



Newsletter

The White Hills Park Trust

Friday 2nd October 2020

 whptrust.org

Issue Number 261

Two More Schools Apply to Join the Trust

Last week was a very significant one for the White Hills Park Trust. The Headteacher Board of the Regional Schools Commission approved the application from two more schools to join our Trust - John Clifford Primary School, in Beeston, and Springbank Primary School in Eastwood. Both are excellent schools that are well known to us, and the applications have followed extended discussions. They share the ethos and values of our Trust and will add great strengths to our group.

We will now go through a period of consultation and due diligence, to confirm that this is the best decision for all parties, and put in place the necessary legal agreements. Assuming all goes well, the schools will formally join the Trust later in the school year.

I realise that the landscape of academies and multi-academy trusts can be a little confusing for people who don't have a particular involvement in education. Parents want to know that their child is attending a good school, where they will receive a well-rounded education, make excellent progress, and will be well-cared for. Our schools are run by the Head Teachers and their staff team. The structure of governance is not the most important issue, and so you may be wondering why this news is so important to us.

However, it's fair to say that the landscape has changed. More than half of the pupils in the country are now educated in academies and the majority of these are organized into multi-academy Trusts. Academies are state-funded schools which are bound by most of the same regulations as other local schools and are inspected by Ofsted in exactly the same way. They receive the same level of funding as other schools in the local area, but it comes directly from the government, and they have some additional freedoms, for example they are not bound by the National Curriculum in the same way as maintained schools.

Most academies have come together with others to form MATs (Multi-Academy Trusts). A MAT is a group of academies that share a Board of Trustees and a Board of Members. They will normally pool some resources to reduce costs and work closely together on policies and professional development.

There is considerable variation between MATs, in size and scale, and in their ways of working. The defining characteristic of the White Hills Park Trust is our ethos and values. All the schools in our Trust are committed to ethical ways of working. What this means in practice is that we are inclusive and welcoming to all pupils; that we aim to be a good employer, and ensure our staff are supported and treated well; that we have a commitment to our local community; that we have a broad and balanced curriculum; that we are transparent and open and use public resources well; and that we celebrate diversity and promote equality.

Our MAT is an equal partnership of schools, with all schools contributing to the whole. The Trust team provides advice and support for schools so that they can focus on their core educational role, but our schools retain their autonomy and have a local governing body that knows the school well. We are delighted that John Clifford and Springbank are keen to join us, and we look forward to the next stage of the White Hills Park journey.

Dr. Paul Heery
Chief Executive Officer

Year 5 enjoying Ukuleles

Year 5 have been enjoying their ukulele lessons with the external music provider.

They will be working hard on their skills and learning different songs through the term, which will lead to them performing to the rest of the school via computer link!

We can't wait to watch your performance!



Black History Month

During October we are celebrating Black History month, and each Year group has been given a key figure to research and find out about.

Miss Jones led a whole school assembly to introduce these key figures and will be creating a wonderful display of the children's work. Watch this space.

Vacancy: We're looking for a Site Manager

We are seeking to appoint a highly motivated and pro-active individual with energy and vision to join our team as a **Site Manager** at The Florence Nightingale Academy.

NJE Grade 4: £20,493 to £23,080

37 hours per week all year round

The responsibilities of the Site Manager will include the upkeep, care, maintenance, security and facilities management of the school's premises. The successful candidate will be required to undertake manual handling tasks and to work at height; manage contractors to ensure all on site work is in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Trust to include all Health & Safety, Safeguarding and Child Protection matters, have experience of leading and supervising colleagues and be willing to undertake training in, or have experience of, the legislation regarding asbestos, fire, water and electricity regulations.

The **closing date for applications** is **9.00 am on Wednesday, 7th October 2020**.

Interview date to be confirmed.

We welcome applications from a wide range of backgrounds and experience. Previous experience of working in a school environment is not essential.

Visits are highly recommended. If you would like to discuss the role in further detail or arrange an informal visit, please contact Gill Baggley, School Business Manager at The Florence Nightingale Academy on 01773 713452.

Further details and an application form are available to download on our [website](#).

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**This week: Did you see the Year 5's Commando Joe's session?
#character #teamwork and #resilience!**