildings. Chiltern Academy's new building works are also progressing well. We look forward to seeing the finished results for both schools later this year.

I also want to say a huge congratulations to the Chiltern Training Group who are celebrating their 25th anniversary. The group has trained and supported thousands of candidates across our region over the last 25 years, providing an amazing service for not only for our community, but the education sector more widely. CTG has helped ensure we provide the best quality teaching and support for our staff and students in the Trust.

I hope to see our colleagues and students across Chiltern Learning Trust continuing to work hard and pursue their interests and hobbies in the term ahead. I am looking forward to seeing what the new year will bring - I am sure there will plenty more exciting news to report back.



Adrian Rogers
Chief Executive of Chiltern
Learning Trust (CLT)



A Growing Trust: Rebuilding Putteridge High School and expanding Chiltern Academy

We are delighted that Putteridge High School was successful in securing funding of £21 million from the Department for Education to rebuild and refurbish parts of the school.

The plans will create new general areas as well as specialist teaching areas and a brand new sports block. We are thrilled that the DfE has awarded this significant investment into the future of Putteridge High School. As a Trust, we want to ensure all our schools are providing the best teaching and learning experiences possible for our staff and students. The state-of-the-art new facilities will enable Putteridge High School to continue to be at the forefront of providing a high-quality educational experience for the community.



Meanwhile, at Chiltern Academy, the building works for the new school has begun. Chiltern Academy's current pupils, a cohort of Year 7s, enjoyed visiting the building site to see how their new school was progressing. It is planned that the school will move from its temporary home at York Street, to its new purpose built building in September 2019.

We were also pleased with Chiltern Academy's provisional numbers. The academy now has a brilliant first year intake of over 200 students and has lots of interest already for the September 2019 intake.



The Trust raising money and resources for multiple charities

As a Trust, we are passionate about helping our students develop and become rounded individuals and we want to give back to our community. As part of this, all our schools take part in charity and community work. There were many highlights of this during the Autumn term.

Denbigh High School undertook great work supporting the Luton Food Bank, providing a huge amount of food to the local community. The Food Bank mentioned the school on Twitter, stating: "You have a school community to be immensely proud of. Leading the way in academic achievement and character! Well done to you all." The school also raised £907 for Children in Need.



All our schools raised money for charity last term, just a few examples include Cedars Upper School who raised £2,000 for their chosen charity, Linslade School who hosted a tea party for the local community, Dallow Primary School who raised £1,038 for Children in Need and many others. Thank you to everyone involved in these efforts and for doing great work in our communities.

Students attend prestigious leadership conference

Students from Cedars Upper School, Challney High School for Girls and Challney High School for Boys were fortunate to attend the annual Leadership Symposium by Working Options.

The students had the opportunity to listen to industry leaders including the CEO of Tesco and the CEO of Newton Europe. They also heard from other key speakers including Piers Morgan.

For the students, this was an opportunity to learn more about the working world and the different routes to success. They also gained tips on how to become more employable. The students were really inspired by the event and are keen to keep developing their knowledge.



Training and Development Opportunities Across the Trust

Chiltern Learning Trust values the talent and potential of all our staff. We strive to support our staff's professional development and help them to take on new challenges. The emphasis we place on developing and upskilling our staff is all part of our mission to be a Trust that contributes to and benefits our community and the wider education sector. We believe in 'Growing our own'.



In order to provide this support, we have the Chiltern Teaching School Alliance (CTSA) which provides a framework for school-to-school improvement and collaboration and is designed to improve the quality of teaching and leadership through CPD courses, support, and mentoring. We also have the Chiltern Training Group (CTG), a group that offers Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses for people who wish to become a teacher and gain Qualified Teacher Status.



These groups offer a huge amount of resources to both our own staff and to the community more widely. We believe in a broader approach to progression, to not use training courses as a means to simply move up to the next position, but a chance for you to perfect your craft and perform your current role to the best of your ability. This is demonstrated through our new honeycomb approach with the five key areas of: Leadership, Teaching and Learning, Wellbeing, Research and Skills and Knowledge.

Celebrating 25 years of CTG

This year the Trust is celebrating 25 years of the CTG and providing initial teacher training for people wanting to become school teachers. Over time, we have supported thousands of teachers, not only within the Trust, but in the local area as well. This has helped to boost high-quality teacher recruitment in the region for the last 25 years.



We have trained
over
2,000
candidates



This year we
are training
68
candidates



We work with
50 partnership
schools
in the area

To celebrate this achievement, we have created a special 25 years commemorative logo. Within the last two years we have also launched initial teacher training for primary school teachers. This is proving to be incredibly successful and we look forward to seeing more candidates go on to qualify.

If you are interested in training to become a teacher with us, please visit: www.ctg.ac.uk. Alternatively, please contact **Angie Woodcraft** on **01582 599921** (ext 362) or email angie.woodcraft@ctg.ac.uk.



Dallow Primary School

We had a brilliant Autumn term with lots of success across the school. We are particularly delighted that we have been awarded the School Games Gold Sports Mark for the third year running! The School Games Mark is a government led awards scheme rewarding schools for their pledge to develop competition across their school. This is something we encourage as we have two hours of timetabled PE each week and our students participate in sports competitions across Luton.



We are also thrilled to have been awarded the prestigious Music Mark. At Dallow we ensure that all our pupils, from Foundation through to Year 6, receive a 45-minute music lesson taught by a specialist every week.

It has been brilliant to see pupils and staff embrace the curriculum changes as we began the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) in September. The IPC is a comprehensive, thematic and creative curriculum with a clear process of learning, whilst setting specific learning goals for international mindedness and personal learning.

Our pupils also had great fun last term preparing for Christmas, decorating the school. We enjoyed some lovely performances from our children including Year 1's Nativity, 'The Sleeping Shepherd', and Foundation's 'Ralph and the Reindeer'! The whole school enjoyed their Christmas lunch with our catering team making over 700 lunches!

We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Foundation Stage Leader, Zaibun Nisar, who has recently been appointed as a Specialist Leader in Education (SLE) through the Acorn Teaching School. Congratulations Zaibun, this is a great achievement.



Lark Rise Academy

Our focus for the Autumn term was resilience and how our students can be resilient learners. We had lots of activities taking place in school, including visits from Skip Beatz which is a unique high-intensity exercise class. Skip Beatz got our children moving and grooving using skipping ropes, showing them that sometimes things take time to learn but, once you have grasped them, you can soar and jump with the best of them.



We also had the Doodlebug Workshop visit our school. This was an art workshop which took our children's drawing skills and turned them into wonderful pieces of art. It demonstrated to our students that it is possible to use both old and newly learnt skills to create something wonderful.

As well as lots of fun events, we had a new school superhero, Resilient Roo. Resilient Roo had a themed board in our school hall to showcase all the skills and achievements of his team of amazing Learning Superstars, who have shown resilience and a very positive attitude in their everyday learning.

Well done to all our students who have thrown themselves into every activity. It is great to see their resilience improving and to see them enjoying new experiences. We cannot wait to see the positive impact this will have for their studies this term.



Linslade School

We had a very busy Autumn term at Linslade and have enjoyed settling into life with the Chiltern Learning Trust. Thanks to our brilliant new colleagues we have already started working with other CLT schools through Google Drive. We were also pleased to start the term with more pupils than ever, growing to a total of 639 students.



Our students did a fantastic job raising money for some of our chosen charities. Our students raised an impressive £1,800 for Children in Need and £1,000 for Alzheimer's UK. Our Key Stage 3 pupils also raised £3,300 through a sponsored read and a sponsored run to improve playground equipment and are now planning what sorts of things they would like to have!

Families have also been a big part of our autumn term. Over 30 families joined us for our recent Key Stage 2 maths and English workshops. A further 130 families joined us for our Year 5 concert and we were delighted to be supported by 45 families who helped us walk our fleet of walking buses to church at the end of term.

As we move into the Spring Term, we will be working closely with Paul Carlile as part of a joint Central Bedfordshire Council project which seeks to build community via the Restorative Practices Programme. Paul will be working with us during a training day in order to help colleagues begin to develop strategies to involve all pupils, especially those harder to reach pupils, in all aspects of school life and enhance their engagement and achievement. We look forward to sharing our learning with other colleagues in the Trust.



Marston Vale Middle School

There has been a real buzz to the start of the school year at Marston Vale Middle School, with students applying for leadership roles including Head Boy and Girl, House Captains, and Language, Environmental and Library Leaders. We were thrilled to receive our highest ever number of applicants. Well done and thank you to everyone that applied. We would like to extend our congratulations to Marston Vale's new leadership team, directed by Head Boy, Thomas Bates, and Head Girl, Rae Neagle.

Our younger students also had a busy first term, taking part in lots of new activities. For example, our Year 5 and Year 7 students took part in a ceramic workshop as part of an ongoing collaboration with Bedford College. Our students said that they found the feeling of the wet clay quite strange, but they overcame their fears to learn how to model clay on the pottery wheel. It was certainly not as easy as they thought but the students showed great perseverance, well done!

Our students also achieved great success outside of the classroom, with Year 8 student Alisha securing first place in her ice-skating competition in November. Congratulations to Alisha, this is an amazing achievement.





Challney

Challney High School for Boys

In the Autumn term we created brand new logos for our school houses. We wanted to retain the Luton worker bees, whilst modernising the logos to reflect our house values of innovation, determination, excellence and unity. Our students have certainly been very busy demonstrating these values!

As part of the Armistice Day Centenary commemorations, our GCSE history students visited the British Film Institute in London for the Youth Premiere of 'They Shall Not Grow Old'. This gave our students a moving insight into the life of a soldier during World War One. Some of our older students were also fortunate enough to visit the headquarters of TUI. This gave them a better understanding of the world of work and helped them to develop team building and career skills.

Challney Boys competed in 38 competitive sports fixtures across Year 7 to 11 last term. Our students worked exceptionally hard in preparation, demonstrating true Challney spirit! Inter-house competitions have also been a huge success. We launched our PE 'Team of the Month' last term for students who have shown outstanding commitment. We would like to say a massive well done to all our students who have been involved in sports this year so far.

It's not only been our students who have excelled this term; one of our teachers, Mr Ryan, won both the BBC Three Counties and the Luton Community Teacher of the Year Award! Mr Ryan has been outstanding, working with students for Sports Relief 2017 and 2018 fundraising events. We are very proud to have him as part of our team.

Just a few reminders, if you are in Year 9 or 10 and are interested in the Duke of Edinburgh awards, please speak to Mr Thomas. Also, for those taking their GCSE exams this year, there are useful resources available through school, including Mathswatch, Tassomai, and realistic revision timetables.



Challney High School for Girls

In October our girls took part in an enrichment day. As part of this, some of our Year 10 students went to the Tate Modern. Year 10 students also researched and created presentations about inspirational women. Year 9 students went to the National Space Centre to learn about female astronauts and the impact of space travel on the human body. Our Year 8 girls produced some beautiful weaving and took part in STEM activities, including a wind turbine workshop. Lastly, Year 7 worked with a professional film crew to learn about movie making. The day was a great success and our students loved all the different activities and interactive ways of learning.

Our students also learnt in another unique way with the teachers becoming the students! For example, Year 8 students from Mr Mehta's group presented a re-enactment of Elizabeth I's Middle Way and religious settlement. This enabled the girls to develop research and critical analysis skills as well as learning how to work collaboratively and develop their leadership skills.

We also held a speed networking event, where we opened our doors to professionals from different occupations. The event was a huge success, exposing the girls to new career opportunities and allowing them to build their confidence and communication skills.

Finally, congratulations to Hannah Hayes on her first term as Head of Brady House. With her competitive spirit, Hannah has led Brady House to victory in the inter-house dodgeball competition. Having completed her NQT year last year, she is an excellent role model to the girls, demonstrating determination and commitment.





Denbigh High School

We are delighted that Denbigh High School was selected as one of a small number of schools to participate in the Chartered College of Teaching's (CCoT) Technology for Learning online course. The course will be launched in the New Year with a view to extend continuous professional development for our teaching staff.



The prestigious independent school, Berkhamsted Sixth Form, has offered scholarship places to some of our students. Congratulations to Farhaan, Zakaria, Mukith and Asima. We are very proud of their tireless work and we are sure they will continue to flourish at Berkhamstead Sixth Form.

Last term, to promote girls' participation in sport at secondary school, we got involved with a new national programme led by the Youth Sports Trust, Girls Active. We were very lucky to receive a special visit from international women's rugby player Danielle 'Nolli' Waterman, who has represented England and Great Britain. Nolli naturally inspired the selected young leaders throughout the day, working closely on developing teamwork and fuelling their aspirations with her experience.



In November, 80 of our students joined with their peers from Challney High School, Chiltern Academy and Putteridge High School to embark on a journey to Allianz Park, for the Saracens and Worcester Rugby Match. Students explored the stadium before walking out to the roar of a packed stadium to participate in the opening festivities, before having a two-minute silence for Armistice Day. Our students also took part in a game of tag rugby during half-time. It was a fantastic opportunity, and everyone involved was a credit to Denbigh High School and the Chiltern Learning Trust.



Putteridge High School

Last term was an exciting time for our school. We are thrilled that the Department for Education has awarded £21million to refurbish the school and create brand new facilities. We are very excited for the plans to come to fruition over the next couple of years.



We had more good news as our Associate Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Line, received our International School Award from the Education Secretary, Damian Hinds MP, at the Houses of Parliament. The award is a great honour and achievement for the school and thank you to everyone who has supported us on this journey.

As part of our Remembrance Day commemorations, our students participated in a poignant assembly devised by Mr Callard. The students also produced some incredible artwork which was displayed around school. We are very proud of how respectful our students were during the commemorations.

Last term also saw the school's brilliant performance of Grease! It was very successful with two sell-out performances. Students and staff alike showed great dedication, coming in at weekends and evenings for rehearsals. Thank you to everyone for your work, it was great to see the growth in confidence of our students as they took to the stage.

Our sports teams continued their success last term with the netball team making it through to the finals at Cardinal Newman School in December, whilst our unbeaten Basketball team competed against Luton Sixth Form College. Well done to all our teams for representing Putteridge High School so successfully!



Cedars Upper School



We were honoured to host the National Schools Equestrian Association Grass Roots Championships last term. Teams had spent the last year qualifying at events across the UK, with over 40 schools and 150 competitors taking part. The combined Chiltern Learning Trust (Cedars and Linslade) team had some brilliant results amongst some very strong competition. Our U18 and U15 boys' swimming teams also competed at national level in the National Schools Finals, where the U18 team achieved 5th place in the freestyle final and 7th in the medley final. Many congratulations to both teams for representing the school so well.

Outside of sports some of students competed in the Youth Speaks competition. Our teams spoke about loneliness in today's society and 'Why can't we just be nice'. Katie, George and Tom's team won the first round and will compete in the second round of the national competition in February, best of luck.

We also hosted a Mathematics Masterclass for Year 7 students from Linslade, Leighton, Fulbrook, Brooklands and Gilbert Inglefield Middle Schools. This centred around a fictional new mathematical town, with students working on various tasks including costings of different types of buildings. Students learnt how to approach a problem tactically and collaboratively, and we were delighted with how hard the students worked.

Further afield, a group of our Year 10 students took part in an intensive French language course in Normandy, where all activities were conducted in French, from breakfast to bedtime. The busy programme encouraged rapid progress and confidence in using the language. In addition, 30 of our GCSE Computer Science and German language students went on a trip to Berlin. Their visit included the Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie, the Computer Games Museum and a fascinating guided tour of the Olympic Stadium. On both trips the students were true ambassadors for the school and the trips were thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Chiltern Academy



We had an amazing inaugural term at Chiltern Academy, with our new Year 7 intake settling in well to our temporary building. Students also had the opportunity to visit our new £17million site, which we will be moving into in September 2019. We will be planning lots of events for parents, students, staff and the local community and we can't wait to share our state-of-the-art facilities with everyone!

In the Autumn term, the whole school came together to complete the 'Chiltern Challenge 2018' with a 10 mile walk through the Chiltern Hills and around Ivinghoe Beacon, completing tasks along the way and developing map reading skills. It was a tough day for all of us but proved to be beneficial for building both resilience and teamwork.

We had a great term for fundraising, supporting our chosen charity, Children with Cancer UK, as part of the inter-house competition. Our fundraising events included bake sales and a movie night, with an amazing £800 raised by our school of just 210 current students!

Chiltern Academy specialisms in engineering and sport have really taken off. Each week over 50 pupils are participating in engineering club, whilst over 100 are attending extra-curricular sports, dance and cheerleading clubs! We look forward to seeing these specialisms grow over the years to come as we move to our new site.

