

PEAK MATTERS



HAPPY NEW YEAR

An update from the **CHAIR OF THE TRUST BOARD**

Considering the recently agreed proposals which will change the future accountability arrangements of our academies, I wanted to share with you all the following information.

Chellaston Academy

As you may be aware Ofsted has been monitoring Chellaston Academy over the last 12 months and in order to build on and further embed the improvements which PEAK MAT has already implemented, the decision has been taken by the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) to bring in a sponsor Multi Academy Trust - QEGSMAT - to provide enhanced support and resources for Chellaston Academy. Chellaston Academy will therefore transfer from PEAK MAT to QEGSMAT from 1st April 2021.

Trustees are confident that the transfer will progress quickly. Whereas we will be working hard in the background to progress the legal and transfer tasks, there should be no disruption to learning at Chellaston Academy and it will be business as usual in the classroom.

Mrs Anne Martin, QEGSMAT CEO, will continue in post as Interim CEO at PEAK MAT for the period of

the transfer and we welcome Mrs Martin back this term as part of PEAK MAT's Executive Team. I am sure you will have many questions about the transfer and how it will impact on your child's education and with this in mind we have prepared a [Frequently Asked Questions Document](#) which we will keep updated.

Chellaston Junior School, Chellaston Infant School and Homefields Primary School

In the best interests of our children and staff, Trustees have taken the decision to seek another strong partner Multi Academy Trust which has the capacity to provide the bright future that our children in all three academies deserve. We are working with the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) on a proposal and we expect a decision to be made towards the end of January. I will write again then with more details. In the meantime, please be assured that we continue as usual to offer the very best education and care for your children.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support for all the academies within PEAK MAT and wish you and your families a happy and safe New Year.

With kind regards,
Ann Witheford
Chair of the Trust Board for PEAK MAT

An update from



Chellaston Academy

Learning Excellence Integrity

Our staff and students have been working hard to keep spirits high here in the Academy and in the wider community, thinking of creative ways to navigate the restrictions of Covid-19. We started with #HelloYellow day back in October supporting the charity Young Minds with their campaign to raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing in young people.



The charitable theme continued with Remembrance Day being marked with a 2-minute silence and fundraising via Poppy sales. Donations were then collected for the Harvest Festival, which took over Mr Metters' office, before being donated to the Padley Centre and the local charity and food bank in Chellaston – Springwater community group. Then Children in Need followed, with a day to accessorize Pudsey-style and donate any unwanted footwear to the Springwater Charity.

The House competitions were also in full flow with the Great Chellaston Bake Off receiving 145 entries and the Halloween competition showcasing the student's pumpkin carving skills and fancy-dress abilities. They are currently about to judge their Christmas card/craft virtual competition and are getting staff involved again with a Christmas Quiz on Kahoot!

The last week of term saw the Sixth Form students create personal wellbeing wishes to all the teachers via Christmas Cheers messages, leading to smiles all round. They then drove a Christmas Kindness message service across the school where students can nominate others and write them a thank you or tell them how wonderful they are, and they will receive a little treat.

Our annual senior citizens Christmas lunch could not go ahead due to Covid-19, however still determined to spread some Christmas cheer, students have been delivering a card and gift to senior citizens within our community. We have also launched a 'Reverse Advent' programme so more items can be donated to our local and city centre charities.

Keeping the Christmas spirit alive, on the week commencing 23rd November, the Music and Drama Department recorded their very first Virtual Christmas Concert. Around 40 performers from every year group across the school performed solos or duets within their year group bubbles. Our staff choir also came together 'socially distanced' to sing White Christmas. As well as this, Key Stage 4 and 5 students from the Drama Department performed excerpts from 'A Christmas Carol'. Watch these performances on the Academy's Firefly parent portal.

Finally, the staff and students went all out for Christmas Jumper Day raising money for Save the Children and Treetops Hospice. The bright and glittery jumpers, array of Santa hats and even a penguin suit got everyone in the festive swing of things, whilst carols played in the canteen and mince pies were enjoyed!



Children in Need



A message from Head Girl, Emina Hrnovic:

I think it's fair to say the last term was a busy one for all students! With all the guideline changes and constant news updates from such difficult times, I am really proud to call myself a Chellaston student and see the Chellaston school community coming together as wonderful role models, from helping out local charities to focusing on subject exams. The constant support from the pupils, staff, parents and people in our community has been amazing, and makes me very excited to continue doing even more great things this year. I hope you all had a fantastic Christmas holiday and got the rest that you deserve - I cannot wait to see what 2021 holds for us!

A message from Head Boy, Ben Woodhead:

With each week that passes it feels like we're one step closer to life returning back to normal and I'm really looking forward to what the new year will bring for Chellaston Academy.





An update from



Chellaston Academy

Learning Excellence Integrity

Sixth Form!

This academic year, we have had twelve students apply for Oxbridge – an incredible number of applicants in an unprecedented year. Eight of these students have been invited for interview. These have all now taken place.

Most students have had two interviews, though one student had one interview and two others had three! Interviews have all taken place online this year. All Oxford candidates were urged by the university to do these at school, which they did. Cambridge candidates have opted to do them at home or in school. The science subjects had to use extra interactive technology for the interviews, involving them writing on shared interactive whiteboards. All students have had help to prepare them for the interviews, including a full 'mock' interview using the technology and venues, with detailed feedback given after.

All students said that they found the interviews challenging, but a memorable experience – which is good news!

We wish them all the best and look forward to hearing the outcomes in this year!

There are also three students who know they have interviews for Medicine in this year, with three more yet to find out – they may not know until March!

An update from



£545.00



An amazing term of fundraising at Chellaston Infant School. The Autumn term is usually full of charity fundraisers and once again Chellaston Infant School children and staff have been incredibly giving. We raised £545 for Young Minds by wearing yellow, £575 for Children in Need by putting on our Pudsey ears, and collected Harvest Gifts for the Springwater Food Bank.



Braving the Shave



Causes Close to Our Hearts lead us to one of our colleagues, Paula, who lost her Dad in May to cancer, and her big sister is also fighting cancer. From the start they both faced this disease with such strength it left her in awe and so very proud of them both. Her sister continues to fight with such a positive attitude, the only thing that has knocked her back was losing her beautiful auburn hair. Paula wanted to show her support for sister during this time and has decided to raise money to help fight the disease by 'Braving the Shave' and having a head shave, she felt that if her sister can then so could she. We are hugely proud to support Paula in her fundraising here at Chellaston Infant School and think she is amazing! Paula has raised approximately £1,200 for Cancer Research UK.

During this term we also raised £396 for Save the Children through Christmas Jumper Day which saw a vast array of different jumpers brightening up the classrooms and playground this year.



Parents have enjoyed virtual Christmas Concerts shared through Class Dojo with them not being able to attend in school to keep the Christmas spirit alive during these unusual times we find ourselves in.

Children at Chellaston Infant School celebrated the last day of term with Christmas parties and a "Special Visitor" even made a socially distanced visit to deliver presents for the children.



An update from



Homefields has had a really positive start to the year. In the face of everything that is going on in the world around us, children and staff came back to school in September as happy and as positive as

can be. Working on the recovery curriculum meant that children could look at their emotions and feelings, whilst thinking about resilience and respectfulness which they need more than ever at the moment.

Staff INSET training this year took a very different turn and staff were asked to come dressed for the outdoors – Forest School! We had an amazing day learning how to make stools, mallets and other amazing things to do with our children in the outdoors. Thank you to Matt Jackson for all your knowledge and support on this.



With a focus on others, Homefields has been involved in raising money and donations for different charities. Although this took some thinking out of the box to organise, we have still been able to think about others and share the Homefields' family love. Harvest festival - we were overwhelmed with people's generosity. We filled a gazebo outside school with food products and household goods, which we received by the Padley Centre with much appreciation.

We supported Hello Yellow the charity for young minds and raised £296.50. Staff had a socially distanced cake sale, where we were able to meet and chat to staff that "live" in the opposite end of the building. We also raised £400 for Children in Need as well as £281.33 for the Royal British Legion with our Poppy sales. We even managed to support Anti-bullying week and the whole school wore odd socks all day!



Our latest project we are still extremely busy with. Our generous community are donating again, both gifts and their time. Volunteers are making present boxes, Christmas treats and little stocking fillers. These were handed out by "Secret Santa's helpers" on the last week of term, to our families and others in the local area.



An update from



During November, we spent a week focusing on Anti-Bullying Week at CJS.

Lots of work was done in-class around this topic. Here are a couple of pictures of the fantastic work of one of our Year 6 classes... United Against Bullying jigsaw pieces.



Thanks to the parents at Chellaston Junior School for their incredible generosity towards our Just Giving page and in helping us to raise an amazing £524.50 for Children in Need. This will be increased by the Government's Gift Aid to £611.88. We also had some cash donations amounting to a further £71.

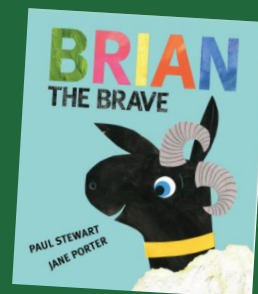


Meet the Author

All Year 3 and 4 classes at Chellaston Junior School have taken part in a 'Meet the Author' event, along with Year 2 at Chellaston Infant School, via Zoom. The author, Paul Stewart, and the illustrator, Jane Porter, talked to the children about the book, which was the winner of Derby Book Festival Book Awards last March and voted for my children at CJS and CIS.

Paul's Winning Book is: *Brian the Brave*.

The author answered lots of fantastic questions from each class that joined the session. The children asked some amazing questions and should be super proud of themselves. It has been very exciting to be involved in this project this year.



You can find more about the Derby Book Festival here: <https://www.derbybookfestival.co.uk/news/2020/derby-childrens-picture-book-award-2020-announced>