

Word from Interim CEO Ruth Baldwin

Dear all,

Last half term, the young people across our schools fully embraced the mission of our Trust. As you will see from the following reports from each school, our staff continue to provide a range of enriching and creative opportunities for our pupils; enabling them to showcase their talents, not only through dance, drama, music and art but through a wide range of interlinked subjects. Our pupils have had the opportunity to learn how creativity can play a significant role in their future – through careers events, preparing for and taking part in performance, learning how to play a musical instrument, working alongside professional artists, personal research and visits to universities.



These experiences continue to enrich the curriculum within our schools and shape the future for our students. Our mission for Mersey View Learning Trust is that our schools will be a place:

- Where all leaders are aspirational and ambitious for all in our community to create learning environments which are happy, safe and enthusiastic about learning.
- That is instinctive and responsive to the needs of all members of our community and will have dynamic responses to change the lives of our learners.
- Of collaboration to create communities of learning which focus on inclusive education, built on the shared values of Respect and Equity.
- Where communities of learning focus on sharing what we do best, both academically and pastorally; supporting, challenging and inspiring our pupils and staff.
- Which invests in creating learning environments to spark curiosity and encourage creativity.
- To invest and participate in research-led professional development allowing our people to confidently develop their own practice and share success.
- Which provides enrichment and vocational opportunities to ensure that individuals are fully prepared for the future. Where we collaborate and influence at local, regional and national levels to secure the best outcomes for all.

On behalf of the Trust, I would like to thank the staff across our schools for ensuring that our young people have these rich and varied opportunities which bring the curriculum to life. These experiences develop personal confidence, highlight the importance of creativity in our lives and equip our children for a future outside the classroom.

Our schools are certainly “empowering our communities, shaping futures.”



Creativity across the curriculum at FJS

This term, as always, we have been finding creative ways of bringing history to life at Forefield Junior School. To enhance our local history studies and make learning memorable, the whole school participates in a series of activities, visits and visitors...

Our Year 3 pupils, who are already very knowledgeable about the Stone Age, worked with the archaeology team from Lunts Meadow (who have unearthed signs of human habitation from thousands of years ago). With guidance, they were able to re-create Stone Age dwellings on our school grounds – although I don't think any of them will be moving in any time soon!



Children in Year 4 took their sketchbooks to the end of Forefield Lane to capture an unusual building that has dominated the skyline since 1814. The former windmill, which is now a home, prompted lots of historical enquiry, as they discovered how to grind grain into flour to make bread. Following on from their prior learning they traced the development of simple Stone Age tools to windmills and factories.

Year 5 children visited Merchant Taylors' School to see the original Tudor buildings and try on uniforms from the past, having earlier visited Liverpool Museum to find out about the Anglo-Saxon and Viking heritage of the city. Whilst in Liverpool, they took the opportunity to sketch the Liverpool skyline ready to create their own printed cityscapes.

In Year 6, our oldest pupils found out what life would have been like for children of their age in Victorian times. The experience included being an apprentice, playing with toys and attending a Victorian school. They were on their very best behavior all day, as the staff were firmly 'in character' and a little bit scary! By the end of the week, pupils had experienced a range of hands-on learning activities and were able to trace the development of Crosby from footprints in the sand of hunter-gatherers to the creation of statues in the sand at 'Another Place.'

Forefield Infant & Nursey School



This year, in April, pupils from Forefield Infants will once again be performing as part of the Sefton Capital Schools Diversity Concert. Led by Mr Houghton, Mrs Osborne and Mrs Farrington, assisted by volunteers from Chesterfield High School, our children will perform a singing and dancing routine of a very current musical number from a hit West End show that has been recently transformed into a film. Without giving too much away, the theme of the song celebrates diversity and encourages children to defy the odds and be spectacular in whatever path they choose to pursue in life.

The children from Year 1 and Year 2, who are often the youngest performing members of the concert, are working hard, rehearsing twice a week, with one singing and one dancing session, in order to perfectly execute the showstopping performance at the concert in April this year.

The concert will once again be held in Mountford Hall, in Liverpool, which proved to be a fantastic venue for all involved last year.





Creativity Shines Through!

Valuing Personal Strengths

'*Valuing Personal Strengths*' is our school motto and we encourage all of our children and staff to be creative at school and beyond. Creativity and originality are encouraged and praised at Valewood and our arts curriculum is as strong, as vibrant and as dynamic as all of our core subjects are.

Valewood's Musicians

Whether it is in music, art or dance, the children are given many opportunities to excel across our creative arts curriculum. This term, already, we have celebrated children reaching the next level in their drumming and guitar lessons with *Musical Minds*, our commissioned music provider. It is always lovely to hear the children excelling in their piano, guitar and drumming lessons, each week.



Artist in Residence

Having been successful in gaining a Heritage Lottery Grant, we have been fortunate to have welcomed local artist, Dorothea Saul, to work with all our children, last year, on a mural which will very soon be unveiled on our Y3 & Y4 playground. This piece of art encompasses a range of art techniques and skills mastered during her time with us. These include: printing, weaving, batik, painting and embroidery. On our mural, we have also incorporated our *5 Ways to Wellbeing: Take Notice; Connect; Give; Stay Active; Keep Learning*.

VPS Talks

This school year we have introduced our *VPS Talks*, our take on TED Talks, where our children lead the learning on aspects of the curriculum they have a passion and aptitude for. So far, we have had one of our Team 6 pupils showcase their journey in art, from a toddler to now, when she was recently awarded an Arts Scholarship for Y7.

We have also enjoyed hearing from a family of creatives, three siblings who can play the drums, play the piano and who also love to perform on stage, allowing their neurodiversity to shine and not be a barrier to any aspiration or indeed any accomplishment – of which there are many!

Of late, we have also interviewed a Team 2 natural scientist whose love of the natural world has also captured the attention of Sir David Attenborough! (*See Instagram & X) His homemade, stop-start animation movie about Mary Anning's fossils also inspired his Team Reception sister to also become involved.

Creativity is not just for the arts' subjects, it can be applied across the whole curriculum. As you can see, creativity at Valewood takes many forms and we really do what we say we will: *Value Personal Strengths*. Long may creativity be celebrated across all of our curriculum subjects, across all of our MVLT schools.



Creativity: A Celebration of Dance at Chesterfield

Creativity is visible in many aspects of life at Chesterfield and our recent dance show was a perfect example of how our students bring imagination, passion, and talent to life. With an incredible 180 students from Year 7 to Year 11 taking part—nearly 25% of the girls in the school—the event was a true testament to the artistic spirit that thrives within our community.

Dance, as an art form, is a powerful vehicle for creativity, allowing students to express emotions, tell stories, and experiment with movement in ways that transcend words. Our performers showcased this beautifully through a range of performances- from stunning solo pieces to expressive duets, dynamic small group routines, and three show-stopping large year-group performances that filled the stage with energy and enthusiasm.



What made this event particularly inspiring was the diverse range of skills on display. Creativity in dance is not just about movement- it is about interpretation, originality and the ability to connect with an audience. Our students demonstrated exceptional musicality, precision and adaptability, bringing unique ideas and choreography to life in ways that were both captivating and innovative.

Beyond the technical aspects of dance, this showcase highlighted the many traits that creativity fosters- resilience, confidence, collaboration and problem-solving. Whether it was a solo dancer bravely commanding the stage, a duet performing in perfect harmony, or a large group working together to execute complex formations, each student contributed something special to the show. The ability to think creatively, adapt movements and support one another through rehearsals and performances are skill sets that will serve them well in all areas of life.

The atmosphere on the night was electric, with every performer bringing their own interpretation and energy to their routines. From contemporary to jazz, lyrical to hip-hop, each performance displayed a different dimension of creativity- whether through expressive gestures, innovative choreography, or the seamless blending of technique and storytelling.

As a school, we celebrate creativity in all its forms, and this dance show was a reminder of the incredible talent and dedication of our students. We are immensely proud of every participant, not only for their performance on stage but for the hours of hard work, perseverance and artistic exploration that led to it. A huge thank you to our dedicated dance staff, student choreographers and all those who helped make this event such a resounding success. Special thanks to all the choreographers, Mrs. Ambrose, Miss Ledgerton, Michael Neville and Josie Vaudrey for their commitment, guidance and expertise. Other students that enhanced the show with their choreographic skills included Lexi Cooper (Y12), Mischa Godfrey, Mia Biggers, Ruby Jones, Ava-May Winstanley (Y11), and Isabelle Hassett and Jaimee-Leigh Cooke (Y10). We look forward to seeing how our students continue to embrace creativity- in dance and beyond!





Pupils in our Upper Key Stage 2 have been exploring their aspirations and their goals for the future. Through their PSHE lessons, they have researched different career opportunities and the potential skills and qualities that are required to fill different roles in our society. They have been considering long-term goals and how these can be broken down into smaller, achievable short term goals.

We highly appreciate the volunteers from different sectors of our community who attended our careers event and provided our pupils with a first-hand insight into the valuable work they do. Pupils learnt a lot!

"I liked the careers event because there were lots of inspiring people there, such as a police officer, a nurse and an advert maker! I really loved that day; it was very inspiring."



Our Year 6 pupils had the fantastic opportunity to visit Liverpool University. They had a lecture in a lecture theatre about what the university has to offer and then enjoyed a tour of the campus. It made a real difference to them and their visions for their futures, to see and really feel what university life can be like and all it has to offer.

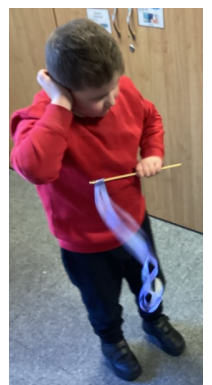
"First, we had a tour around the campus. We learnt quite a few things about what you can become and how to become it!" (Layla Y6)



The Rowan Schools proudly participated in the Walk in White for the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation, an event dedicated to raising awareness and funds to combat lung cancer. To ensure inclusivity for all our students, we carefully designed accessible routes, considering the diverse needs of children with various disabilities. This allowed every child, regardless of their abilities, to take part in this meaningful event. The Walk in White symbolizes unity and hope, honouring Roy Castle's legacy while promoting vital research and support for those affected by lung cancer. It was a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together, celebrate resilience and contribute to a cause that impacts countless lives.



Bumblebees class topic has been 'Once Upon a Time.' The children in class have been listening to classical music and practising ribbon dancing to the music- this has been a big hit in class and all the children have enjoyed their weekly, classical ribbon dance lessons. The pupils have also had lots of fun dressing up as characters from the traditional tales they have been reading in English.



On Tuesday 4th of February, some of our learners from Tryfan and Catbells classes took part in 'NOW Fest' at St. Georges Hall in Liverpool! NOW Fest is a unique and inclusive opportunity for learners to collaborate with other schools while sharing creative ideas and engaging with mental health themes, encouraging collaboration and growth.

Our schools' theme was 'resilience,' and our learners worked extremely hard to create a fun and uplifting performance that displayed what resilience means to Rowan!

Two of our learners read out an acrostic poem, encouraging others to believe in themselves and face challenges with the support from those around us, which was then followed with some fantastic signing, singing and dancing to Katy Perry's song, 'ROAR.'

We are so proud of the 11 learners that participated in this event- and as you can see from the photos, everyone had an amazing time!



The
ROWAN
Schools

Respect | Integrity | Ambition



The Rowan Tree

