

17 May, 2017

NEWS FROM THE GOOD SHEPHERD TRUST

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the summer term! This term is always a busy mix of the end of Key Stage assessments and lots of exciting wider learning opportunities as well as enrichment activities, out of doors and further afield. Across GST schools there will be a repeat of BizSchool, our Primary Business Enterprise project that was so successful last year. There are also residential 'away days' for Head Teachers and Directors later in the term with some noteworthy national speakers on the programmes.

The end of the Spring Term marked the retirement of The Good Shepherd Trust's founding Chief Executive, Dr Peter Simpson. Peter was key to the formation and development of GST, building it from its first school, **The Holme**, to the ten schools we have today. His vision for child-centred education in a Christian context and drive to ensure every child reaches their potential, has shaped the work and identity of the Trust and will continue to do so. His leadership, thoughtful support for staff, wise counsel, grounded and reflective advice, extensive experience, and sense of humour have been greatly appreciated by all those who have worked with him.

GST schools marked Peter's retirement with a celebration lunch at **The Weald** when he was presented with messages and good wishes from children and staff in cards, books and video clips. I'm sure you will join with the Directors and Members of the Trust, in thanking him for establishing such a vibrant and successful GST where the quality of education goes from strength to strength with our pupils achieving outcomes that continue to improve year on year.

The recruitment of our new Chief Executive is now underway and the Directors hope to announce the appointment of the successful candidate before the end of the Summer Term. In the interim period I will be taking on the role of Acting CEO. Although Peter's example is a tough act to follow, I am honoured to be leading our dedicated team and schools through the Summer Term and I'm very appreciative of the generous support I'm receiving.

In other news, Bishop Jo, the Bishop of Dorking has been appointed as a Member of the Trust. Members appoint the Directors of the Board for GST, and oversee the success of the Board. So, whilst they are not directly involved in governance – which is the responsibility of the Directors they have appointed – they have a key role in the ongoing development and improvement of GST. We are delighted to have Bishop Jo's insight, skills and experience in such an important role.

In March GST was successful in bidding for £70,000 from the Regional Academy Growth Fund. This funding will be vital to help us expand our central team to include a part-time HR Lead, an additional Finance Officer and a part-time Administrator, as well as supporting the development of regional hubs of schools for the sharing of best practice, starting local projects and meeting local needs.

Here is a sample of news from some of our schools:

[And then there were ten!](#)



On March 1st the Good Shepherd Trust welcomed its tenth school and its first infants with the addition of **St Andrew's** CofE Infant School , Farnham. The move was welcomed by the school's chair of governors, Chris Hyland, who said the small school, with a maximum capacity of 120 pupils, now had an opportunity to 'not just survive but thrive'.

It's all 'Good' at St Paul's



St Paul's CofE Primary School, Addlestone, celebrated in February after Ofsted confirmed the academy's remarkable transformation by declaring it 'Good' in all areas.

In its first full Ofsted inspection since becoming a GST academy in April 2014, the school's leadership, culture, teaching and pupils were all singled out for praise. The school of almost 400 pupils had previously been placed in Special Measures in September 2012.

Inspectors praised achievement throughout the school saying that pupils were caring and 'thirsty to learn', noting that the proportion of pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics exceeded the national averages last year.

Waverley Abbey pupils compete in Jersey



Over the Easter holidays nine Year Five tri-athletes travelled to Jersey to take part in the Jersey Games. A daily training session was followed by a short competition before the final day when the pupils competed against the local triathlon club achieving some very good times. Over 200 pupils were in Jersey for the games which also included rugby, hockey, netball and football. On the last day the children were able to spend time exploring the Jersey War tunnels in an amazing experience which gave important insights to the life of islanders in World War Two. Keep up to date with life at Waverley Abbey on:

www.facebook.com/waverleyabbeyschool/

Colourful times at **The Weald**



Over 150 people took part in the Weald's Colour Run this April – including head Rachel Jacob who described it as a 'particular challenge' that she was determined to rise to. The fun-packed day raised a fantastic £1,334 to share between the Royal Marsden Hospital Cancer Campaign and school funds. Look out for more colour from the Weald on its new website launching shortly featuring the school's beautiful new mural.

In other brief news, **St Mary's** will be welcoming an extra class from September and **The Weald** and **St John's** continue to develop their learning partnership Weald pupils enjoying St John's swimming pool and excellent cookery facilities.

To keep in touch with the latest news from the Trust and its member schools do visit the GST webpages on the diocesan website which are regularly updated www.cofeguildford.org.uk/education/the-good-shepherd-trust . Have a wonderful Summer Term.

With best wishes,



Kate Evans, Acting Chief Executive

Schools in The Good Shepherd Trust:

Ashley, Walton on Thames	Christ's College, Guildford
Queen Eleanor's, Guildford	St John's, Dorking
St Mary's, Chiddingfold	St Paul's, Addlestone
The Holme, Headley	The Weald, Beare Green
Waverley Abbey, Tilford	St Andrew's, Farnham