



# TVCLT Newsletter

Issue 7

December 2017

## A year in the life of the Trust

**The Tame Valley Co-operative Learning Trust, established in August 2012, exists to:**

- Improve outcomes for all young people in our learning community
- Achieve more by working together rather than individually
- Establish long-term and sustainable relationships between our schools
- Involve all stakeholders fully in the learning of young people

Over the past year, we have continued to undertake activities dedicated to achieving these key objectives. In a rapidly changing educational landscape, we believe that we have successfully collaborated in order to navigate the challenges that have emerged and to take advantage of the opportunities available.

**The Tame Valley Co-operative Learning Trust** is a charitable Trust and company limited by guarantee. The Trust Board is chaired by Mrs Julia Jones and meets termly; it includes two Trustees from each school (the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors) as well as representatives from Wolverhampton University, Staffordshire County Council and the Co-operative Society. In addition, there are Trustees who represent the Trust Community and Staff within the Trust. Trust Board meetings are well attended and offer an opportunity to exchange information and to ensure that the key objectives remain the focus for the schools within the Trust.

**Various workstreams have been established or consolidated over the past year whose activities and impact are reported back to the Trust Board.** Head Teachers have met half-termly to discuss areas for improvement across the schools and the impact of the joint activities undertaken. Ofsted have visited Stoneydelph Primary School who received a judgement of 'good' for overall effectiveness; Dosthill Primary school were judged 'inadequate' in November 2016 and have received support from the Trust to ensure the necessary rapid improvements have been made.

Some of the schools have continued with the successful **Peer Review** programme based on a model previously developed with an external consultant. Those involved continue to identify the benefit of carrying out monitoring within each other's schools and the impact of this on moving their schools forward.

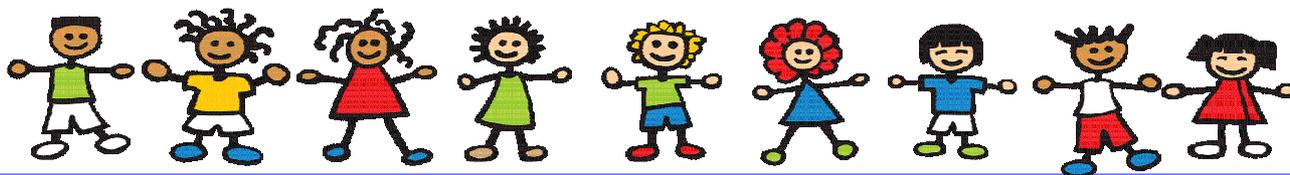
**Subject leader meetings have also taken place including Mathematics, English, Fair Trade, SEND, EYFS and Science.** These have provided an opportunity to share good practice, to develop areas for improvement and to carry out moderation of assessments. Some of the schools from within the Trust have successfully achieved the Science Quality Mark and a Fair Trade award.

**Bursars** from each school have also met regularly to commission and purchase services from alternative providers resulting in cost savings that have benefitted each school. **Newly and Recently Qualified Teachers** also met together regularly over the course of the year. This gave them the opportunity to share and learn from one another's experience. They also had focused training on Behaviour Management and Quality Teaching Strategies delivered by staff with the appropriate expertise from within the Trust.

**We have continued to deliver initial teacher training in association with Wolverhampton University** through the Schools Direct programme. Schools now have several members of staff who have trained with us over recent years and gone on to be appointed to their first posts then to successfully complete their induction year.

**Academisation and research into Multi-Academy Trusts** has been a significant focus for the schools and the Trust Board. Several schools have embarked on the process of becoming academies with Dosthill Primary due to change status in January 2018. Consequently, the Tame Valley Co-operative Learning Trust will become a smaller organisation but will retain its commitment to working together to improve the outcomes of all pupils accepting collective responsibility for this. In preparation for the prospect of the Trust being potentially wound up in the future, appropriate research has been undertaken into the processes that will need to be followed.





The Trust Council, student representatives from each of the schools, has continued to be a vibrant and active group. Meetings have taken place regularly with a number of events planned and executed. These included a highly successful 'Spelling Bee' competition which took place at Stoneydelph Primary and a Trust Sports' Day which was held at Tamworth Sports' Stadium. For this, representatives from each of the schools took part in a range of athletics activities and competed in coloured teams across the schools rather than competing as individual schools. One team came out on top whilst the results for the others teams were very close:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Blue team - 277 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Green team - 227 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Red team - 226 points
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Yellow team - 214 points

We were grateful for the support of parents and relatives for what proved a successful event enjoyed by the chil-

dren who took part.

A Trust choir, made up of children from each of the schools, took part in a service at St. Editha's Church performing a Christmas song which was very well received. We continue to very much value the talents of Mrs Kimber who co-ordinated this for the schools involved.

The Trust Council also devised a **creative art project** developing designs and then painting these on to tiles. The theme for this was 'Friendship'; each school donated ten tiles to the other schools within the Trust. Each school has then displayed all sixty tiles as a symbol of the friendship that exists across our schools.

**In their Summer Term meeting, the Trust Council identified the following strengths and areas for improvement:**

*Positives:*

- Cooperated well to make decisions
- Connected schools together like a family
- I feel it has raised schools confidence
- Spelling Bee united children together and still supported learning
- Accomplished new achievements together
- Developed new friendships
- Collectively changed lives through fundraising
- Widened opportunities
- Feel confident to voice opinions in front of others
- Gaining skills to work as a team
- Sharing view points

*Could do better if...*

- More open
- We didn't miss out on learning

*The Trust Council represents the best of what we have achieved together within and for the benefit of others beyond our schools. The experiences will remain with the children and prove a legacy as each school moves forward to follow a new course.*

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The **AGM of the Tame Valley Co-operative Learning Trust**

will be held on

**Thursday, 25 January 2018**

at

**Longwood Primary School**

**Allton Avenue**

**Mile Oak**

**Tamworth**

**B78 3NH**

commencing **6.00 pm**

