

## WELCOME BACK

I'd like to start by acknowledging the amazing efforts of our students who took examinations last year, and also to our staff teams who supported them both academically and personally. Exam entries are always a difficult call for us to make but please keep doing a great job of using all of the information available, along with the views of the student/parents/school to help inform. 40 GCSEs were achieved and 28 Functional skills, amazing!

Now for this year! It's the time of the year where your headteachers will share final plans made to keep their schools moving forwards, and you may have had involvement in this. At the end of last year I shared with them my plans for the group, which will hopefully impact our students and staff in a positive way. I may speak about these in more detail at the joint inset, however here is an idea of some group-wide priorities:

## Better access to the curriculum for SEND learners

Better access for those with lower reading ages

## A more racially inclusive service

## A newly structured staff CPD programme

A review of our terms & conditions in comparison to maintained schools & academies

Rachel Rix was successfully appointed as group T&L lead and will be doing this instead of her previous literacy lead position - some of Rachel's focus will be around developing the new CPD programme. Katy Edmondson continues as group behaviour & attendance lead and one of her priorities will be around expanding the range of strategies we teach our students in order to support them to manage mental health presentation and/or behavioural mindset.

Subject ambassadors will also be coordinating developments in their areas, and getting groups together to talk all things curriculum, pedagogy etc. There was some great work taking place last year so please do continue and cherish these meets as they are a great space for you all to develop your practice together. Our subject ambassadors are now Mary-Jo Brayford (English), David Best (Maths), Catherine Fell (Science) – we will be going out for a new PSHE ambassador in the near future.

Jayne Rowlands and Helen Trafford will be building on their excellent work last year in coaching & exams coordination, respectively.

Finally, I saw some excellent classroom practice from so many of you last year, and would like to say keep going, and remember the positive impact you are having on every child who is admitted into our care.

Ed Hall

Head of Education, Cygnet Schools



**Phoenix School (Sheffield),  
Excel & Exceed Centre (Bury)  
and The Summit (Coventry)  
are DfE registered special  
schools, providing education  
for young people admitted to  
their co-located hospital ser-  
vices.**

**Our schools are regulated by OFSTED and were all rated GOOD at their last inspection.**

## Excel & Exceed Centre

## Phoenix School

## Summit School

## Staff News and Recognition

## Welcome and congratulations to:-

## Phoenix School

**Dave Best** who has joined us as a Teacher of Maths

## Excel & Exceed

**Joanne Rider** is now a full time Teacher from Teacher/TA. Specialist subjects are Science/PHSE and post 16 pathways. She continues as Exams Officer.

**Charlie Dwyer** has accepted the role of cover supervisor and become a permanent member of staff from his previous position as a Bank Teaching Assistant. He is also one of our new Coach practitioners.

**Nina Ward** is also one of our new Coach practitioners.

**Chloe Young** has been appointed as the new Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. As a part-time worker she will be sharing the role with the School Manager, Jayne Rowlands



# SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

What we've been up to this month.....



At Summit, they kick started their first week back with a **Welcome Week** where young people developed independent learning skills, self-reflection, aspirational thinking in addition to understanding the Cygnet Values. They also celebrated International Literacy Day where we encouraged reading for pleasure followed with a discussion, quiz, comprehension questions and a crossword.

The Excel and Exceed Centre have introduced **option sessions** on a Friday as an opportunity for students to broaden their educational experience. Over two sessions, students have been encouraged to participate in art, sports, or the new addition of music. The options sessions run as a double session in both the morning and afternoon and the aim is for students to be able to produce larger scale projects over a longer period of time. Though still in the early days of this venture, there has been a positive response to the running of the sessions and this can widely be attributed to the hard work of the subject teachers in their passion to engage the students. The subjects were chosen carefully as to appeal to the students as each is closely associated with being of a therapeutic nature, which is beneficial in aiding the recovery of those who have mental health experiences. Work created within these classes are expected to be showcased at the annual Christmas Fayre at Bury Cygnet where it can be celebrated by ward staff, the wider MDT and carers of the Young People.



**IT'S YOUR CHOICE**



On the 15<sup>th</sup> September, the Excel and Exceed Centre welcomed the company **Dance Days**, who provided dance sessions for both the Young People and staff. Classes were provided both in the morning and afternoon and individuals from each ward were encouraged to participate in the activities. Dances from around the world were showcased and the cultures that they relate to were explored and celebrated; these included, China, Spain, Greece and Mexico. The session was partly funded by Pupil Premium Plus from the Virtual School for a student who had expressed an interest in dance and the option to participate was extended to each

pupil at Excel and Exceed in order to provide an alternative learning experience.

The sessions proved successful, with a majority of pupils engaging throughout the school day.

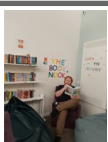
The Phoenix School are pleased to now offer **vocational learning in Hair and Beauty**, which is accredited through AQA Unit Awards.

Using our incredibly talented TA (and professionally trained Hairdresser) Yvette as a mentor, our young people have had the opportunity to cut and style hair both on a mannequin and staff volunteers. They have had the opportunity to learn how to apply false nails and UV gel nail polishes, adorning their creations with diamantes and hand painted patterns. Students have also had the chance to practice applying individual false eyelashes – showing a lot of patience and care!

This hands-on learning has supplemented formal learning through being linked to functional literacy and numeracy tasks. Our students have thoroughly enjoyed being able to hone their skills through practice.



The **European Day of Languages** takes place on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September every year. Phoenix School celebrated some of the culture and languages of the 44 different countries that make up Europe. Read all about the activities [here](#).



Summit have launched a **'Book Nook'** where they are encouraging reading for pleasure in a relaxed environment.

There's still some features to add, but it's already proving popular with the young people and staff!