

BOTHAL AND CENTRAL NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2023

NJCA Congress - Chess Competition

We are delighted to share the remarkable progress of the chess club and team at the ALP Trust with you. We recently had the privilege of hosting an event that brought county chess back to Ashington, as Bothal Primary School successfully organised their inaugural congress.

The day itself was nothing short of incredible, and we are particularly pleased with the overwhelmingly positive feedback received from parents. Throughout the day, the children demonstrated impressive performance levels across the U9 and U11 age categories.

Their commitment and achievements reflect the dedication of both pupils and educators alike and we look forward to further fostering their growth in the world of chess.

Mr Nicholson/Mr Longley

Mini Bus Fundraising

A big thank you to all who have donated towards our fundraising project to purchase a school minibus. A special thank you to Clara in Year 3 who raised a fantastic £100 selling her pre-loved toys at a local car boot sale.

Following the successful summer danceathon and end of school year events, we raised £5,298.84. Our Christmas performances raised £1,714.09 with an additional £1,566.77 from the commission of Christmas card sales.

Our totaliser is now standing at £8,579.70.

We will continue to drive forward in the New Year to reach our target of £20,000. If you have any fundraising ideas to help us reach our target, please contact any site office.

Natasha Miller
Business Manager (Finance)

SkillsBuilder & Careers



This term, the ALP was re-awarded Skills Builder Flagship Status for our work with Essential Skills. This award makes the ALP one of only fourteen organisations to hold Flagship Status internationally.



For our work with careers, in November, our schools were assessed and awarded the Career Mark. The Career Mark is awarded for excellence in careers, employability and enterprise provision. The Career Mark assessment of our schools reported:

'These schools are an exceptional example of the delivery of careers related learning. Their structures, curriculum framework and delivery practices are amongst the very best and pupil response is exceptional. As a result, pupils are given the best possible preparation to make a successful transition to secondary education and to a successful and fulfilling working life'.

The ALP also achieved the Primary Gatsby Benchmarks. The Primary Gatsby Benchmarks are defined as a framework for world-class careers provision. Well done to everyone involved.

Inclusion Conference



Well done to pupils from Bothal Primary who were selected to attend the first 'Student Inclusion Panel' at Northumberland County Council. In advance of the first meeting, pupils worked hard to prepare a presentation sharing their views on what makes an

inclusive education system. On Wednesday 13 December, the children presented their views to members of the Local Authority. Mike Finley, Head of SEND commented, "The messages were incredibly powerful and clearly demonstrated the Local Authorities need to follow their direction and empower their voices and words. It is clear how important our collective role is to facilitate this."

In the coming weeks, the children will attend further meetings and have tasks to complete to support the development of local Authority SEND provision.

Trust of Sanctuary



During the Autumn term, the Ashington Learning Partnership was delighted to renew its status as a Trust of Sanctuary. This award has been held for three years and recognises the Trust's outstanding practice in fostering a culture of belonging and solidarity. As part of this work, pupils develop their awareness of what it means to be inclusive and celebrate the diverse community which the ALP represents. The trust remains one of a handful of schools within Northumberland to achieve this status and is delighted to continue to provide support and guidance to other schools wishing to pursue this accreditation.

All Things Christmas



The children and staff have enjoyed several festive events throughout December, including a visit to Pop up Santa, the Salvation Army band, a Pantomime and a Christmas Disco. Special thanks to our Trust Catering team who served a delicious Christmas lunch to children, staff and a number of local community members.

Thank you to the many parents, carers and Grandparents who came to support our Christmas performances. The children really enjoyed performing in front of an audience. Thank you to the staff who worked tirelessly to ensure the performances ran smoothly.

Staff Leaving Us

Sadly, two long serving members of staff will be leaving us at Christmas.

Mrs Irving is retiring this year after 27 years of service supporting learners. We wish her well on her very well deserved retirement.

Mr Browell is leaving to spend more time with his young and extending family. Mr Browell has worked for the Trust for 7 years and in this time has been instrumental in supporting our learners to be inspired by the arts. He will be a big miss, but he knows that the door is always open if he ever fancies time away from being dad.

Future Dates:

Parents' evening ...

Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th February

- Lower sites 3.30-6.00pm
- Upper Sites 3.40-6.15pm

We have been busy planning several trips and experiences for the children to enjoy in the New Year. In October we shared an overview of planned trips for each year group which included events both local to the community and those further afield. We recognise that trips can be expensive for families and are keen to ensure that they are cost effective, enhance the Curriculum and provide an enjoyable experience for the children. To support financial planning, a cost breakdown will be provided in January.

Thank You

As always, thank you for your continued support. This term has been a tremendous one for our Trust and one in which every member of our community should be incredibly proud.

I would like, on behalf of the staff, governors and trustees of The Ashington Learning Partnership to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, spending time with your family and friends.

We have staff training on Monday 8th January so the children will return to school on Tuesday 9th January at the normal time.

Best Wishes
Louise Hall
Executive Headteacher

