

Trust NEWSLETTER



Issue 2 December 19



Welcome Etching Hill CE Primary Academy.

Our Academies

We are delighted to officially welcome Etching Hill Primary Academy to the family. Headteacher Marie Smith said "We are thrilled to be part of FGT and excited to have joined a forward thinking trust with such high aspirations and ambitions for every child".

Here are some interesting facts that you may not know about Etching Hill.

- The school was opened in **1971**.
- **Etching Hill** was once a village in its own right, but it became part of the town of Rugeley as the town became larger.
- Etching Hill had a horse racing

course in the 1800s. It's name historically derives from the large forested hill on Mount Road - famed for its characteristic ice-age sandstone tip.

- Etching Hill was recorded as being known as '**Hitching Hill**' in the 1700s, a name connected with Rugeley Horse Fairs and the facts that many horses and ponies were 'hitched'.
- The area is a Site of Biological Importance (S.B.I.) and the mount itself at the top of Etching Hill is a **Regionally Important Geological Site (R.I.G.S.)**



Gentleshaw Primary Academy

It has been quite a long time in the making but we are pleased to say that the two new classrooms at Gentleshaw Primary Academy will be operational for the new year.



Difficulties were encountered during the initial planning stages which lead to a delayed start date, then further problems were encountered when the digging of the foundations began which again unfortunately delayed the build. The build is now virtually complete, and we are sure that everyone who has seen the transformation will agree that the new extension fits perfectly with the original build, fully complimenting the existing

facade of this wonderful Academy. The two new classrooms are extremely generous in size and will make excellent learning environments for the children and we thank them all for their patience.

Gentleshaw was also successful in obtaining a £10,000 National lottery Grant to install a **new Outdoor Gym**. The equipment was installed during the October Half Term and is proving very popular with children.

THANK YOU FROGS Gentleshaw took delivery of their new minibus earlier this term. The bus is a fabulous addition to their resources and will support the pupils by increasing opportunities for external visits and their involvement in sporting activities. It is also great to see the minibus driving around the local area proudly displaying the name of the Academy for everyone to see and bringing the name of Gentleshaw to people's attention who may not have been aware where the Academy is.

A special mention must be given to **FROGS** (Friends of Gentleshaw) who have kindly contributed to funding this splendid new addition.



St John's Primary Academy

The extension to **St. John's Eagles** facility is nearly completed. The increased floor space will make for improving the quality of experience for the 2 and 3 year old children who attend the nursery provision and also allow the Academy

to meet the demand for places in the Breakfast and After School Club. All the staff are extremely pleased with the new build and are looking forward to keeping Eagles as popular and successful as it has been.

St Peter's CE Primary Academy

GO OUTDOORS St Peter's has seen an exciting new development this term, with the addition of a new Outdoor Classroom. The Academy's talented Site and Buildings Supervisor - Jez Holroyd skilfully constructed the classroom which will provide opportunities for pupils to learn from the environment and surroundings. Lisa Tarbuck has now taken up her position at St. Peter's as their new Deputy Headteacher. Lisa said "I am delighted to have joined the Future Generation Trust and take on the role of Deputy Headteacher at St Peter's Primary. To join a team, where the children are so clearly at the heart of every decision, is a wonderful opportunity. I look forward to developing into my role with Future

GenerationTrust and taking on new challenges" Lisa started her career in London working with children on the autistic spectrum; which ignited her passion for teaching, and after completing her PGCE in Birmingham, she returned to London as a class teacher. Lisa then gained experience of working within schools in Birmingham, London and Cannock. Lisa has a particular passion for reading, English and the creative subjects and is excited by the opportunity to help embed a creative, meaningful curriculum that allows the children to leave their primary education feeling determined, confident and able to move forward with true purpose and self-belief.



Trust updates

The Trust Board has welcomed two new skilled Directors onto the board this term. Charlotte Martin, who was a Governor at Etching Hill, brings with her significant HR expertise and Chris Steel who is a District Councillor for South Staffs has a background in buildings and estates and has also previously been a Governor at St John's Primary Academy.

Charlotte is an experienced HR Leader and has run her own consultancy business for ten years working with a wide range of organisations to design and deliver HR and business improvement strategy's, supporting organisation development. Prior to this Charlotte worked in Local Government. She has worked with schools over the past 10 years, including both LEA and community governor roles and was also the chair of governors at Etching Hill Primary School for 3 years. Charlotte is already enjoying being part of the FGT

community and has been impressed with her welcome from Academies and across the Trust.

Chris has been a Parish Councillor in Essington for over 20 years and is currently a District Councillor for South Staffs. Chris has been heavily involved with the Scouting and Guides organisations as well as significantly contributing to other community initiatives and support groups. Chris has an extremely positive approach to Public Service and with his experience in this area and the education sector in general he is looking to contribute towards the continuing success of the Trust.

We are sure that both Charlotte and Chris will prove to be valuable additions to FGT.

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Expanding the trust

We remain in discussion with several Staffordshire schools regarding the possibility of them converting to an academy and joining FGT. The Trust is committed to expanding in a considered manner and hopes to increase our number of academies in the next twelve months. It is of course recognised that any

future members must be totally committed to working in the Trust and share the same values and principles as current academies. Any new FGT academies will be carefully selected to ensure that our current strength and success is not placed in jeopardy.

Annual staff training day

In November 120 Teaching and Learning Support Staff attended a Staff Training day at Cannock Chase Golf Club. The main speakers on the day were from a company called Thumbs Up Education

who delivered very practical ideas for supporting children's well-being. Staff are all looking forward to using the skills and strategies learned within their day to day roles to enhance the well-being of pupils.