



Birmingham Special Schools'
Co-Operative Trust
bhamcooptrust.org.uk

AUTUMN TERM 2023

NEWSLETTER

Welcome

A warm welcome back to a new academic year. In this issue we will look back at the fantastic Common Ground Arts programme and also keep you up to date with our plans for this year. Firstly, you will notice we now have a new trust logo, which you will see on our branding from now on. We are also in the process of improving our web site and of course the new logo will be integral to this. We have been working hard to ensure that we are clear about the impact of our collaborative working so the Trust Board met in June to review the impact of our work and it is clear that many things that we did, need to be continued into this year. We have developed a new Trust Development Plan 23-24 with clear objectives for the end of the year trying to build on our successes and develop even more successful collaboration projects to benefit our children, staff and leaders.

BSSCT "Improving Trust internal partnership working and communication so that more individual staff know and value the work of the trust"

SHARED LEARNER ACTIVITIES



Common Ground Arts
An Inclusive Arts Programme for Students with SEN

We successfully raised external £55,000 to fund last year's project covering the majority of costs (with a £10k contribution from the Trust account for venue hire) which has provided financial security to continue to grow the programme this year. It enabled children 494 and staff from all 7 schools to benefit from excellence in learning and CPD in Arts.

It provided an opportunity for public presentation of exceptional Artwork which shows pride and value in achievement being shared with the schools' own communities and to the wider public, showcasing and removing stereotypical assumptions.

It has created a school improvement model for Arts CPD especially the use of Artists in residence for the Trust and it has widened career opportunities and aspirations for pupils.



IMG_5981.MOV

Please watch our brilliant video here.



Artists & Teachers : CONGRATULATIONS!



JO

Wilson Stuart



LAYLA



ANNA



SOPHIE

Dame Ellen Pinsent



CLAIRE

Baskerville



LISA



TOM

Fox Hollies



GRACE



ILDIKO

Hamilton



GABRIELA



LAURA

The Pines



SOPHIE



BHULLA

Longwill



GEMMA

The magical pieces of art work you collectively produced were just staggering. Thank you so much for all the work you put into the project. It was unbelievably well received and you have so enriched the art experiences of the young people you worked with.

We all know how lucky we are to have had your involvement in this project.

Plans for this year

Shared Learner Activities



Such was the success of this will take place again this year. It will be again be led by Grace Mahar from Fox Hollies. School staff need to start thinking about what you would like to focus this year's project on. This year we are trying to secure The Mac exhibition for a longer period of time to enable it to be visited over the weekend as well as during the week. Grace will be sending out the plans to schools early in October as well as bidding for further financial support for this year's project. We have pencilled in 20.06.24 – 30.06.24 for the exhibition if The Mac can do these dates. Visit the website www.commongroundarts.co.uk for more information, photos and films from the programme and for upcoming plans

Forest School Day.

This year it will be led by Wilson Stuart and will take place on Tuesday 19th March 2024.

There will be **other shared activities** for pupils across the year including World Book Day on March 7th 2024. The curriculum network groups will agree which further shared events will take place over the year and we will keep you updated. If there is something you would like to get involved in please talk to your Headteacher.

BSSCT "Providing safe opportunities for independent interaction for learners to improve communication and confidence and enabling them to flourish outside of their own school."

Shared Staff Activities

MATHS, ENGLISH AND PSHE LEADERSHIP NETWORKS

All networks have been tasked by the Headteachers to focus on working together in their subject to:

Find and develop ways of gathering Pupil voice on especially complex learners and pilot in individual schools.

Carry out a subject peer deep dive in Hamilton, Dame Ellen and Wilson Stuart in line with Trust protocols and processes.

Agree a shared collective event

The **Maths network** led by Dawn Convery from Fox Hollies

The **PSHE group** led by Donna Bence from Baskerville

The **English network** led by Susan Ganss from Longwill

There is also a **science network** led by Toni Salisbury from Wilson Stuart. This network is open to all Special Schools in Birmingham, but if you are a leader of Science in our Trust and are not yet part of this network please contact Toni Salisbury t.salisbury@wilsonstuart.co.uk for more details.

SENIOR LEADERS:

THE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Given its overwhelming success over the last 2 years this will run again over the course of the year. The venue will be Hillcrest School and Sixth Form and details for the course including dates can be found in the attachment below.



Leadership
Programme 2023-202

PEER TO PEER REVIEWS

We carried out 3 school to school peer reviews over the course of last year and this year we are aiming for 3 further peer reviews starting at Fox Hollies on 20th November 2023, with Longwill and Baskerville later in the year.

Teaching Assistant School Swaps

We are looking to provide CPD opportunities for Teaching Assistants to swap roles for a day with a colleague from another of our schools. This clearly will take some planning which will include giving time to meeting each other and sharing practice. If you are interested in taking part in such project, please let your Headteacher know and also be clear about what you would like to focus on so enable us to do some successful matching .

BSSCT "Developing Trust, Leadership and Staff Professional Development"



Some
images from
our Art
exhibition

For Further Information please contact Tracy Ruddle Trust Development Leader

Tracy.bgp@outlook.com