

Market Drayton Learning Partnership Newsletter November 2015



Our children and young people at the heart of their learning



Exciting work is going on within the partnership to support our pupils and students in becoming better learners. This means encouraging them as active learners who are curious, confident and engaged by their work. They learn not just from the content of their lessons but also about thinking processes and strategies, and with an ambitious attitude.

At the Infant and Junior schools, a focus on aspects such as collaboration, questioning, and persistence and other approaches is helping children become more independent learners who reflect on their own learning. Staff from both schools have also joined their colleagues at Grove School in a major development programme at Grove aimed at enhancing teacher effectiveness and increasing active learning, higher-level thinking, and attainment by students.



In the students' own words:

- "I listen to my brain, because it will tell me what to do." (Year 1)
- "I'm thrilled to learn. I come to school with a smile, ready for another adventure every day." (Year 6)
- "I'm the most important person in my education. It's me that has to want to learn, to listen, work hard, revise." (Year 10)

And in Ofsted's words -- "Grove students' attitudes to learning are overwhelmingly positive."

Some highlights in last year's progress and attainment

- Students in Year 11 made more progress than students in previous year groups across a range of subjects.
- In Year 6 the proportion of pupils achieving Level 4 in reading, writing and mathematics combined was higher than for many years.
- In Year 2 children achieved an average point score (the standard measure at that age) significantly higher than pupils nationally in reading, writing and mathematics.
- Pupils with special educational needs made good progress in all three schools.



Launch event and how to follow it



Many of you will have seen this picture in the local newspaper and elsewhere and you are likely to see it again as we are currently designing a logo for the partnership based on it. Getting 1,200 pupils and staff from all three schools into the town's gingerbread shape was a noteworthy example of effective co-operation.

As well as great fun our launch day last term was also a day of learning, with Grove pupils acting as excellent hosts and facilitators as well as participants and younger children massively impressed by their taster of what lay in store in secondary school. ("It was brill. The science lab was the best.")

The entire Junior School and Years 1 and 2 from the Infants walked to the Grove, where they joined their older colleagues in forming 33 cross-phase teams. Each team took part in a round of sports and PE activities and also a workshop of their choice in either science, drama, art, fun with words and numbers, or singing.

Cross-school activities for next summer are likely to include a Drayton sports Olympiad and a collaborative Big Sing. Given that the partnership has developed a joint spelling policy, a spelling bee may also be on the cards.

MDLP stakeholder forum and first AGM

- In the new year Headteachers will be recruiting from their PTAs a number of parents who would like to join the learning partnership's stakeholder forum, and from their school councils a number of pupils and students to join the forum. At the same time, community and voluntary organisations in the town and nearby area will be invited to send a small number of representatives to this forum.
- The first meeting of the stakeholder forum will be on Monday 7 March (time to be confirmed) at Grove School. The chair of the partnership and three headteachers will attend this initial meeting of the forum.
- The forum will then meet three times per year. It will provide a means for ensuring the 'community voice' influences what happens in the partnership, and vice versa.
- The forum will also elect one of its members to become a trustee of the learning partnership, along with the three headteachers, three chairs of governors, and our co-operative representative.
- The first Annual General Meeting of the Market Drayton Learning Partnership, which is a Cooperative Trust, will be held at the Infant School at 7pm on Monday 25th April 2016.
- Headteachers at the three schools will be writing to all pupils, their parents or carers, and staff explaining that they are members of the cooperative and as such will be eligible to attend the AGM.



The vision of the Market Drayton Learning Partnership is "to work as a community to support our children and young people in their enjoyment of learning, raising their aspirations and their achievements as learners now and for the future."