

The Saints Academies



LOCAL ACADEMY COUNCILS' NEWSLETTER

April 2019

It has been a very busy spring term in our academies with lots of very exciting things taking place! We began 2019 with an incredibly successful INSET day where staff from all three academies came together at St Augustine's. Over the morning we collectively wrote the new vision for The Saints Academies which took into consideration the suggestions that you made, those of the children and also the Local Academy Council. We are very proud of the new vision statement:

The Saints Academies Vision

Love patiently accepts all things. It always trusts, always hopes and always continues strong.

1 Corinthians 13:7

Our vision as The Saints Academies builds on our Christian foundations. We celebrate the individuality and uniqueness of everyone within The Saints and wider communities, living God's love through our chosen Christian Values. We strive for every child to be resilient, adaptable and to flourish in a rapidly changing world through the delivery of an inspiring, holistic and innovative approach to teaching and learning.

Each academy then wrote their own, very individual and bespoke mission statements as to how they intend to deliver our vision. The afternoon session focussed on our new curriculum which staff are creating on June 3rd, exciting times are ahead! Letters have also been sent out to many companies regarding our careers days from September. More information regarding this will follow in the summer term.

Inspections

During January, we were subject to an inspection at each of our academies. It was a review carried out by Challenging Education and the results were overwhelmingly positive! Here are a few extracts from the collaborative report:

- Senior leaders have established a culture of high expectations throughout each of the three schools in the federation. This is epitomised by the drive to help children move their prior attainment to higher end points by the end of the next stage of their education, for example moving expected at EYFS to GDS by the end of KS1. Middle leaders in each of the schools understand and share this vision for excellent progress, incorporating it into their subject development plans.
- Questioning observed during the reviews was a strength of teaching. Teachers and other adults are becoming increasingly skilled at challenging the pupils without providing them with too much information. As a result, pupils are expected to explain their thoughts, deepen their understanding and think hard during lessons.
- Across the whole federation, consideration of books show clear progression as pupils move through school. This is particularly true when looking at the quality of work in English books, where pupils are developing their writing stamina and increasingly taking responsibility for their own work.

We are so incredibly lucky to have such talented and committed staff and amazing children. The Local Academy Council are incredibly proud of each one of our schools and congratulate the staff on this fantastic report of Teaching and Leadership.

Activities



All Saints welcomed author, Olaf Falafal into school on Red Nose Day. He was a larger than life character who was incredibly passionate about writing and conveyed this to the children. He encouraged them all to be writers saying they could write about almost anything! He also showed how he developed characters that he illustrates for his books. A fab morning was had by all!



All three academies took part in the gymnastics competition at Uttoxeter Gym Club in March. We were so incredibly proud of how the children not only performed but how they behaved. They were all true ambassadors for our academies.

St Peter's have just had a fantastic week following a mystical, magical box arriving on Monday morning. Teachers, parents and pupils were amazed to find the box, attached to balloons, stuck on the front of the school building....

Noises were then heard coming from the box....Children wrote about what they thought was inside it.... The next day, the excitement built and the contents were revealed! Because this was a magical box, the contents were different every time it was opened! Years 3 and 4 found red bananas which were amazingly the same as the ones in their class novel, Kensuke's Kingdom!



Years 1 and 2 found space food!



They even got to try this unusual food!!!



These breakout weeks will be an addition to our new curriculum next year and will happen across all three of our academies.

Some pupils from St Augustine's took part in the Lichfield Diocesan 'Music Share' day at Lichfield Cathedral in March. Cathy Lamb who is one of the cathedral organists, came into school for four weeks leading up to the event and taught the children some fabulous songs. On the day, they rehearsed in the cathedral and then were part of Evensong where they joined the girls' choir in the stalls. It was a truly amazing



experience for them. Parents joined us for an evening performance where we were also fortunate to see an opera singer perform. The children sang beautifully, we were so proud of them all.

A truly inspirational term at our academies! The Local Academy Council and all the Saints Academies staff wish you all a happy and blessed Easter.

Julia Smith

Chair of the Local Academy Council