



Primary Advantage Federation Newsletter



A message from our Chair of Governors

Dear parents and careers,

My name is Gwen Gutzmore and I was appointed as Chair of Governors of Primary Advantage in June. I have held this post in the past and have been a Governor at the federation for many years. I have seen the federation grow to 8 schools and I am so pleased with the progress we have all made over the last year. Gainsborough and De Beauvoir have now been part of the Federation for a full academic year and we have had great success in many areas at both schools this includes an OfSTED inspection at De Beauvoir that reflected the progress made by the school. St Matthias has also had an OfSTED inspection which confirmed it continues to be a good school.

The Governors would like to thank Fiona Judge and Lucy Blewett for their leadership of St John the Baptist over the last year. Together with the StJB team, they have done a wonderful job including guiding the school through an outstanding OfSTED. We welcome Toni Mason as the new Head of School for St John the Baptist, she will start a one year secondment in September. Toni is currently the Federation's EYFS lead and is well known at the school. We would also like to welcome Sian Davies, our Executive Principal back to the Federation as her secondment to Hackney Learning Trust as Director of Education comes to an end.

We have a number of new Governors and Members to the Local Advisory Boards, in particular Arnette Frederick who has been elected as a Governor on the Central Governing Board. Arnette has been a Governor and the Chair of St Matthias Local Advisory Board for many years and we are pleased to welcome her back after a short break. We are currently seeking new members with Health & Safety and Finance experience.

As many of you will be aware, GDPR (new data protection regulations) came into force at the end of May. The schools have worked hard over the last few months to ensure audits of data are completed and that we work towards implementing the new regulations into our policies and procedures. I would like to thank the Finance and Business Managers at the schools for all their hard work on this project.

I would like to thank all the staff across our schools for their hard work this year. I wish all the staff, pupils and families a wonderful summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming you back in September. To those pupils in year 6 who are leaving us for secondary school, we wish you all the best.

Summer Newsletter

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter to the local communities of the schools in the Primary Advantage Federation. Our schools have come together to share news of activities and events that have taken place this term.

Sian Davies	Gwen Gutzmore
Executive Principal	Chair of Governors

Who's Who

St John & St James Primary School

Jenna Clark – Executive Headteacher

Jo Smith – Head of School

Holy Trinity Primary School

Yvonne Barnett – Headteacher

Springfield Primary School

Fiona Judge – Executive Headteacher

St Matthias Primary School

Orlene Badu – Headteacher

St John the Baptist Primary School

Fiona Judge – Executive Headteacher

Lucy Blewett – Head of School and Head of Teaching Schools

Morningside Primary School

Janet Taylor – Headteacher

Gainsborough Primary School

Jenna Clark – Executive Headteacher

De Beauvoir Primary School

Rebecca Mackenzie – Headteacher

News from our schools and federation activities

Primary Advantage Schools Teacher Training

Huge congratulations to all the trainee teachers who have been in the schools across our Federation this year and have just finished their year of training with us and gained their Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). We have hosted 13 PGCE students and employed 7 trainees on the School Direct Salaried programme this year and have worked closely with our academic partner, the Institute of Education, to provide their school based training. Well done to all of them for a great year. We are delighted that many of them are staying in our schools from September as new teachers and wish them all a well-deserved summer break.

In addition to training new teachers, the PA Teaching Schools offer a vast amount of ongoing training to all the teachers in and many outside the Federation. The new programme of training next year will offer over 200 training sessions which all our 8 schools can access free of charge. The courses are great ways for teachers to come together, continue to learn new skills and share ideas.

The new round of teacher training places for September 2020 will open on UCAS in the Autumn term. For more information about training to teach with Primary Advantage please see <http://www.primaryadvantage.co.uk/train-to-teach> or email teachingschools@primaryadvantage.hackney.sch.uk



Multicultural Evening

On Friday 6th July, SJSJ celebrated our annual Multicultural Evening. This year's event was another huge success; the children gave incredible performances in the World Fashion Parade which took centre stage on the day. The spread of food from all around the world was amazing and everybody commented on the variety on offer this year. The DJ helped to create a fantastic atmosphere throughout the evening and everybody had a wonderful time. We'd like to say a huge thank you to all of the parents, carers and staff who volunteered their time to help supervise stalls and events; we really couldn't do it without your support! We look forward to making next year's event even bigger and better!



Primary Advantage Football Tournament

On Monday 2nd July the football team from Year 6 travelled to Gainsborough Primary School to take part in the P.A. Football Tournament Final. They were nervous on the journey there however were looking forward to putting their training to good use. After seven matches victory was theirs, they were proud to lift the trophy & Mr Atiko has not stopped polishing it!



Say No to Knives School Action Project

Springfield pupils hosted a very successful 'Say No to Knives' evening this term. This was part of a social action project led by a group of children in Year 5 and Year 6. After successfully presenting their pitch at City Hall, the children were awarded £1500 to develop their project further. They made a promotional video, worked with the Ben Kinsella Trust and presented their work to ex pupils and parents. The children made us all feel very proud.

Springfield have worked hard this year to raise the profile of PE and Sports at the school and have successfully competed in many PA competitions. The school represented Hackney in basketball at the recent London Youth Games and had a very successful Sports Week in school this term. During the week the children were really excited to meet GB athletes who worked with the children in their PE lessons. We were really pleased to be awarded a Silver Mark for PE in recognition of the work that has happened to develop Sport further. Next year, we are going for gold!

News from our schools and federation activities



Small Wonders

Sometimes, the little things in life are the most important.

The whole school have been lucky enough to go to the Punchdrunk performance entitled, Small Wonders, an inspiring and magical theatre show.

Inside Nanny Lacey's flat are her collection of miniatures. These homemade creations capture the adventures she's shared with her daughter Bella over the years. Like 3D photographs, they're treasured moments of time and each one tells a different story. Bella invites you and your class to join Nanny Lacey in her flat in Tottenham and explore the tiny worlds she has created. The interactive performance was mesmerising for all of the children that attended (and staff too!) and has inspired a whole school summer project to create a miniature of our favourite memories; staff and children alike!



Hackney Town Hall

Morningside School Council went to visit Hackney Town Hall in June. They were met by the Deputy Speaker and three councillors and shown around the building. The school councillors learned all about local democracy and even had a debate in the council chambers. The building has a very interesting history and we were able to ask lots of questions about being a councillor and how times have changed. We were the first school group to visit the new museum in the basement of the building where we saw an amazing Hoover that has pipes running all around the building.



Rise Up!



This year St John the Baptist have been building toward the launch of our new curriculum – Rise Up! A curriculum about identity, society and aspiration. A curriculum that instils in our children a sense their place the world. A curriculum which explores the structural inequities they are rising above through education. A curriculum that invites our children to dream bigger, fight harder and reach higher.

Several projects have given us a flavour of what is to come; Our Place in the World, African Kingdoms' Day, Nothing Beats a Londoner. And we are now ready to tell the story of Rise Up, from the local to the global, from the marginalised to the celebrated, from the ancient to the modern, through struggle, toward futures not yet told.



Silver Spanish Award



Gainsborough has achieved a Silver Spanish Award in recognition of the outstanding work staff and pupils have put into their Spanish teaching and learning. Excelente!

Design Competition

Gainsborough entered a high profile Architectural Design Competition to design a 'Playable Landscape' for the Queen Elizabeth Park II. Our entry was submitted to a team of architects from Allies and Morrison who judged the entries in partnership with professionals from V&A, UAL and the Olympic Park Legacy Project. Here is our team with their design.



Year 5 Pupils from De Beauvoir



This term Year 5 completed work on a nine week project with a team of architects, researchers and a professional photographer. The project gathered the children's views about how public spaces in the De Beauvoir Estate lend themselves to play. The children's views will help to inform future child-friendly planning design for public spaces. Pupils recorded their views through detailed research, high quality photography and mapping. The project culminated with an exhibition of the children's work at the school which was attended by the Mayor of Hackney, Phil Glanville, and the Deputy Mayor, Anntoinette Bramble. The Mayor viewed the children's work and interviewed pupils, commenting that, "Instead of making decisions for you as young people, we wanted to see what you thought about the area."

All too often people sit in town hall offices and say 'this is how people are going to live on the ground', but they never go out there and ask people. When they do go out there and speak to people, they don't ask young people about what they think and how they want to use those spaces. We believe if we are going to solve some of the big problems in Hackney, you have to start with grass roots and ask young people what words like 'play' and 'safe' mean to them."

The Mayor has expressed a commitment to seeking young people's views about future planning and development in Hackney and Hackney Gazette ran a story about the exhibition and the project, which can be viewed at <http://www.hackneygazette.co.uk/news/education/de-beauvoir-primary-school-kids-create-blueprint-for-child-friendly-hackney-project-1-5520017>



Enjoy the summer holidays!

From all the staff, the Governors LAB members and Associate Members of Primary Advantage, we want to wish you all a happy summer holiday! We as a federation have achieved so much and we are proud of our members of staff as well as our pupils. We hope you all have a lovely break and we will be providing more fantastic stories in the new year!

