



LIFE Matters

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Autumn 2018

Message from the CEO

This has been one of the most successful terms for the Trust so far.

Both Dame Tipping and Margaretting Primary schools joined us on September 1st and at the same time The Bridge became an Independent School sponsored by the Trust after a very positive visit from Ofsted at the end of the summer term. We have had a significant number of meetings together as a group of 5 schools and it has been a real pleasure getting to know everyone.

Results for the schools have also been extremely positive with Dame Tipping making huge progress to be well above local and national averages and Frances Bardsley above average at both GCSE and A level with their best results ever in both key stages.

We continue to work with schools that are interested in joining the Trust this year as well as some excellent secondary, primary and alternative provision partners. All our schools have external support from Edison learning if they desire as well as working with other Good and Outstanding schools across Essex and Havering.

One of our distinctives is the way we use our awareness of mental health and wellbeing to support staff and students. We have used personality profiling across the Trust to help us understand ourselves and to more effectively lead others. In fact our work has been praised by the Executive Leader of the National Coalition of Girls Schools in the United States who visited FBA and The Bridge in November.

We held our first Celebration Evening for all LIFE schools this term as well as our second Christmas Carol Concert. Both were very well attended.

LIFE staff now provide all the Maths support for schools in Havering and Barking and Dagenham and the English support for Barking and Dagenham schools as well as providing leadership support for schools and headteachers' performance management.

As we expand, we will be adding several new staff at Trust level in the next few months including additional support for Human Resources and Marketing.

The Church of England is a vital partner in our work and our Church schools received positive visits from Carrie Prior from the Diocese this term. I also had the privilege of attending Board meetings for The Vine Trust last week to learn about the ways a larger MAT operates and the first Anglican National Secondary Conference as FBA is an affiliated Secondary school.

Other successes include Benhurst becoming the Outstanding SMART school of the year with Stella McCarthy from Benhurst named as Outstanding Exemplary Educator, and the Head Girl at Margaretting winning a competition to work with dance band Diversity on a televised Christmas advert which is now out.

All of our schools led poignant events to commemorate the 100 years anniversary of the end of the First World War. Rachel Grimwood organised a residential trip to Ypres in Belgium where FBA students met with students from their German partner school, Marienschule, in Opladen. The highlight was meeting the Belgian Prime Minister briefly at the Menim Gate, an event televised on SKY TV.

Finally I want to finish by thanking Father Hingley at FBA, Fred Steel at Benhurst and Jacqueline Stringer at Margaretting who have all completed their terms as Chairs of their respective Local Governing Bodies. This is an invaluable role and we are grateful for their incredible support. Both Father Hingley and Fred will continue as governors.

Best Wishes
Julian Dutnall, CEO

Message from the Chair

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the latest edition of LIFE Matters and to introduce myself. I am the new Chair of the Board of LIFE, having been involved as Vice-Chair for the past two years. It is a privilege to be able to work with such inspirational, committed people! We are anticipating exciting times ahead as the Trust grows and as our students achieve and succeed through the amazing support of their families and LIFE staff. We have seen great success at all key stages and in GCSE and A Level results this summer and we look forward to building on these successes in the months and years to come. I would like to encourage you to become involved with LIFE, whether by volunteering at school for a couple of hours a term, or by joining one of the Local Governing Bodies: we would love to hear from you and to support your involvement.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those involved in the Trust: students, parents and carers, staff, Local Governing Body and Board members. None of our success would be possible without you and I am so proud of all the hard work that each and every one of you undertakes in order to help our children and young people thrive and succeed. Finally, I want to thank Ann Smart, the outgoing Chair, for her enormous commitment and dedication to forming and growing the Trust and wish her well in her future endeavours.

Louise Douglas

Frances Bardsley

I am delighted to report our examination results for 2018 which are the best in the school's history. This year, students at both GCSE and A-level sat a range of reformed examinations which were far more challenging than in previous years and they have performed superbly well.

GCSE Performance

There are two new government headline figures: **Progress 8** and **Attainment 8**.

Progress 8 is a measure of the progress made by students in a school from their starting point in Year 7. We achieved +0.19 which puts us Above Average nationally and shows that students at Frances Bardsley make better progress than their peers. Our Attainment 8 score of 5.03 shows that on average students scored a Grade 5 (Strong Pass) in their GCSEs.

The percentage of students achieving **5 or more 9-4/A*-C grades including English and Mathematics was 70.9%** which is well above the national average and local authority average and was an increase from last year. In English and Maths combined, 77% of students achieved a Grade 4 or higher and 49% achieved a Grade 5 or higher.

Our top performers achieved:

- 6 Grade 9s, 2 Grade 8s and 2 Grade 7s

Benhurst

In September, we appointed our Year 6 Leadership Team for 2018-19. Every child in Year 6 is given a specific role which helps the school run more smoothly and provides the children with an additional responsibility as we prepare them for secondary school. Many congratulations to Shaathijan and Rosa who are our Head boy and Head girl as well as Sidney and Alena who are our Deputy Head boy and Deputy Head girl. They will share a number of important duties and will be representing our school at various events throughout the year.

We have also appointed our Pupil Parliament representatives for the term as well as children from Year 2 to Year 6 for the Learning Environment Team, Travel Ambassadors, Curriculum Committee, Restorative Rangers, Eco-Committee and LIFE Ambassadors. Given this level of Pupil Voice and decision making, we may not need Mr Denchfield and Mrs Hart for much longer!

David Denchfield, Headteacher



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- 5 Grade 9s, 4 Grade 8s and 1 Grade 6
- 4 Grade 9s, 2 Grade 8s, 1 A*, 3 Grade 7s and Level 3 Algebra
- 4 Grade 9s, 5 Grade 8s and 1 Grade A
- 3 Grade 9s, 4 Grade 8s, 1 A* and 2 Grade 7s
- 3 Grade 9s, 4 Grade 8s, 1 A* and Level 3 Algebra

A-Level Performance

At A level, **our pass rate was 100%**, a fantastic result for a comprehensive school. Almost **50% of the grades were A*- B**, a significant increase from last year.

We have a number of students who achieved at least two A or A* grades whilst many others achieved above predicted grades which means that students in our Sixth Form make greater than expected progress compared to their peers.

I am proud of the commitment of our staff and students and the support of our parents and governors. Whilst examination results continue to be a vital part of school life at FBA, we continue to maintain an environment where students learn values and attributes, and have opportunities, that will help them be successful in the future.

David Turrell,
Senior Vice Principal



Margaretting

On 1st September 2018, Margaretting C of E Primary School was delighted to join LIFE Educational Trust. The decision to join the LIFE was an easy one: I had researched many Multi Academy Trusts and Federations and recognised that LIFE MAT had so much to offer our school. Before we joined the MAT we had the pleasure of meeting many of the key staff involved in the MAT. These people are inspirational and creative with excellent empathy and values. We see the journey of our school as exciting and forward thinking as we enter our first year with this growing and expanding MAT. Our 155 year old village school, with a good Ofsted and good SIAMS and above national average results for the past few years will have something to offer the other schools in the MAT also. This is an exciting partnership and has changed the history of the school. We look forward to a very happy and bright future together.

Maire O'Regan, Headteacher



Dame Tipping

We have been very busy at Dame Tipping raising money for our local community. The first event was Carol singing at Queen's Hospital. Our small choir of Year 5 and 6 pupils sang beautifully and raised £83.34 in just half an hour. The second event involved the whole school. The children were sponsored to run across the fields wearing the reindeer antlers that they made. We raised an astonishing £2037.87. The money will go to provide children in hospital over Christmas with gifts. We are so proud of the compassion that our children, parents and staff show to others.

Kathryn Waters, Headteacher



LIFE Celebration Event

On 2nd November, Trust schools gathered for their first annual evening of celebration. We celebrated students who had been LIFE Ambassadors or had completed the LIFE Passport. We also celebrated students who had shown Resilience, Internationalism, Spirituality and Creativity during the last academic year and were moved by their stories.

We watched wonderful performances from our schools including singing, poetry, dance and musical items - a brilliant occasion! Parents and Carers, Headteachers and staff as well as Members and Directors of the Trust joined us and we are very much looking forward to next year's event! Thank you to everyone who took part.

The Bridge

On Wednesday 10th October, The Bridge hosted the #Hello Yellow Event, supporting World Mental Health Day. Staff and Students worked incredibly hard, baking cakes, creating bunting and staff and students wrote their very own inspiring quote which adorned the school walls. The event was attended by School Governors, parents, grandparents, aunties and uncles of our students. Everyone who attended wore yellow to mark the occasion.

The feedback we received from all who attended was extremely positive and we raised in excess of £100.00 for the Charity Young Minds.

Toni Cox, Head of School

YOUNGMINDS

