



Newsletter

Issue Number 284

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The White Hills Park Trust

A Culture of Excellence

Welcoming John Clifford to our family

This weekend marks another significant stage in the life of the White Hills Park Trust. When we reopen on Tuesday, John Clifford Primary school will be the latest school to join the Trust. It is very exciting to have another wonderful local school within our partnership, and we know that Mrs Waring and her team will bring a great many strengths to our growing school family. It is our strong belief, established over many years working as a Federation, that when schools work together in partnership, it makes all parties stronger, and this is the philosophy on which our Trust is built.



This takes our Trust to five schools – Alderman White, Bramcote College, The Florence Nightingale Academy, Springbank Primary Academy and now John Clifford. All of our schools are high-achieving, successful schools with strong pupil outcomes and excellent pastoral care. Just as importantly, all of our schools share the same values, wanting every single child to be successful, to be a force for good in their community, and to benefit from a broad and rich curriculum.

In a speech earlier this week, the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, spoke of his intention to accelerate the expansion of the Academies programme, and announced some policies designed to support this. He made it clear that the government's vision is for all schools to be part of a Multi-Academy Trust and for successful trusts to expand to allow this to happen. If you are interested, you can read his speech here: [Education Secretary speech to the Confederation of School Trusts - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/education-secretary-speech-to-the-confederation-of-school-trusts)

At White Hills Park, we are very happy to play our part in this, provided it takes place in a sustainable way that provides benefits not only for incoming schools, but also for our existing schools. Whilst we welcome the opportunity to bring new schools into our partnership, it is essential that they share our values and ethos, and are committed to working in a partnership of equals. It's also essential that we have the capacity to make sure that they are successfully assimilated without any detriment to the support we provide to schools. As a result, any further expansion will be measured and considered.

There are two main reasons why a school would join the White Hills Park Trust. Firstly, there are real efficiencies in schools pooling resources to deliver services such as Finance, Human Resources and Buildings Management. We have a small, but highly skilled central team who work closely with senior leaders and support staff in schools to ensure that things run smoothly and that Head Teachers can focus their energies on what is happening in the classroom. Working across a group of schools also means that we can negotiate improved contracts and obtain value for money.

The second reason is the most important one. By working in close collaboration, we can share expertise, knowledge and experience, and give the best opportunities for our children and young people. We can share ideas on teaching and learning, observe good practice and take part in joint curriculum projects. An important part of this is the way we collaborate in the professional development of staff, which allows us to tap into the skills of the wide range of highly-skilled practitioners in our schools. For example, I sat with colleagues yesterday who were planning a joint primary-secondary project to develop maths skills in Year 6 pupils, in preparation for their transfer to secondary school.

We are still a young Trust, and much of the potential of this work is yet to be realised, but we are looking forward to an exciting future.

Dr. Paul Heery
Chief Executive Officer



Alderman White Unmuted

Alderman White Unmuted is our brand new podcast, available now on Spotify and YouTube.

In Episode 1 we talk to a group of Alderman White teachers near the start of their careers to ask how their gender has affected their careers, how we can challenge what we see in the media, and ask what we can do differently to promote positive male attitudes towards women.

Listen and Subscribe!



[Spotify](#)



[YouTube](#)



Do you have an idea of a topic we could discuss in a future episode? Email podcasts@aldermanwhite.school

School App

Have you downloaded our NEW free App yet?

My Child At School (MCAS) is a free **online Portal** and **App** that enables parents to view key information about their children and the school, and to easily contact the school with queries or to report absence.

My Child At School has replaced our previous app MyEd, which should no longer be used.

We will now be using My Child At School to communicate information relating to your child. Your registration details for this platform have already been sent out by email, however if you are experiencing problems with this then please contact school.

The best way to access the portal is the My Child At School Parent App, available to download on iOS and Android devices. (Alternatively, the portal can also be accessed via an internet browser using a laptop or computer).

We will also continue to use email to contact you and so it is important that we hold the correct and most relevant email addresses for the household on our central system - and you can now check and update the details we hold through My Child At School.

Absences

If you need to inform the school about an **absence** for your child then you can do so using My Child At School.

To do this, click 'messages' and select Alderman White school. From here, you can message the school giving details for the absence.

Alternatively, you can send a text to 07860054161, call us on 0115 9175959 or email attendance@aldermanwhite.school.

For information on the portal and app can be found on our website: aldermanwhite.school/parents/app



Year 12 Engineering Gold Project Success

Congratulations to our team of Year 12 Engineers Shivanshi Adlakha, Trinity Kendrick, Hatim Bharmal, Ben Roberts, Oliver Beech and Thomas Evans who completed their project on Monday by presenting their work through a webinar to a panel of engineers who each work for different companies across the UK.

Their project has involved working closely with 2 engineers from Boots, Paul Hitchen (a chemical engineer and technical manager at Boots) and Alex Drakeley (manager of the D200 Energy Centre). A massive thank you to them for their support and guidance throughout this project.



Back in Autumn, the students were given some project briefs and decided to work on 'Energy Innovation in Stores'. This involved research into the energy used at Boots stores across the country, finding out what systems Boots already employ to save energy and then trying to come up with an entirely new idea and working through to a full working design that Boots would be able to implement.

Through research, consideration to the current pandemic situation, customer surveys and some brilliant teamwork, they came up with an idea for touch free automatic fridge doors - their design would help save energy by keeping cold air in the fridge whilst allowing touch free opening to save the spread of germs. The team then had to research the parts required, learn how they worked and create a workable design.

Throughout the project the team have gained invaluable skills for working in future careers, especially the skills looked for by top Universities and degree level apprenticeships.

Well done and good luck for the future!!

Mrs G Colley