

# Gosforth Schools' Trust Newsletter

Summer 2019



**Dear Parents, Carers and Friends in Gosforth,**

Please see below for news and information from the Trust from this year. It has been a busy year with many achievements for our schools and our Trust. We hope that this newsletter gives you a snapshot of some of the Trust's work from across the year. You can also keep up to date by visiting our website [www.gosforthschoolstrust.co.uk](http://www.gosforthschoolstrust.co.uk) and following us on Twitter [@GosforthGST](https://twitter.com/GosforthGST). We regularly tweet news of our activities as well as retweeting information from agencies and groups who might be of interest to you.

## **New Chair Person at GST**

Since the formation of the Trust in 2014 and until December 2018, George Snaith has been Chair of the GST. George worked tirelessly to help our schools to come together and form a successful Gosforth-wide partnership and he has given up many hours to attend meetings and liaise with other agencies on our behalf. We are very grateful to him for both his time and commitment. After George's resignation in December 2018, the Directors actively sought to find another suitably skilled and willing Chair to lead the Trust. We were delighted to have an expression of interest from Karen Elliott and she was appointed in the Spring as our new Chair. Karen previously worked as a Headteacher in a large and very successful primary school in Newcastle and since her retirement as a Headteacher, she has continued to work with several schools as a governor and as a school achievement partner. We are confident that Karen's experience, knowledge and skills will help us to continue to improve outcomes for pupils across Gosforth as we move through some exciting developments in the future years.

## **A new Building for Dinnington First School**

Dinnington First School moved into its beautiful new building after Christmas. The old school has now been demolished and the landscaping on the site has started. The staff and children are enjoying having brand new facilities and space in which to learn.



## **Relocation and Expansion of Broadway East**

If you live in the North Gosforth area, you will be aware of the planned relocation of Broadway East First School to Newcastle Great Park. The school and the City Council have developed plans for the new building and as soon as the planning process is completed, the work on the building will

commence. The school will remain in the Gosforth Schools' Trust and will be a three form entry first school.

## Expansion of Gosforth Park First School

When Broadway East First School relocates to Newcastle Great Park, Gosforth Park First School will expand and will use both their existing building and Broadway East's building in order to do so. Both Broadway East and Gosforth Park will be keeping their parents and carers up to date with any news and timescales as they become available.

## Retirements and New Headteachers

At the end of this academic year we say goodbye to two of our long serving Headteachers, Jo Elliott from South Gosforth First School and Allyson Farrar from Dinnington First school. Both have led and managed their own schools with true commitment and care and have also made significant contributions to the joint working of the Trust. They will be missed by everyone who has worked with them in their own schools and right across the Trust.

We are looking forward to welcoming Rob Adams who has been appointed as the Headteacher at South Gosforth First School and Caroline Ash who has been appointed as the Headteacher at Dinnington. Following the resignation of Deborah Ashcroft from Regent Farm First School last summer, Helen Moore has recently been appointed as Headteacher and has started working at the school this term. Welcome to the Gosforth Schools' Trust!

## School to school support

This year, school leaders, Directors and Governors have been working hard to further strengthen our commitment to working together and supporting each other effectively. We are especially grateful to those members of staff who have offered their time and expertise to work temporarily in supportive roles in other schools in the Trust. Heads, Governors and Directors are looking to formalise and develop this joint working as we move into the next academic year.

In the early Spring, Directors and Headteachers worked closely with Archbishop Runcie to support their decision making around joining Newcastle East Mixed Multi Academy Trust (NEAT). The school decided, on this occasion, not to join the NEAT and will continue to be an associate member of the Gosforth Schools' Trust where we hope to develop more robust working relationships from which all of our schools, including Archbishop Runcie, can benefit.

## Remembrance Art Project



In the Autumn term our schools created a joint art exhibition at Trinity to commemorate and remember those who have lost their lives in WW1 and WW2. There was a beautiful and very moving display of art work and writing which had been undertaken in each school. We received extremely positive feedback from the community and will continue to look for innovative ways and shared spaces to display our work. Well done to everyone who was involved.

## Gosforth Voices and Shared Music Opportunities

Gosforth Voices is now a well-established group of children from across the Trust. It's been a busy year for them with the annual tour of First Schools, performing at the Daft as Brush School Proms, providing entertainment and Newcastle School Achievement Awards and performing in the Pyramid Concert. Thanks to Newcastle Music Service and school leaders in the Trust who make this joint venture possible each year. The annual Pyramid Concert is taking place in July this year and is an opportunity for the pupils in the Trust and Gosforth Academy to share their work and perform together. Thanks to the Academy for providing a venue and support for this to go ahead. We are delighted to be joining the Big Gig again this year in Newcastle. Many of our musicians, including the Gosforth Voices, will be participating with hundreds of children from across the city.



## Gosforth Gets Going

We have continued to have a PE/sport event at each First School this year. We have had a wide range of activities and all have been well attended. Thanks to our PE subject leads for making this possible.



## Children's Cancer Run



Lots of our schools took part in the North East Cancer Care Trust Run at Newcastle Racecourse in May. It was fantastic to see so many pupils and families taking part from across the Trust. Each school who took part raised an impressive amount of money and when the final amounts are calculated, we will be able to see what we raised as a Trust. One of our pupils who is currently undergoing chemotherapy was able to sound the horn to start the race, it was a very exciting day for everyone involved.



## Joint Training Day

As a result of joint working, we were able to have a shared training day in the Spring with Alan Peat. Alan is a well-known consultant who helps school to raise standards in writing, the day was extremely useful and particularly pertinent as all of our schools are looking at ways in which they can improve outcomes in writing. The feedback from staff has been very positive and many teachers are putting the ideas into practice already.



## Networks and Curriculum Development

All of our subject leads have continued to meet termly to share expertise and moderate assessments. These opportunities will continue especially as we look towards developing the curriculum subjects next year.

## GST Council

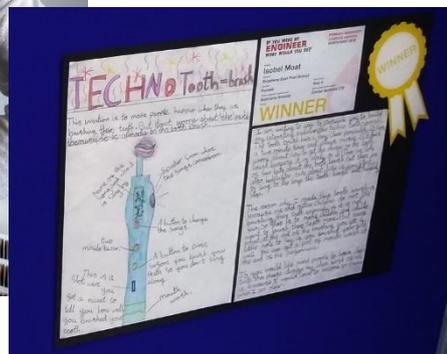
The pupils who make up the GST Council have continued to meet this year and have been working on creating a Trust film to showcase each school. We hope that this will be ready soon and we will put it on the website as soon as it is complete. The Trust Council also makes sure that we have a charity to support each year. This year, we supported Daft as a Brush Day through various activities such as planting at the Daft HQ, the School Proms and Daft Day in every school.



## STEM Week



In STEM week, each school in the Trust challenged pupils to *think like an inventor* and use their skills and knowledge to design something useful. Winners were chosen from across the Trust and some of the pupils went on to enter the Primary Engineers Leaders' Award. Schools organised visits from Engineers and to places where pupils could learn about the application of engineering. We had a Year 4 winner in the North East category for the invention of a Techno Toothbrush!



Congratulations and well done to everyone who took part.

## And Finally...

We end the year with a huge thanks to our staff, families, governors, directors and partners who contribute towards the education of the pupils right across the Gosforth Schools' Trust. We hope that everyone has a fantastic summer and remember to follow us on Twitter to keep up to date with the news from the Trust and its schools, as well as finding out about local opportunities during term time and holidays!



@GosforthGST

[www.gosforthschoolstrust.co.uk](http://www.gosforthschoolstrust.co.uk)