

# The Priory Star

*Achieving Our Vision*

Issue 1



## Welcome to the first edition of The Priory Star

**This newsletter is an opportunity to find out about our staff and the work they are doing to help us achieve our vision for the children and young people in our Trust.**

Our vision is to ensure that our students, regardless of starting points, achieve successful outcomes. For this to happen, we must provide life-changing opportunities inside and outside the formal curriculum. At the same time, in pursuit of these aspirations, we must provide career and development opportunities for our staff. Equally essential is a specialised central support team; as is the contribution of professional and strategic governors.

All these elements are contained within our vision, which, in short, is to ensure:

1. Successful outcomes for our students
2. Life-changing opportunities for our students
3. High quality professional development for our staff
4. Expert central service systems
5. Effective strategic governance

I hope you find the content as interesting and, in many cases, inspiring as I did.

Thank you.

Ian Jones, CEO.



## Successful outcomes

We are delighted that the latest DfE results for Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) showed that our progress measures were “significantly above” the national average and placed us in the top 10 MATs in the country.

This is a wonderful achievement made possible by the hard work of the students, parents/carers and our staff.

# The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) & Duke of Edinburgh Scheme (DofE) – spotlight on volunteers

**The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (DofE) are two significant opportunities for our students.**

In order to ensure that we can offer each cadet and DofE student the widest and best experience, we have recently recruited additional adult volunteers. These range from teaching and support staff to parents interested in volunteering their time to work with the students outside the classroom. In return for their support, staff have access to an exciting programme of professional development courses. Without the skills, commitment and motivation these adult volunteers bring, we would not be able to offer the CCF or DofE to such a large number of students. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers and at the same time provide an insight into the lives of three people who give so generously of their time and knowledge.

**Paul Wyatt** – Paul is an LSST parent and a serving RAF Officer (Squadron Leader). A pilot by trade, he is currently completing a tour in the Air Warfare Centre at RAF Waddington. Paul contacted the CCF team after reading our Parentmail letter asking for adult volunteers. He has committed to being a regular member of staff specialising on the flying side of the RAF Syllabus, teaching the cadets airmanship skills, principles of flight and keeping them fully up to date with current aircraft and their roles within the RAF and the wider military world.

In addition, Paul has volunteered to assist with the DofE team, attending the recent staff training expedition in the Peak District. His commitment as a volunteer is invaluable regarding up-to-date airpower and it is also extremely motivational for the cadets to be able to speak with a current serving pilot in the RAF.

**Paul Mitchell** – Paul is a Priory City of Lincoln Academy parent. He is an ex-serving RAF Regiment Gunner and now a prison officer. He brings a wealth of experience of field craft relevant to both the RAF and Army Sections. Paul has committed to weekly attendance at the CCF, organising his main job around volunteering. He is working his way through the Army adult volunteers’ commissioning process, culminating in his Basic Officer’s course in February half-term. He will then be able to start completing courses such as Skill at Arms Instructor, enabling him to teach weapons and marksmanship to the cadets.

**Laurence Fox** – Laurence is a local volunteer who, through a friend of a friend, replied to our Parentmail letter which had asked for adult volunteers. He is currently studying part-time for a History degree and hopes to become a secondary school History teacher. His time with the cadets, and the additional work he does with the CCF logistics team, not only helps the CCF, but also benefits him in his teacher training. He has also served as a reservist Royal Military Policeman in the Army so is fully qualified in the field and with the weapons to which the cadets are exposed. Laurence has brought with him a wealth of knowledge and has become a popular member of staff with the cadets who seem to like the red beret of an RMP being around.





## The Boarding Village

The most recent Ofsted report for the Robert de Cheney Boarding House (situated in the grounds of The Priory Academy LSST) said in relation to 'outcomes for boarders' that *"their journey to independent adulthood is enriched and enhanced by the opportunity of boarding."*

John Nuttall, Head of Boarding, explains: "The quality of experience that our boarders enjoy does not happen by accident and at the heart of our boarding provision is a dedicated team of staff who ensure that the boarders are cared for 24 hours a day, seven days a week during term time."

The more visible faces of this team are the houseparents who also tend to have teaching roles within school in the day. Less visible are the staff based solely at the Boarding House: Ruth our boarding administrator; Alison and her catering team (meeting all the dietary needs of 50-plus boarders); the housekeeping team; and Jay and Louise, our matrons who oversee the house during the day. Even the boarders themselves are often unaware of how much goes on in the house during the day to ensure that everything runs smoothly for them. But they are certainly very aware



LEFT-RIGHT:  
Jay Burke and  
Louise Cook

and appreciative of how much support they receive at times when they are feeling ill or upset, when things have gone wrong or when they need someone to talk to.

Ultimately, everyone at the boarding house, staff and students, is part of a large 'family' where everyone is equally important, where everyone looks out for each other and cares for each other. This is what makes it such a special place to be part of.

## Students shine on centre stage

The Young Americans returned to Grantham last term in what was billed as the flagship project of their UK tour. The community event, managed by The Priory Ruskin Academy, saw the largest number of students taking part in the biggest venue of the tour.

Vic Rossington, Assistant Headteacher at Ruskin, oversaw all aspects of the event. Headteacher Rachel Wyles said: "Her vision to share the quite literally world class experiences on offer at Ruskin with local schools, under the umbrella of the Arts, ensured that Grantham's collective talents truly shone."

The Young Americans, a world renowned dance and musical group, conducted workshops with more than 300 students from seven local schools, culminating in a spectacular show in front of a packed hall at The Meres leisure centre.

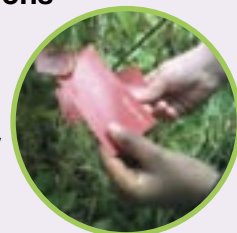
The Young Americans' Director, Otha Womack, said: "There was something very special about the Grantham event. It's the

biggest performance of the UK tour and the students seemed to bring a special quality, such enthusiasm and commitment. In the current climate, Performing Arts has never been more important. We don't need to be looking for the best singer or the best dancer but for something that brings communities together and lets them celebrate who they are."



## Forest School

Congratulations to Michelle James, who has successfully completed her Forest School Level 3 practitioner training and leads the Forest School sessions for early years children at The Priory Witham Academy.



These sessions enable children to investigate and explore the natural environment and also focus on personal, social and emotional development. In one session, children investigated and explored colours by using different colour swatches to identify dark and light shades. They then explored the outdoor learning environment to identify objects which matched their swatch.

## PGCE to NQT at The Priory City of Lincoln Academy

The Mathematics and English departments at The Priory City of Lincoln Academy have welcomed two new members of staff who have been trained 'in house', having graduated from our SCITT programmes run by LTSA.

Fiona Black and Jake Perkins were the first trainees to undertake their PGCE year based at the Academy in 2015-2016, and once their training programmes had finished they were delighted to take up a post.

Fiona is from Sleaford and did her degree in English Literature. Jake, from Lincoln, graduated in International Business Management. They both took the option to gain additional Masters credits as part of the SCITT programme last year. We are thrilled to be joined by these enthusiastic and skilled teachers.

Two of our teachers are getting a taste for all things outdoors this year. Sophie Spencer, who has worked in our Art Department for three years, has become the Academy lead for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and is supported by Khin Chen, who is Head of Franklin House and a PE teacher. A group of our students from years 10 and 12 are taking part, mostly for the first time. Training has included first aid, navigation and basic outdoor skills so Sophie and Khin have led and inspired our students. Sophie said how good it was to see the students on their initial first aid course thrilled to gain new skills. Late in November, there was a staff training exercise and overnight camp on Kinder Scout in the Peak District to complete – just perfect for the time of year!

BELOW: Sophie Spencer



ABOVE: Fiona Black  
BELOW: Jake Perkins



## Career journeys at The Priory Witham Academy

The Priory Witham Academy, like all those in the Trust, takes great pride when colleagues seek, and gain, promotion, further qualifications or extend their experience in the workplace. We would like to share with you the journeys of just two of a number of staff who have achieved successful career progression while at the Witham Academy.

Pamela Creeth: "In 2008 when the Academy was formed, I was a Teaching Assistant in Year 6. I was then asked to take on the role of delivering intervention to children

across KS2. Following this, I began to cover lessons across the whole of primary. Alongside this I was studying for my BA (Honours) degree in Teaching, Learning and Mentoring. In the summer of 2013, I graduated with a First Class Honours degree and then, in September 2013, began as a trainee teacher through the School Direct Programme in Year 3 to achieve QTS. I had a successful year and was graded as an outstanding trainee.

My first role as an NQT was in Year 2 and I successfully completed my induction year in the summer of 2016."

Clare Phillips: "I started my journey in 2004 as a Teaching Assistant working 10 hours a week. This was as a one-to-one for a student in Year 10. My hours were soon increased to full-time. The following year, I became part of the Year 7 team as a Teaching Assistant. I enjoyed the role of working with a class of students across a range of lessons.

"On occasion, when a member of staff was absent, I took on the role of cover teacher. This helped to ensure that progress was made as the students found it easier to work with someone who was familiar rather than with a supply teacher. Following this, I went on to be a Year 7 Form Tutor and an instructor of ICT. During this time I began to study for my degree in Education.

"While completing my degree, the Curriculum Leader of ICT position became available for which I was the successful candidate. I qualified as a teacher in 2011, and in 2014 became a Year Director."



Witham Academy staff



## Spotlight on Apprenticeships

– Matt Cording

**In September 2016 Matthew Cording, a former student, returned to The Priory Ruskin Academy as a member of staff, being one of several new apprentices to join the Trust this year.**



Following the successful completion of his A Levels, Matt secured a place at Newcastle University to read Music but decided to defer his place until 2017-18. He wanted to gain some work experience and save some money for the social occasions (and text books!) he is going to have to fund when he starts his studies. At the same time as he was considering his options for his gap year, the Trust advertised its apprentice opportunities, including one as a Marketing Assistant at Ruskin.

“My first passion is Music and I’m really looking forward to starting uni in Newcastle in September,” says Matt. “However, I know the job market is competitive and I wanted to develop, get some experience and broaden my skill-set a bit before I started. The Marketing Apprenticeship is really diverse in terms of what you get involved in and it appealed to me as I knew I would be able to support the management of some quite high-profile events at the Academy - which will be great for my CV and future career.”

Thrown in at the deep end, Matt immediately started work on ‘Young Americans’, a huge event involving more than 300 students from different schools which was managed by Ruskin. Dealing with queries from the primary schools taking part, organising catering and liaising with the Young Americans, the breadth of Matt’s experience in his first two months alone will fill a huge section of his CV.

“I love how many things I can get involved with at the Academy. I’ve learned how to manage content on the website and newsletter, I’ve been involved in the management of several events and performances and I regularly get to see what is happening across the Academy as I take photographs for the newsletter and newspaper reports.”

He is the central contact for the Academy’s Facebook page, regularly posting news stories, events and reminders. He also manages the marketing calendar of events as well as tracking competitor activity across different media. His day-to-day workload all goes towards completion of his BTEC Level 2 apprenticeship in Business Administration, for which he also has to complete regular assignments. Outside of work, Matt is a huge football fan and travels the length and breadth of the country to support Leeds United. He’s also a guitar player and singer-songwriter in a band, ‘Soho Park’.

“I am passionate about my music and really want to make a go of music professionally. Who knows what life will open up for me when I go to university but the experience I have gathered in my apprenticeship, such as event management, promotion techniques and building networks and relationships, will put me in a much stronger position – whatever I end up doing”.

## Spotlight on Priory Training

– Dave Clark

**Priory Training, located on the ground floor of The Keyworth Centre, comprises four specialist workshops and classrooms dedicated to offering vocational motor vehicle and construction courses. Here we meet Dave Clark, Centre Manager.**

“I initially started working at Lincoln Academy during 2014, establishing a City and Guilds Level 2 construction course,” says Dave.

“This pilot scheme started with 14 Sixth Form students being taught in a converted classroom located in the main academy building. These students all achieved their goals and passed their qualification, with eight of them choosing to progress to undertake our motor vehicle qualification, now being offered in the newly opened Keyworth Centre.”

Following the success of the pilot course, 12 new construction students started on their journey towards their Level 2 qualification, which has been extended to include a dedicated Level 2 joinery course. The results have spoken for themselves, with the Keyworth Centre now training 40 construction students. Placements for work experience are being undertaken on a weekly basis, which is giving the learners invaluable experience in work and the responsibilities that this holds.

Dave explains: “I have worked in many teaching establishments over the years and have many years of trade experience. I particularly enjoy my role in being able to pass on my skills and knowledge to the future generation. I have an excellent team supporting me who work very hard to obtain such good results.”





## CENTRAL FEDERATION SUPPORT

# The SHINE Marathon Night Walk

**A team of Federation staff recently took part in the Shine Marathon Night Walk for Cancer Research UK in London.**

Jane Hopkinson, Samantha Davis and Kathryn Creaser represented the staff from The Priory Academy LSST and they were joined by Claire Bramwell-Smith (Lincoln), Denise Czajkowski (Witham), Anne Hill and Alison Wilson (Ruskin) and Jo Coster, Tina Greenhalgh and Jayne Wilson (Federation).

The group were allocated a 9.25pm start and joined 17,000 other power walkers, striders and strollers to raise funds for this vital research. Nursing a number of blisters, stiff joints and aching muscles, the team kept each other going throughout the night, singing along to a musical compilation to keep spirits high.

The team set themselves a target of £1,000; however, the grand total raised was £3,614! The team would like to extend their sincere thanks to all who supported their efforts.

And so on to this year's challenge... Details have already been circulated for a chance to participate in two events: the 'Tough Mudder' taking place at Belvoir Castle on 13th May (a chance for some inter-academy friendly competition); and the Oxfordshire Adventure Challenge in aid of the NSPCC on 16th September. So go on – have a go and experience for yourselves the rewards of personal challenge!



# Memorial service to be held for Trust pioneer

**A memorial service is to be held at Lincoln Cathedral following the death of Barry Jackson MBE, one of the founders of The Priory Federation of Academies Trust.**



Mr Jackson, who died in January at the age of 84, was instrumental in the formation of the Trust in 2008, having become one of its original Sponsor Trustees the previous year. His role on the Priory Board continued until his retirement from public life in 2012.

Trust Chief Executive Ian Jones said: "As a successful member of the business community, Barry offered continuous and unwavering support for education in Lincolnshire, from the days of LSST to the formation of the Priory Trust.

"We will be sending representatives from our governing, teaching and student bodies to the memorial service as a mark of our respect and gratitude."

Mr Jackson, who was married with four children and 10 grandchildren, had been awarded the MBE in the 2001-02 New Year Honours List "for services to training in Lincolnshire". His early role on the governing body at LSST was commemorated in the naming of the Jackson Swimming Pool at the school.

He was the former owner of Jackson Building Centres, which opened in 1946 as a small hardware store in Lincoln and which grew to become one of the largest builders' merchants in Britain, with 26 outlets across the East Midlands, Leeds and York.

The thanksgiving service for the life of Mr Jackson takes place at Lincoln Cathedral at noon on Friday 3rd March.





## Introducing the Chair of the Trust – Mr Howard Gee

**The year 2016 started with a complete career change for me. I retired from full-time work at Siemens after 37 years' service and, following a short break for a wonderful three weeks' holiday in Vietnam and Cambodia to attend a wedding, set up a part-time consultancy business. Even though I didn't intend to work for more than a couple of days a week, I've already spent time working in Sweden, Germany and Canada.**

The year has also been an extremely exciting one for The Priory Federation of Academies Trust. I am very proud of the huge steps we are taking in training in many different fields.

Our purpose-built Keyworth Centre is now delivering post-16 courses under the umbrella of Priory Training, while our in-house apprenticeship model has been firmly established.

Priory Training has been building strong links with local employers, too, in readiness for the large growth in apprentice training courses – ranging from business administration to construction – we will be offering during the next 12 to 24 months.

The Keyworth Centre is also the home of the Lincolnshire Teaching School Alliance (LTSA) and our School-Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT). The LTSA, which is made up of 19 Lincolnshire secondary schools, is now delivering a large range of high-quality Continuous Professional Development in the areas of teaching, leadership and governance.

The SCITT successfully trained 26 new teachers last year and, in 2016-17, has expanded its programme to 85 trainee teachers in more than 50 primary and secondary schools.

In terms of educational outcomes, the four academies in the Trust had a very good year. In particular, The Priory Ruskin Academy had an excellent result in the new Department for Education headline measure of progress (P8) which was the best in Lincolnshire (including selective schools) and in the top five per cent in the country.

The Priory Witham Academy achieved an Ofsted rating of "Good" in every category, which is a fantastic result for an "all-through" school.

The Priory Academy LSST continues to equip many Sixth Formers for success in top-flight university applications and, in a reflection of its ever-growing reputation, The Priory City of Lincoln Academy is oversubscribed for entry in 2017.

As you can see from the above, being involved in academy governance can be varied and rewarding, and I'm very grateful to my fellow trustees and local governors for the time and expertise that they provide. The education landscape is in continual change, including the demands on trustees and governors. We are always looking for new volunteers, so please get in touch with me through one of our academies if you know anyone who may have an interest. There will never be a dull moment...



### New Year's resolutions

My personal resolution for 2017 is to celebrate my next Big Birthday to the full and to help my similarly-aged friends to do the same, while trying to find my way to the gym and golf course more often!

My resolution for the Priory Federation of Academies is to grow the Trust by at least one academy during 2017, while maintaining excellent outcomes for pupils and continuing to develop every employee to their full potential.



Priory Training



## Combined Cadet Force / Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme



If you are interested in volunteering to support either the CCF or DofE,  
Mrs Charlie Thompson (Contingent Commander CCF) [clthompson@prioryacademies.co.uk](mailto:clthompson@prioryacademies.co.uk)  
or Mr Mick Ginty (Federation DofE Manager) [mginty@prioryacademies.co.uk](mailto:mginty@prioryacademies.co.uk)  
would be pleased to hear from you.

## Sodexo Childcare Vouchers

Childcare vouchers are a Government scheme aimed at helping working parents. Families can save hundreds of pounds every year by using childcare vouchers, with extra savings if both parents take part.

**Website:**  
<https://uk.childcare-vouchers.sodexo.com>

**Tel** 01276 687000

## Apprenticeships

We are seeking to appoint a number of professional, confident and organised people to join the Trust. We have several exciting opportunities to gain valuable work experience and qualifications at the same time.

Applicants should have GCSEs in English and Maths at A-C or equivalent.

Should you be interested, or know of someone who may be interested, in being part of our apprenticeship programme, please contact Mrs Alison Jones on **07467 147714** or [ajones@prioryacademies.co.uk](mailto:ajones@prioryacademies.co.uk)

## Pensions

### Teachers Pensions

**Website:** [www.teacherspensions.co.uk](http://www.teacherspensions.co.uk)

**Tel:** 03456 066166

### Local Government Pension Scheme

**Website:** [www.wypf.org.uk](http://www.wypf.org.uk)

**Tel:** 01274 434999

