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# LLT News

December 2024 | ISSUE 2

## Anti-Bullying Schools Project Celebration

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Student success celebrated



**ENGAGE, ENABLE, EMPOWER** —





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# Welcome

Dear all.

Welcome to yet another splendid edition of LLT news for all employees. This edition, I feel, highlights even more of the fantastic things that are happening in all of our institutions and celebrates the success you create. This edition also features contributions from Knotty Ash Primary and The Grange Primary as we welcome them to the Trust.

I think the edition made me reflect on how lucky I am to be part of this wonderful community. Community has always been at the heart of LLT. Your contribution, and that of your individual communities, ensures that the values of abundance, curiosity, kindness and support are lived every day. The LLT news illustrates this so very, very well.

May I also take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for all the contributions you make, the sheer hard work you inject and the difference you make. At this time of year, the days are dark and long, but you bring the warmth and cheer to all that you do. On behalf of the Members, Trustees, Governors and Executive Team, thank you so very much.

So, it is the holiday season – greetings and best wishes to you and the people you chose to spend it with. May this time of year shine light on your blessings and bring new ones in the year to come.

Wishing you all the joy, peace, love and rest that this time of year brings and looking forward to your safe return in 2025.

*Ann Stahler*

**Ann Stahler**

CEO AND EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER







KNOTTY ASH  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Anti-Bullying Schools Project Celebration

**Hundreds of primary and secondary school students from the Anti-Bullying Schools Project Signing Choir participated in an event at St. George's Hall supported by local celebrities recently as part of Anti-Bullying Week.**

The event was led by staff from Knotty Ash Primary School and supported by 50 Anti-Bullying Schools Project schools, who wanted to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes. The theme of this year's event is Choose Respect.

Hearing and deaf students from 26 schools including Knotty Ash Primary School performed songs in St. George's Hall which celebrated respect, kindness and power.

The inclusive event was fully accessible to Deaf Communities through British Sign Language interpreters.

Special guests included stand-up comedians Josh Bishop and Gavin Lilley, former BBC Radio Merseyside presenter Roger Phillips and Liverpool City Region Mayor Steve Rotheram who read student pieces related to the event's theme: Choose Respect.







KNOTTY ASH  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Clements, Headteacher, Knotty Ash Primary School, said: **"Knotty Ash Primary School hosts the only Deaf Resource Base in the region. We're privileged to be home to deaf and hearing children, with all our children learning British Sign Language (BSL).**

**We know how lucky our hearing children are to have the opportunity to learn a language that is beautiful, expressive and enriching, and develop lifelong friendships with their Deaf peers. Our Anti-Bullying Schools' Project extends this opportunity to children across the region, the country and beyond!**

**All children in participating schools have learnt to communicate in BSL, a new language for most and a language shared by many in the Deaf community."**

Gavin Lilley added: **"It's really important that children are aware of diversity and difference to prevent bullying."**

Kyra, a pupil at Knotty Ash Primary School said: **"My favourite part of the event was performing 'Power in Me', which I really enjoyed."**

John Bishop said: **"I've come to the event today to participate in the event and watch children from around Liverpool who have been learning sign language."**

**My message to everyone is to celebrate difference and inclusion. Joking about differences can upset people and that's not ok."**







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# New People Strategy Launched

LLT launched a comprehensive new People Strategy to staff across our family of schools in September 2024.

**“Our schools can only be the best places for students to learn and grow if we make them the best places for staff to work and grow. To achieve our strategic priorities and affect life chances, we need to acquire, retain and develop a talented workforce.”**

Ann Stahler, CEO and Executive Headteacher,  
Lydiat Learning Trust

The approach consists of a set of practices that helps us to support and develop our staff. The strategy was developed based on staff feedback and ideas and research of other organisations including other MATs, Netflix, Nando's and Spotify.

Our newly named Department for People and Culture team (formerly HR) presented an overview of the People Strategy to staff at each school and feedback was very positive.



Stephen Field, Executive Director of People and Culture, said: **“Our People Strategy will create a positive impact and drive our school towards achieving excellence. We look forward to working together to make this academic year a successful and fulfilling one for everyone.”**



# Staff Sign Up For Free Flu Vaccinations

As part of our Health and Wellbeing programme, LLT offered free vaccines to staff who do not meet the NHS criteria.

All staff have now been given their vouchers which enable them to visit a local pharmacy to get vaccinations.

[Click here to read our new People Strategy.](#)



## How to avoid spreading the flu

Flu is very infectious and easily spread to other people. You're more likely to give it to others in the first 5 days. Flu is spread by germs from coughs and sneezes, which can live on hands and surfaces for 24 hours. To reduce the risk of spreading flu:

- Avoid contact with other people if you have a high temperature or you do not feel well enough to do your normal activities
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
- Wash your hands often with warm water and soap
- Bin used tissues as quickly as possible



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# Home & Tech Scheme

LLT staff are now using the Home & Tech scheme, the most affordable way to get the latest home and tech.

[Click here for more information.](#)



Employees are also taking advantage of our Cycling Scheme - [Click here for details.](#)





CHILDWALL  
SPORTS &  
SCIENCE ACADEMY



# Childwall Supports Children In Need

**Childwall Sports and Science Academy staff and students participated in BBC's Children in Need fundraising recently.**

BBC Children in Need exists to change the lives of disadvantaged children and young people across the UK. Their vision is that every child in the UK has a safe, happy and secure childhood and the chance to reach their potential.

A wide range of activities took part during the day including a Cake Sale, face painting and charity car wash. The PE department organised an after-school football tournament, dodgeball, a sponsored run and a penalty shootout. Hundreds of students participated in the events and helped raise £320, contributing to Children in Need's £40m with the support of schools and community fundraising across the UK.

Headteacher Ms. Vincent commented: **"I'd like to thank all of the students and staff who organised our Children in Need fundraising activities in aid of disadvantaged children. Your engagement and enthusiasm were exemplary and we're enormously proud of how the whole school community came together for such a worthy cause. Well done to all."**

Simon Antrobus, Children in Need CEO, said: **"The biggest thank you to all the amazing schools who joined in with BBC Children in Need day and fundraised this year, it makes such a difference to children and young people all across the UK."**





# Childwall Hosts Successful Open Events



CHILDWALL  
SPORTS &  
SCIENCE ACADEMY

Childwall held successful open events in September and October and welcomed **hundreds** of prospective students and their families.

The events included school tours led by student ambassadors and Headteacher presentations to learn more about Childwall's vision, values and the opportunities available to students. During the event, visitors enjoyed interactive experiences across all departments, with student volunteers helping to showcase the school's facilities.

Feedback from students and parents was incredibly positive. One parent remarked, **"Naddy who showed us around the school was very polite and answered all of our questions about life at Childwall."** Another parent said, **"Our student guide Ollie was excellent and enjoyed showing us around the school, including the new Science Lab, Art classrooms and sports facilities."**

Headteacher Ms. Vincent said: **"Both of our open events were very well attended. Parents asked me about lots of topics including our curriculum, SEND support, Childwall Experiences and extra-curricular activities. We look forward to welcoming many of the students we met to our new Year 7 cohort next year. Well done to all staff and students for helping deliver these events."**







DEYES HIGH  
SCHOOL

# Careers Festival Inspires Students

Over 50 exhibitors from colleges, universities, training and apprentice providers, entrepreneurs and employers attended the event in September and discussed future opportunities with more than 600 Year 9 to Year 13 students and their parents.

All Year 11 students attended the event as part of their Careers programme. Students had meaningful conversations to find out more about future options. They also participated in mock interviews with professionals.

Mrs. Beaney, Head of School, said: **"The Careers Festival offers our students valuable opportunities to meet professionals who can inspire, enthuse, and motivate them to think about their post-16 destination, prospective careers, and employment options. It is a vital part of our Careers agenda. Well done to everyone involved in the event."**







DEYES HIGH  
SCHOOL

# Students Recognised At Awards Evening

**In October, Deyes High School hosted their annual Awards Evening. More than 130 awards were presented for a variety of different achievements.**

In October, Deyes High School hosted their annual Awards Evening. More than 130 awards were presented for a variety of different achievements.

Each year group recognised students for academic achievement and contributions to the wider school community through pastoral awards. Teachers also recognised students' achievements through individual Subject Awards.

The awards are particularly meaningful as they recognised students' achievement, not only academically, but also through their attitude to learning and overall contributions in lessons during the year.

Deyes also recognised last year's Year 11 students for their excellent results and welcomed back Year 13 leavers who have now started their higher education journey in various universities across the country.

Mrs. Beaney, Head of School, commented: **"We would like to thank all students who attended the evening and their parents and guardians, who must have been very proud to watch their children collect awards. It is wonderful to watch our students flourish and achieve their potential and I'd like to congratulate all students who were recognised today for their exemplary achievements".**





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# AMP SCITT Tenth Cohort Begins ITT

**AMP SCITT launched Lydiate Learning Trust's Initial Teacher Training provision in 2014 and welcomed their tenth cohort in September. The programme has grown from just five trainees to one hundred on the current programme. Over the last decade, AMP SCITT has helped 661 teachers enter the profession.**

Alison Brady, Head of AMP SCITT, said: "It is lovely to reflect upon the strong growth of AMP SCITT year by year. Thank you to all the coaches, professional mentors, expert practitioners, and support staff collaborating with our trainees for their time and dedication to nurturing quality teachers."

Trainees are working hard to develop their subject and pedagogical knowledge, and some trainees have already secured employment for September 2025.

A new feature of Initial Teacher Training is Intensive Training and Practice (ITP) weeks. AMP SCITT have 4 ITP weeks throughout the year, focusing on Classroom Culture, Planning, Reading, Writing, Oracy and Meeting Needs. AMP SCITT held its third ITP week on Reading, Writing and Oracy recently. These focus weeks allow trainees and mentors to focus on key aspects of practice.

# AMP SCITT Successfully Launch SEND Pathway

**Although all AMP SCITT trainees are prepared to meet the needs of SEND pupils in the classroom, AMP SCITT's Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Pathway has now successfully launched with five trainees currently placed in SEND specific classrooms.**

This option is popular with applicants, but an entry requirement is to have prior experience working with SEND pupils. It is often a misconception that this is an easier career path as class sizes are smaller.





# Teaching Internships Are back!



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## Internship Success For 8th Year Running!

AMP SCITT Teaching Internships are back for 2025.

AMP SCITT has once again secured 40 places for undergraduate and Masters interns to explore life as a teacher before entering into the profession.

However, that is not all – subjects for the internships have expanded and AMP SCITT will now be recruiting for Chemistry, Physics, Computing, Maths and Modern Foreign Languages.

AMP SCITT will also be working with their colleagues in Manchester to ensure that they are able to offer placements both in Merseyside and in the Bolton area.

The programme, run in conjunction with the Department for Education, provides a paid experience within the classroom and the opportunity to develop key skills in a professional setting and find out if teaching could be an option. The AMP SCITT Internships have been successful, with interns returning after their studies to enter the profession. AMP SCITT have already interviewed four past interns this recruitment cycle!

Applications for the internship are open and interviews will commence continue until the beginning of May 2025  
[Click here](#) for more information including eligibility criteria and accepted subjects.







KNOTTY ASH  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Mrs Sweeney Wins Educate Teacher Of The Year Award

**The Lydiate Learning Trust family, Knotty Ash Primary School pupils, teachers and parents are celebrating after Mrs. Sweeney was named Teacher of the Year at Educate Awards held at Liverpool Cathedral.**

The award recognises outstanding teachers who bring learning to life by engaging and inspiring children and young people to fulfil their potential through their tireless efforts, patience, passion, encouragement, dedication and energy.

Mrs. Sweeney, who has worked at Knotty Ash for 17 years, is Head of Deaf Resource Base, Liverpool's only primary resourced provision for Deaf children.

The Deaf Resource Base accommodates 18 Deaf children from Liverpool and neighbouring authorities. Most Deaf children arrive at Knotty Ash with some level of language delay so the curriculum, mode of delivery, and teaching and learning strategies are adapted to meet individual needs.



Mrs. Sweeney said: **"I'm delighted to be named Teacher of the Year after being nominated by parents. It is very rewarding to work with Deaf children and see them thrive and gain confidence in our friendly and inclusive school. I must also thank my team in the Deaf Resource Base as this achievement would not be possible without their amazing support."**

Ms. Clements, Headteacher of Knotty Ash Primary School added **"Mrs Sweeney recognises that enabling Deaf children to fulfil their potential means supporting the whole family, and it is testament to the difference she makes, that parents nominated her themselves with countless anecdotes of her tireless support. We are all extremely proud of her!"**



# Collaborative Start To Our Journey With The Grange And Knotty Ash



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As our first term with our two primary schools as part of LLT draws to a close, we reflect on a season of connection, collaboration, and growth. This term has been all about building relationships across our primary and secondary communities—sharing best practices among teachers and establishing a unified vision with governors and leaders from all schools.

We're excited to celebrate some of the highlights and milestones from this incredible start to our journey together.

## Shaping Our Shared Vision and Values

One of our first leadership events this term was a Vision and Values session, facilitated by Ruth Agnew, an external consultant. Bringing together Board Directors, School Governors, and LLT leaders, this session marked the start of an exciting journey to renew our vision and values, ensuring they embrace our new schools. It sparked thoughtful conversations and reflections, setting a clear and inspiring direction for the future of Lydiat Learning Trust.



## Blue Sky Thinking for a Brighter Future

This term, we hosted Blue Sky Thinking sessions with staff from both primary schools, creating dedicated time to dream big and envision the future. These sessions encouraged staff to share their ambitions and aspirations, sparking inspiring conversations about how being part of our Trust can help bring these ideas to life. The impact was clear: a renewed sense of purpose, collaboration, and excitement about what we can achieve together as we shape the future of our schools.



## Celebrating 'Choose Respect' Through British Sign Language

One of the most exciting moments this term was when our schools came together to show their commitment inclusion and anti-bullying by participating in the annual Anti-Bullying Signing Choir event at St. George's Hall. The event was developed and coordinated by the Deaf Resource Base Staff from Knotty Ash Primary. Seeing students from Deyes High, CSSA and Knotty Ash Primary join with other primary school children from across the Merseyside and the wider region with enthusiasm and passion was truly inspirational and a testament to the values we share across LLT. It was a proud moment that showcased our dedication to inclusivity, collaboration, and making a positive impact in our wider community.



## Looking Ahead to an Exciting Term

As we look forward to the next term, our journey continues with a focus on engaging our primary students, helping them feel to build connections to the Lydiat Learning Trust family. This next term promises to be full of exciting opportunities to strengthen our community and bring our vision to life. We can't wait to see what we will achieve together as we continue to grow and inspire one another across the Trust.





DEYES HIGH  
SCHOOL

# Deyes New Build Update

**The new Deyes High School building opened in April and staff and students are enjoying the brand new facilities.**

Work on phase two of Deyes High School's new build is progressing well. The demolition of the old school buildings is now substantially complete.

The preparation of both the new car park and sports pitch facilities will commence in January. All the concrete and bricks from the old buildings have been crushed on site and this material will be used in the preparation process. The new section of the sports pitch to the North of the existing 6th form was seeded in the summer and is growing well.

The safety of community and site personnel is extremely important, therefore the perimeter hoarding will remain in place throughout the duration of the remaining works.





# SSAT Lead Practitioner Accreditation



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**Lydiate Learning Trust has partnered with the Schools, Students and Teachers Network (SSAT) to offer bespoke Lead Practitioner training and accreditation – [click here](#) for details.**

The first stage of this partnership commenced in November; four of our current Lead Practitioners began their training whilst several of our Senior Leadership and Executive Team colleagues started their journey on becoming qualified facilitators for the course.

The course will be open to other colleagues within the Trust from September 2025 - we will also welcome colleagues from outside the Trust to our HQ in Wavertree at this point.

Lead Practitioner Accreditation is a nationally recognised status of excellent practice in education for teachers, support staff and leaders at an individual or cohort level, in any phase. This professional accreditation recognises, values, and celebrates all individuals who lead learning in their school or MAT.

## Programme benefits

- Participating in the programme improves professional expertise, helping to embed and extend teaching and learning in school.
- Provides a framework and set of standards for benchmarking as leaders of learning; inspiring others and positively impacting on learners.
- Fosters confidence in developing and testing ideas.
- Establishes an evidence-informed culture in schools, attracting and inspiring staff.

**Watch this space for more information!**





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# LLT's New Starters

**Over the past few months, Lydiat Learning Trust has welcomed some new staff members. Below, they provide a short introduction to their careers and interests.**



## **Richard Caton**

### **Executive Director of Strategic Partnerships**

I began my career in London working for Diageo as Assistant Brand Manager for the fine wine brand Justerini & Brooks, before moving into the world of International Auction Houses. I worked my way up to Global Marketing Director controlling London, Rome and New York offices. The auction house specialised in Books, Art and Works on Paper - my role was to create partnerships and joint ventures as well as the traditional and increasing digital marketing requirements for a global operation. As there has been a book written on every subject known to man I have an eclectic and under-utilised knowledge of bizarre subjects - from the price of Ian Fleming's signature, early hunting techniques from the 16th Century through to Chairman Mao's use of posters for propaganda during his reign.

Following a relocation to the North West, I headed the Marketing Departments of property organisations working within the Student Accommodation arena. This began my work in the education sector working with student facing brands as well as B2B partnerships with Universities, Councils, HE Institutions and businesses wanting to connect with the student demographic.

My new role at LLT will see me forming partnerships with schools and businesses to enhance, promote and interact with. I'm looking forward to taking part in the launch of new events and initiatives to benefit students, staff and the wider Trust.

## **Katey Breen**

### **Head of Safeguarding**

I have worked in Education for 12 years, in different local authorities such as Lancashire, Leeds and Bolton. I have worked predominantly in schools within an inner-city context, and I had been SENDCo for ten years before starting at Lydiat Learning Trust. I have worked predominately in schools within an inner-city context, featuring all the challenges that face families living in certain postcodes. Most recently, before joining this Trust, I was an Inclusion Manager covering Pastoral, SEND and Safeguarding needs of a busy two-form entry Primary School. I have always enjoyed supporting pupils, families and the wider communities with challenges that are perceived as being outside the 'norm' for school staff to help with.

My new role at Lydiat Learning Trust, as Inclusion and Safeguarding Lead, is to further the work of the staff in the four schools and support their busy departments. I work closely with the Trust Executive Team, who are responsible for these areas, as well as School Leaders. Part of my role is to advise and help develop the good practice that exists already, within each individual school. I am really looking forward to working to support the four schools, across Sefton and Liverpool, and being involved with the challenges that our two communities may be experiencing. Since starting it has been great to work with the different teams across the four schools and learn about the different contexts.

During my spare time, I enjoy spending time with family and friends catching up or going for a long walk with them. I spend my weekends going to different exercise classes as well as visiting the latest restaurant or coffee shop to open.







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**Alan McKeegan**  
**Executive Director of Education,  
Secondary**

I began my career working in the oil and gas industry, before switching to education. Here I have spent over 15 years as part of Senior Leadership Teams across four schools, including periods spent working for a Trust completing school improvement work across various settings. I have spent periods of my career as a Head of Science, this allowed me to develop my interest in the impact that careful curriculum design and effective pedagogy can have on a student's experience of school. However, the latter part of my career has seen me lead various pastoral teams across various contexts; the importance of a dedicated, high performing, pastoral and SEN team has never been more important within the educational landscape.

I am keen to learn and constantly try to keep up to date on the latest research, although I recognise that it is important to ensure that any new research is carefully chosen and implemented. My role as Director of

Education affords me the opportunity to seek out areas of best practice, whilst also working with leaders from across the Trust on various research initiatives - this is one area of the job that I particularly enjoy.

Outside of work, alongside the usual family commitments, I enjoy competing in triathlons and marathons, but my main passion is Rugby League. Sadly, the body no longer allows me to play the game and I am confined to the role of spectator on 'most' weekends.





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