



MATRIX
ACADEMY
TRUST

Matrix Newsletter
February 2019



Providing **Support** | Sharing **Excellence**



www.matrixacademytrust.co.uk

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

I have often been asked about Multi Academy Trusts. Trusts have an interesting governance structure with members being the people who have the overall responsibility for the company of the Trust and the Trustees (sometimes called Directors) are the people who have the unpaid responsibility of making sure that the Trust serves the needs of the pupils it serves. A trust is a charity so those leading it need to demonstrate integrity and honesty.

Every school has its own Governance Advisory Board made up with staff, parents and co-opted members from the community the schools serve. Our schools are monitored and supported by the Trustees, members of the Governance Advisory Boards and the central team. We receive over 26 million pounds a year to operate our Trust and ensure that our pupils benefit from being part of Matrix.

Matrix Academy Trust has 4 schools with different strengths and intakes. Our schools are located in Walsall, Nuneaton and Birmingham. Three are secondary schools (11-18) and one is an all through school (pupils are aged 3 -18). All our schools have improved since joining the Trust with two schools being removed from special measures. The Trust includes a Teaching School Alliance, where we work with other schools providing training and we also have a SCITT (School centred initial teacher training) where we train graduates to become excellent teachers. As a Trust we grow our own teachers as we feel it is important to appoint the best staff possible and we can develop these new colleagues to become headteachers of the future. The staff share best practice and exchange ideas, schemes of work and training.

In 5 years' time the Trust will have grown to include more schools. Our vision for Matrix Academy Trust is to provide support and share excellence. What would this mean for a pupil in a Trust school?

Pupils are able to access a range of opportunities beyond quality teaching, for example membership of the Combined Cadet Force, the National Citizens Service (NCS) and the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. Our pupils are prepared for life after school in a safe learning environment and we aim to develop their resilience to the knocks that life will give them. We aim to have young people who are confident, healthy and full of enjoyment.

If you visit any of our schools I am sure that you will agree.



CELEBRATION EVENING

CALLING ALL PAST PUPILS & STAFF

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE 60 YEARS OF
BARR BEACON SCHOOL

**LIVE
MUSIC**

**A SPECIAL
SCHOOL
REUNION**

**STREET
FOOD**

*AVAILABLE AT COST

TICKETS £5 PER PERSON TO COVER SITE COSTS

FRIDAY 12TH JULY 2019 | 6-11^{PM}

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TICKETS VISIT

WWW.BARRBEACONSCHOOL.CO.UK/60

TICKETS ON SALE FROM 9AM ON FRIDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2019

LIMITED AVAILABILITY

#RecentlyMentioned

Follow Us @MatrixAcademyT

Mark Aspinall
@measpinall

Great visit to @barrbeaconsch this morning. Heartening to see the school growing ever-stronger as part of @MatrixAcademyT. Polite, motivated students who are being given the resources, environment and support they need to thrive, develop, grow and succeed.

11:55 AM - 6 Nov 2018

Fran Kenwick
@Fran_Planit

Mock interviews today with Year 10s at Bloxwich Academy. Some very impressive up and coming young talent!



Bloxwich Academy @bloxwichacademy
Bloxwich academy hosting mock interviews for Year 10 with the fantastic support of local businesses this morning to help prepare for their futures #bethebestyoucanbe

10:26 AM - 25 Jan 2019

Barr Beacon SCITT
@BBSCITT

We'll be exhibiting at this event in Nottingham on the 15th Jan. If you're interested in how to #getintoteaching come and speak to @BBSCITT, an Outstanding SCITT partnership in the Midlands.

Speakers Trust
@SpeakersTrust

Delighted to be working with @thinkhighercw in delivering our first "Speak Out" Challenge! in Warwickshire @covcampus. Congratulations to Davina Jarwaa @EtoneCollege who came 1st place after training over 150 students in the region! Watch her speech here bit.ly/2Sm3r7w



6:45 AM - 1 Feb 2019

1 Retweet 12 Likes

PC Rob Pedley MBE
@PCRobPedley

I had the pleasure to meet year 7 @barrbeaconsch today. Talking about #knifecrime #choices #consequences

3:03 AM - 31 Jan 2019

2 Retweets 7 Likes

In-Comm Training
@Incomm_training

We are excited to be partnering with Barr Beacon School for this years Express & Star #STEM Challenge which launched today! #ShapingFutures ⚙️



6:28 AM - 29 Nov 2018

Thomas Nicholls
@TJWNicholls

Today we successfully launched 'Take the Lead' in @bloxwichacademy

Year 12 students will have full control of a budget to plan and deliver a HE-inspiring intervention of their choosing! 💷

@AspiretoHE

#TakeTheLead #studentvoice
#OutreachWorks #WeAreNCOP



7:11 AM - 24 Jan 2019

Rob Hackfath
@Rob_Hackfath

Really pleased to speak to almost one hundred beginning teachers at Barr Beacon this morning. Best wishes for your training year!



DECS @followDECTC · 5 Dec 2018
"Well done DEC. We are delighted to announce our acceptance of The Music Mark Award. We believe in a broad curriculum, enriched with The Arts"
@MatrixAcademyT #musicmark2018 #Birmingham #schools



2 3 14

Stuart Birnie
@StuartBirnie1

Replying to @followDECTC @MatrixAcademyT

Thank you very much for your continued support @S4EMusic @S4EUK and happy to nominate you for @musicmarkuk award #broadandbalanced

2:28 PM - 6 Dec 2018



**'BE THE BEST
YOU CAN BE'**

BLOXWICH ACADEMY SECONDARY

CCF Parades **Bloxwich Academy**

Bloxwich Academy came together to celebrate the 100 Years Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice. Acting Pilot Officer Wilkes lead the formation of the parade conducted by our pupils in the Combined Cadet Force.

It was fantastic to see the respect shown by all our pupils during a 2 minute silence and a very proud moment watching our Combined Cadet Force squad in full flow.



Duke of Edinburgh **Award**

22 pupils were awarded with their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award and 16 pupils were awarded with their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Throughout the year, pupils have learnt many skills, such as: camp craft, map reading, countryside code, first aid and much more. The pupils who participated have shown tremendous amounts of hard work and dedication to complete all sections of the award and should be extremely proud of themselves.



Raising The Bar!



Students have raised the bar again with another record-breaking set of results; a quarter of which were graded at either A* or A. For the third consecutive year 100% of our Year 13 students are off to a university or to study a modern apprenticeship.



Such a lot has happened at Bloxwich Academy since the last Matrix Newsletter.

I am delighted that our Combined Cadet Force is now operational with over 30 pupils attending.

They have completed activities ranging from learning the phonetic alphabet, visiting the RAF Museum at Cosford, Shropshire and preparing for their first field craft day. We are eagerly anticipating the pupils first official flying lessons later in the academic year.

Along with excellent progress academically, all our pupils are benefiting from extra-curricular activities available in the Academy. Over 70 pupils are eagerly looking forward to travelling to France in June to experience the delights of Paris and we are extremely proud of all our pupils who have been selected to represent the Matrix Academy Trust in football and netball with visits to Holland to participate in international matches.

I must take this opportunity to wish all our pupils the very best in the forthcoming summer examination series, the hard work and effort they put in now will benefit them in the future.

Mr Andy Seager
Headteacher

"the hard work and effort
they put in now will benefit
them in the future."



'PROGRESS FOR ALL'

Etone
College



International Links

On Tuesday 13th & Wednesday 14th November, Etone College hosted a group of 6 Chinese visitors. Our 6 guests were all teachers at schools in the Chinese city of Shenzhen and were keen to learn about what life was like in British schools. Over the course of the two days, our guests met with various members of Etone staff to discuss teaching and learning in the UK and visited a number of lessons to observe teaching in the school.

We were also lucky enough to have a presentation from the group about how teaching differs in China. We found out that their school day was longer and pupils did compulsory exercise each morning. The group were extremely impressed by our pupils and very complimentary about our staff.



Careers Day

Etone held a whole school Careers Day. The aim of the day was to inspire pupils' exploration of career opportunities, expand their networks and open their eyes to exciting employment opportunities. The Gatsby Foundation 'Good Career Guidance' Report states that good career guidance is critical if young people are to raise their aspirations and capitalise on the opportunities available to them. Etone College works hard to promote impartial careers to its' pupils and the careers day certainly encouraged aspirations for all.



Macilan Coffee Morning

Etone College hosted a MacMillan Coffee Morning to raise money for people facing cancer.

We were delighted to have over 100 parents and carers turn up to the event along with our local MP Marcus Jones. Mr Jones was given a guided tour of the school with our Headteacher Mr Smith along with our Head Boy and Head Girl. As part of his visit, Mr Jones also answered questions from some of our pupils about his priorities for the local area.



Speakers Trust

On Feb 1st Davina and Ashleigh, both in Year 10, took part in the Speaker's Trust competition. Both girls commented on the experience saying that it was nerve wracking but gave them an opportunity to build their confidence.

Ashleigh and Davina were selected to take part from over 150 students within the area who had been trained by the Speaker's Trust. The competition took place at Coventry university where they competed against 10 other schools.

Davina spoke about 'Taking a Chance' and Ashleigh spoke about 'Cyber Bullying'. Both girls did extremely well with Ashleigh coming in 4th place and Davina achieving the top prize of a £100 gift card and trophy for becoming the best speaker in the competition.



Mr Ian Smith Headteacher

We continue to reward pupils for their positive contributions, attainment and progress across the curriculum and I would urge all pupils to make every lesson count and to be the best that they can be.



Careers Fair

Our annual careers fair was another triumphant success. This year, Barr Beacon School hosted over 30 employers, apprenticeship providers and further and higher education institutions talking with over 2000 pupils, including some from our Matrix family members Bloxwich Academy and Dame Elizabeth Cadbury School.





Respect, Aspire,
Believe, Commit

Dame Elizabeth Cadbury



Mr Mike Dunn
Headteacher

"Growing our network of collaborative practice and sharing of excellence."

The first half of the spring term has seen continued growth and success at Dame Elizabeth Cadbury School. We have secured over 1300 preferences for places in Year 7 for September 2019 – another record year. Year 11 continue to work extremely hard, engaging in their extensive package of examination preparation and other students in school are making better progress than ever before. We have hosted large number of visitors from schools around the Midlands, as well as colleagues from within the Trust, to grow our network of collaborative practice and sharing of excellence.

My personal and sincere thanks goes out to our most important resource: our staff. The immeasurable dedication and hard work each and every colleague gives to DEC pupils every day makes our school the great place that it is; from members of the leadership team, faculty leaders and teachers, to all of our superb support staff, everyone makes such a vital contribution to the excellent provision for pupils.

We look forward to our next phase of school improvement in the second half of 2018-19 as part of Matrix Academy Trust.

Our fabulous careers provision at Dame Elizabeth has been in full-swing this term with every pupil in the school making huge strides towards planning a future for success. Every year group have had the opportunity to self-assess their current skill set to highlight which profession they may be interested in or best-suited to. Throughout the exciting journey from Year 7 to Year 13, pupils will now be able to document, review and collate every decision they make before they leap into the world of work – extensive preparation that gives our pupils confidence and burning ambition to thrive in their chosen profession.

In particular, Years 9 & 10 have been fortunate enough to go through the complete interview process. Pupils received expert guidance from current working professionals and CV writing leaders who delivered outstanding sessions on how to write a winning CV. They were given the opportunity to create, write and develop their very own superb CV that is now ready to send to potential work experience employers or to submit for future job vacancies. The tips and guidance that pupils received during these sessions was really appreciated by pupils who now all have an incredibly important document that is written to a very high standard.

Winning at Interview



A Flying **First Half**

Best Maths Results **Ever**

Congratulations to the 2017-18 year 11 cohort who just received the best P8 (+0.4) in the history of the school.



DECS
@followDECTC

Thank you to parents, carers and students for your support and donations to Children in Need, the total amount raised is a fantastic £1346.03.



11:04 AM - 11 Dec 2018

It has been a brilliant first half of the season for our football teams this year with some outstanding performances – a reward for the dedication to training that many of our top players demonstrate. In their debut season, the Year 7 team have shown strong team spirit to record a series of stunning victories including a 5-3 win away against Kings Heath and a 5-2 cup win against Archbishop Isley.



**'BE THE BEST
YOU CAN BE'**

BLOXWICH ACADEMY PRIMARY

Christmas Card Competition Winner

A huge congratulations to Callum in Year 4 who was the runner up of Eddie's 2018 Christmas card competition. The competition was run by local MP Eddie Hughes who represents Bloxwich, Willenhall and Walsall North. After receiving over 900 entries, 300 of which came from Bloxwich Primary, Eddie had the tough decision of finding this year's competition winners. A massive well done and thank you to everyone who entered this year. We would like to thank Eddie for taking the time to come into school and look forward to working closely with him in the future.



Friends of Bloxwich Academy

Friends of Bloxwich Academy is a group which meets at different times during our school year to organise and hold fundraising events to support an enhanced curriculum for pupils.

As well as raising money the Friends of Bloxwich Academy is a great way to bring together parents, family members, staff and friends in support of our school.

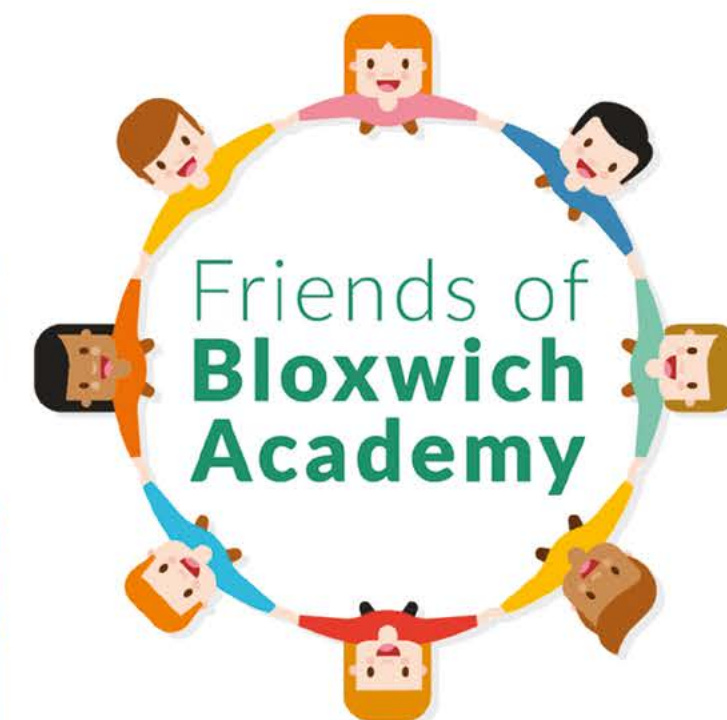
This is an opportunity for family members to become involved in your children's education. Family members of pupils on roll are welcome to join.



At Bloxwich Academy, we want all of our pupils to have great recall of their times tables so that they can make good progress in mathematics. This can be hampered by many factors, two of which are having low confidence in maths and having poor recall of times tables.

We are always striving to achieve more and recognise that parents are supportive of this too. Because of this, all children in KS2 now have access to Times Table Rockstars to help them practise their times tables.

Times Table Rockstars is an online programme for times table practice that is both effective and motivational. It gives children the access to improve their speed of recall and, should they wish, to compete against their classmates and children around the world.



wear it
pink breast cancer
now

You wore pink, raised money
and are making life-saving research happen.

Thank you

To everyone at
Bloxwich Academy Primary



for raising an incredible

£365.80!

Mrs Sian Davies
Associate Headteacher



'PROUD TO **SUCCEED**'

BARR BEACON SCHOOL



Mrs Lynsey Draycott
Headteacher

"A joyous
celebration of
talent"

As part of Performing Arts week, Barr Beacon school went all '60s and was proud to present their production of the hit musical Hairspray Jr. The large cast of 56 dancers and actors really wowed the audience with their confidence and professionalism.

On Thursday 17th January, cadets and parents were invited to celebrate the success of our CCF over the past 18 months. This was a joyous occasion to show parents our talents and accomplishments.

On Wednesday 13th February, 9 guests from the Aldridge Rotary Club visited Barr Beacon School to give mock interviews to Year 11 pupils. The event was to ensure no pupil's first interview is their real interview; practice makes perfect.

Twenty pupils have just returned from an unforgettable experience on the NASA Educational Tour, Orlando, United States and another 30 pupils experienced a Ski Safari in New Hampshire, USA. Some great pictures can be seen on our website and plans are already underway for launching trips for next year.

Aston Villa **Alumni**

One of our alumni, Jacob Ramsey, has just signed a 3 year contract with Aston Villa Football Club! He finished Barr Beacon in 2017 and has clearly impressed the Club as much as he impressed us in his time here. We are utterly thrilled at his success and we are looking forward to following his career closely.



Aston Villa FC
3 hrs · 🌐

We are delighted to announce that young attacking midfielder Jacob Ramsey has put pen-to-paper on a long-term contract 🙌

Full story 📄 <https://bit.ly/2VPqfLP>



👍❤️👏 595

70 comments 19 shares

Swimming Pool **Renovation**

You may have read in the news that we have been awarded more than three quarters of a million pounds to completely overhaul our pool facilities. The facilities are used by members of the public as well as pupils from many of the local schools. The improvements will increase the life expectancy of the swimming pool by a further 30 years, securing its use for generations to come.

The £791,292 awarded by the Conditions Improvement Fund, using money obtained from the 'sugar tax', will be used to replace the tiling, windows, doors, lighting, heating and the pool's power plant. The improvements will also make the pool fully accessible for the first time with disabled access throughout the building.

As well as members of our community, many local schools use our pool. Each year, thousands of people enjoy our pool facilities and these works will guarantee thousands more will be able to do so in future.



Only days after hearing of Jacob's success, we learned about Jack's Aston Villa contract. Jack finished Year 11 in 2017 as well. We always say we are 'proud to succeed' and we could not be more proud of both boys.

Awards Evening **2018**



This year's Awards Evening was a triumphant celebration of individual and collective successes. Hundreds of pupils received awards for subject achievements and supporting others. In addition to Matrix Director Mr Hoey, we had a guest speaker in the form of Thom Southerland, a pupil at Barr Beacon from 1995-2000. Thom shared his experiences of being a pupil and how his time at Beacon shaped his career path. He now works as a theatre director around the world and recently completed staging an opera in Norway. Well done to everyone who collected an award this year.





Barr Beacon SCITT

School Centred Initial Teacher Training
Your Future | Their Future



**WE'RE OFSTED
OUTSTANDING
IN ALL CATEGORIES
FOR TEACHER TRAINING**

Barr Beacon SCITT receives a glowing report from inspectors

Barr Beacon SCITT is celebrating an 'Outstanding' judgement from Ofsted having received the highest possible judgements in all four areas: quality of training, quality of leadership, outcomes for trainees and overall effectiveness.

Ofsted praised the "high quality training programme" and noted that "the quality of mentoring is consistently high". The report states that SCITT leaders demonstrate "very effective communication, support and engagement" and as a result there is a "very high level of satisfaction expressed by schools, trainees and newly-qualified teachers".

When inspectors spoke to former trainees they said that "the training year prepared them very well for the challenges they would face in their NQT year" and that "if they had their time again they would definitely go through the same training route." We think that this is a ringing endorsement of the quality of our programme.

Ofsted were particularly impressed with the strength of the training partnership, which includes schools across the Midlands. Ofsted were able to see "a genuine partnership with schools who contribute to the strategic direction of the SCITT, training and recruitment." The current SCITT partnership consists of: Barr Beacon School, Brownhills School, Bloxwich Academy, Codsall Community School, Dame Elizabeth Cadbury School, Elmwood School, Etone College, Grace Academy in Darlaston, and Ormiston Shelfield Academy.

You can read the full report on our website - www.bbscitt.co.uk



The Department for Education's National Professional Qualification for Middle Leadership

Middle leadership is frequently referred to as the 'engine room' of a school. But are all your middle leaders driving your school's improvement as effectively as they might? The Department for Education have developed the NPQML to give middle leaders all they need.

What's included in this comprehensive package:

- Department for Education NPQML accreditation.
- 12 course modules, covering everything a middle leader needs, including: articulating vision, leading change, managing resources, using data to target underperformance, using evidence to improve teaching and learning, building a high performing team and holding that team to account.
- A personal coach from the Senior Leadership Team of Barr Beacon School throughout the whole course.
- Access to the SSAT's Knowledge Hub platform.
- Personalised guidance on accomplishing their (and your) goals. To receive the NPQML, all participants will complete a 4,500 word assessment which we will mark and the SSAT will moderate. This project will be tied with your whole school development plan and their own personal performance.

We know that developing your middle leaders is a top priority but you also need them in the classroom as much as possible. Therefore, we have organised the programme to minimise disruption. The programme is delivered as 2 full days with 3 half days. The course cost includes lunch on the 2 full days and refreshments on the half days.

2019			2020			
4 th July	8 th October	12 th November	24 th March	7 th July	Autumn 1	Autumn 2
Full Day Launch 9am-3pm Modules 1, 2, 3	1pm-5pm Modules 4 & 5	1pm-5pm Modules 6 & 7	1pm-5pm Modules 8 & 9	Full Day 9am-3pm Modules 10, 11 & 12	Assignment Meetings	Assignment Meetings

Aside from the launch date, these dates are provisional and subject to change.
If these dates do not work for you, please contact us.

Dates to be confirmed with delegates

Is your school in [Walsall](#), [Wolverhampton](#), [Sandwell](#), [Dudley](#), [South Staffordshire](#), [Tamworth](#) and [Nuneaton](#) or any of the government's opportunity areas or category 5/6 areas? If so, the entire course fee will be covered by government funding:

See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-professional-qualification-for-middle-leadership-npqml>
<https://www.ssatuk.co.uk/cpd/leadership/middle-leadership-training/npqml/>

£900+VAT

Evolve@barrbeaconschool.co.uk

Quotes from our previous middle leader training:

"By far the most useful training I've ever done."

"The sessions not only help me do my job more effectively but they're also quite entertaining."

"I can't believe how much I've learned in such a short space of time."



EVOLVE
Teaching School



Barr Beacon
School



Bloxwich
Academy



Etone
College



Barr Beacon
SCITT



Dame Elizabeth
Cadbury