

## **The Tame Valle Cooperative Learning Trust**

Since our initial formation in August 2012, our learning Trust has gone from strength to strength in terms of the projects we have initiated to improve outcomes for all of our learners.

After officially becoming a Learning Trust in August 2012, we followed this up with a public launch at Dosthill Park in September on beautiful sunny afternoon. Thousands of balloons were released, each on representing a child within our family of schools, and stakeholders form all school groups joined us to celebrate. All learners were presented with a commemorative wristband emblazoned with TVCLT – 'Learning Together'.

Very quickly, we established the Olevi Improving Teachers Programme. The ITP is a 6 week programme aimed at enabling teachers to become consistently good.

Clair from Dosthill and Ian from WHS have been instrumental in setting up this ongoing project, and we thank them for their huge efforts. The ITP is now on its 3<sup>rd</sup> round.

This was quickly followed in 2013 with the Outstanding Teacher programme, aimed at embedding and developing outstanding practise.

In January 2013, an invite was extended to all the TVCLT stakeholders to join us at an 'Engaging Members' evening at WHS. This evening was about gathering the views of our school communities about how they would like to see the Trust develop. As a result of this, we are in the process of developing a TVCLT website, and have published and distributed 3 TVCLT newsletters to keep everyone up to date on our actions.

In February 2013, Mr Hand and I visited Brays Special School, which is a part of an alliance of many other schools, to find out more about Peer Review. This exciting venture is something we hope to develop in 2014.

During the Spring Term of 2013, Thomas Barnes Primary and Longwood Primary both expressed their interest in joining our Trust, and began the consultation process. We were delighted when this became formal in September 2013 and we welcomed both schools to our Trust.

The new school year started in September with a Trust Development Day – a day where Heads came together to decide the direction of the TVCLTs focus for the coming year, many of which I know Jenny will discuss later. Importantly, we established our vision – 'A Journey of Limitless Opportunities'.

The SKEIN project, in conjunction with Linda Devlin at the University of Wolverhampton was developed though the spring and summer term and concluded with a report from her in November relating to staff CPD at each of our

schools and how this might be developed and merged to provide a useful model for the whole Trust.

We said Goodbye to Julie Bishop as Company Secretary at the end of the Summer Term, and welcomed Chris Lewis in November. Chris has been a hugely valuable member of the team already and we thank her for all her hard work.

We have, throughout the past year, created opportunities for representatives from our individual school council to meet, resulting in a Trust Student Council. As you can imagine, they have had some excellent ideas about how they might work together to develop links between learners in all schools. One of these was for a Trust Talent Show. This also served as an excellent 'welcome' to the Trust event for Thomas Barnes and Longwood.

The Talent Show took place in November and was a true credit to individual schools and to the Trust as a whole. The diversity of acts and the professionalism with which they took part was incredible. Wilnecote High staged the event, and it was simply superb – many thanks to all the staff there who enabled the event to run so smoothly and to all the learners who performed with such confidence.

On the first day of term January, our first Trust wide 'Professional Learning Day' took place. Staff from all 8 schools came together at the High School for a day of learning. The day was led and concluded by David Didau, an independent speaker. Throughout the day, staff attended workshops led by staff from Trust schools on a wide range of different subjects such as Precision Teaching. Leadership for Excellence and Autism. There were also curriculum workshops where staff came together in subject groups to discuss their subject in light of Curriculum 2014. Feedback from the day has been incredible positive.

At the start of this term, we also welcome Lee Kilkenny as new Head of Wilnecote Junior and Heath fields Infants.

An ongoing project for the Trust is School Direct, the new route into teacher training. Our schools have 12 places for September 2014 – 8 Primary and 4 Secondary. The first round of interviews for Primary places took place on Friday at Dosthill, and we are excited at the prospect of working with the trainees in the future.

Head teachers continue to meet on a half-termly basis and the Trust meets once per term. We look forward to continuing our work into 2014 and beyond.