



# LIFE Matters



Brentwood Road, Romford, Essex RM1 2RR

Tel: 01708 463866 E: [info@lifeeducationtrust.com](mailto:info@lifeeducationtrust.com) [www.lifeeducationtrust.com](http://www.lifeeducationtrust.com)

Chief Executive Officer Julian Dutnall LLB BA MA NPQH

LIFE Education Trust is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales no 08102628 at the above address

## Spring 2018

### Message from the CEO

As well as battling with the snow and making some challenging decisions about whether to continue keeping our schools open or not, we have been thinking hard this term about the direction of travel of our Trust. This has involved focusing firmly on school improvement as a key priority and making sure our evaluations in each school are accurate. Ian Gurman has been instrumental in leading in this area and we continue to work with Edison Learning who visit each term to quality assure our work.

Healthchecks have become a valuable part of our schools' self-evaluation and from now on they will replace the lengthy Self Evaluation Form (SEF) which schools used to complete. Our work will become more focused and agile as a result.

Our ethos is a key attraction for a number of schools who are looking to join us. LIFE schools believe that Learning Is For Everyone and we want to put learning at the heart of all we do in the coming years. Rachel Grimwood has visited each of our schools to look at how they help students understand our principles; Learning from the Past; Living in the Present and Looking to the Future. It is great to see that so many activities and events focus on these crucial areas of student development.

David Denchfield is leading a group of Havering Heads on a transition project which will make the journey from Primary to Secondary school as positive as possible. He also sits on the board of the new Havering Academy of Leadership which is seeking to coordinate opportunities across the Borough.

Next term we expect to be able to share more about the schools that are looking to join the Trust and the links with the Diocese of Chelmsford that Ann mentions in her message. Have a great Easter and enjoy the lighter evenings and hopefully some warmer days.

Best wishes  
**Julian Dutnall, CEO**

### Message from the Chair

This has been a busy term. The Board held a Development Session in January at which it considered strategic issues affecting the Trust, including the possibility of working with Church of England schools. If Church schools do join the Trust, 25% of our Members and Directors will be nominated by the Diocese to protect the interests of the Church schools. The Ethos and Values of our existing non-denominational schools will be unaffected.

We held a Governor Training Day in February which was well attended and have refined our School Healthcheck, which we use to monitor all aspects of our schools.

There was also a very good Governor day at Benhurst, where members of the Local Governing Body and the LIFE Board were able to observe the school in operation.

School improvement remains at the top of our agenda and students and staff are working hard to ensure the best outcomes at Key stages 2 and 4 this summer.

**Ann Smart OBE**

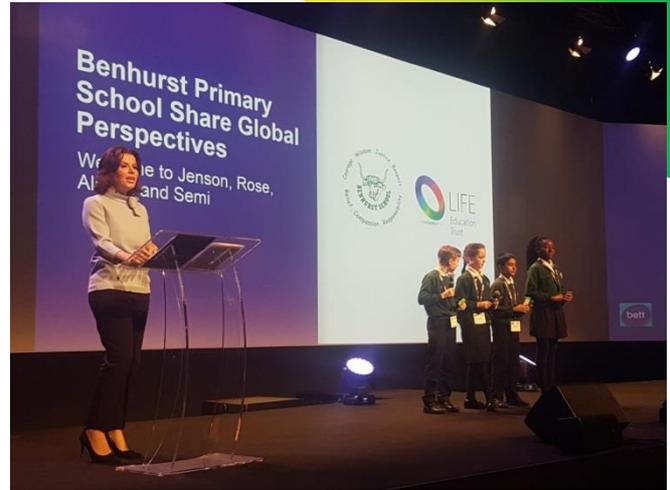
# Benhurst

## BETT Week 2018

In January, Benhurst hosted a number of educational visitors from overseas who wanted to learn about the innovative and engaging way we use technology at school. The visitors saw our staff and children using the interactive screens, iPads, Chrome Books the ICT Suite and a range of software used to support teaching and learning. They were particularly interested with our “flipped learning” approach where our children lead their own learning and teach one another

Our Year 6 Digital Leaders presented on the main SMART stand for two days of BETT week and spoke with dozens of school leaders and educationalists. Four of our Digital Leaders (Rose, Jenson, Semi and Alamin) were asked to present on the main BETT stage with Natasha Kaplinsky to an audience of over 1000!

The BETT week was a huge success for our school and thoroughly enjoyed by the children and staff. We look forward to more exciting opportunities at next year’s event!



## Frances Bardsley

During the past two years students and teachers from Frances Bardsley, Marienschule (Opladen, Germany) and Escola Afondo Lopes, (Vieria, Portugal) have been cooperating in an EU Erasmus + project entitled “**My values, your values, our values**” dealing with the importance of teaching and learning values against the European framework. All three schools have decided to work closely together on that topic since we believe that in times where Europe is facing serious conflicts and challenges, we must experience first-hand the common values that bind us together such as mutual respect.

Following their first meeting, students tried to find out what their personal values were and if they were values shared with their European partners. The result was “respect” as the value they regarded as most important.

In the meetings so far, the students have used the pedagogical method, international service learning, i.e. when visiting the other countries they come into contact with people from the local area and learn what it means to “live” values.

In October we will have the final conference in Romford where our students will present what they have learned about the importance of values in the modern world.



## Meet the Team

Ian started his teaching career in 1980 and spent much of the next decade travelling, living and working abroad. Ian has held middle and senior leadership roles in three Inner London secondary schools, as Deputy Headteacher in two schools, a period as Acting Head in one and achieving the NPQH. More recently, Ian has worked as a senior education adviser for Havering Local Authority and for a national academy chain. His advisory work has been across the primary and secondary phases, specialising in data analysis and improving teaching and learning and school leadership. Ian has regularly delivered staff training at all levels, including to headteachers and governors and has undertaken Ofsted inspector training and supports schools through the inspection process, as well as carrying out school reviews. Ian is also an experienced school Governor in Primary and Post 16 settings.

