

The Mead Academy Trust Annual Report 2014



The Mead Academy Trust

This year has been a year of great change for The Mead Academy Trust. Building on our foundations of excellence in The Mead Community Primary School we have expanded to add two more academies to our family.

We were successful in winning the tender to open a new purpose-built school in East Trowbridge. This new school, Castle Mead School, opened on time in September 2014. The school incorporates a nursery, giving us the opportunity to offer exceptional early years education and care from age 2.

We also welcomed River Mead School (formerly King's Park Academy) in Melksham to the Trust. The school had previously been judged inadequate and placed in special measures leading to its sponsorship by United Learning in 2013. In September the school was transferred into The Mead Academy Trust from United Learning as this was felt to be the best way to support the school's needs by stakeholders. River Mead also includes nursery provision and a resource base and we are working hard to develop the school's facilities and support its children.

As a Trust we have continued to develop communication with parents with development of new websites for each school and engagement with parents to gain feedback to develop our reporting, parent consultations and newsletters. We have developed our provision across the Trust to offer before and after school care for all our families supporting our working parents and carers.

In September 2014 Universal Free School Meals were introduced and we enlarged our catering facilities to enable us to offer all our KS1 and Early years children healthy, balanced meals as part of this provision. We are also supplying another local school with meals from our Castle Mead Kitchen.

The introduction of the new national curriculum and assessment without levels has been a key focus for both our teachers and our leadership team. We have utilised the experience and expertise across the Trust to develop and support the introduction of the new curriculum. Our subject specialist teachers are continuing to support each other across the Trust to achieve its implementation. Subject and team leaders are also enabling the introduction of our new assessment system and reporting methods. The benefits of support within and across the Trust has been evident in the introduction of both of these important new government policies.

As a Teaching School we have developed our initial teacher training programmes and our research and development making a real difference to children's learning in all our Trust schools and in participating schools outside the Trust.

We work with all schools in Trowbridge, and with Collaborative Schools Ltd, sharing ideas and expertise across the cluster. We are committed to a collaborative approach to education which gives opportunities to improve what we do and share best practice with colleagues within and outside the Trust.

We have been able to develop an administrative and support team across the Trust. We now have specialist support and administration teams and are achieving economies of scale that benefit all 3 academy schools.

Our collaborative approach and our commitment to continuous improvement and professional development through a combination of research, rigorous monitoring and evaluation, peer support and focused leadership is helping us deal with the challenges arising from changes in education and the expansion of the Trust.

Our activities continue to be driven by a desire to ensure that every child has the very best opportunities we can give them. Our ethos and values drive all our activity across the Trust. We aim for our schools to be places where there are expectations of excellence, where individuals are valued, achievements celebrated and where children are happy and safe. We want our schools to be held in the highest esteem by pupils, staff, parents, governors and the wider community. We want pupils and staff to enjoy coming to school every day, and take pride in moving their school ever forward.

We look forward to the next year and the opportunities it will offer to develop our schools and our children.

Mel Jacob

Chair, The Mead Academy Trust



The Mead Academy Trust Leadership & Governance

The Mead Academy Trust is a multi-academy trust responsible for 3 academy schools –The Mead School, River Mead School and Castle Mead School.

Lyssy Bolton, Executive Headteacher, leads the Trust with Heads of School, Head of Teaching School and a Head of Inclusion responsible across the Trust. Each School has its own leadership team with Deputy Headteachers and Senior Teachers driving all aspects of teaching and learning.



Lyssy Bolton
Executive
Headteacher



Emma Holton
Head of
The Mead



Nicki Henderson
Head of
River Mead



Tracy Boulton
Head of
Castle Mead



Lindsay Palmer
Head of
Teaching School



Kirsty Jamieson
Head of
Inclusion

Administration
and
Support Team

A shared administration and support team works across the trust managing all aspects of administration, finance , facilities and premises management. This team is supported by the Resources Committee which is made up of Governors with delegated responsibility for these aspects of governance.

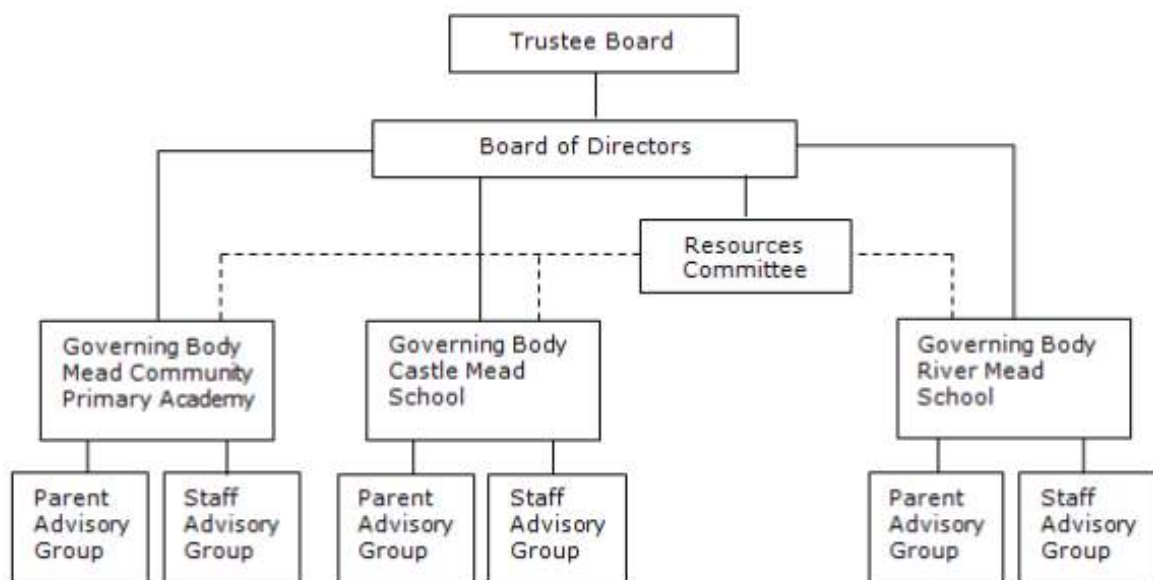
Each school has its own Local Governing Body which includes a parent representative. The local Governing Bodies focus on each school and their specific priorities within the context of the Trust.

Our Governors come from a range of education and business backgrounds giving us a range of skills and perspectives to challenge and support each school and ensure it meets its objectives and statutory duties.

We have a highly professional and skilled leadership team across the Trust and in each school. We are proud that the majority of our senior leaders have trained and developed within the Trust and we continue to develop new talent through our work as a Teaching School. We foster a culture of research and our staff are involved in 'learning setts' supporting their professional development through teacher research and enquiry.

We value our relationships with stakeholders and are working to develop our staff and parent advisory groups as well as continuing to offer community events to engage with our parents and wider community. We give our children a range of opportunities to lead and influence their learning and their community. These opportunities are presented both through formal roles like the school councils and through child initiated projects. This year is our Citizenship Year and we are working to give our children more chances to think about their role in society and democracy as well as celebrate their diversity.

**Mead Academy Trust – Governance
Overall Structure**





In February we received an outstanding judgement from Ofsted for our third consecutive full inspection. We are very proud to have been judged to be an Outstanding School again. Read our report here: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/138133>. This is a fantastic achievement and demonstrates the relentless work to maintain standards and develop our practice from year to year.

In statutory assessments our children achieved very well:

- Phonics achievement was above national at Year 1 and Year 2
- KS1 achievement was significantly above the national average in Reading and Maths. It was broadly in line with the national average in writing.
- KS2 achievement was broadly in line with the national average



Key achievements this year included:

- Introduction of Universal Infant Free School Meals
- We were included as one of six exemplary Early Years providers on the Ofsted web-site. You can watch the video filmed in Ladybirds here: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/right-start-early-years-good-practice-films-mead-community-primary-school>
- We hosted our Science and Technology Community Day in May. Read more at <http://growabetterbrain.wordpress.com/>





Castle Mead School opened at the beginning of September 2014 with Tracy Boulton as Head of School. The School has opened with a nursery on site and providing catering services to another local school.

The school opened with just over 60 children and has now reached over 100 on roll. We are welcoming new children in every year group all the time. We are thrilled that the school is growing rapidly but this also provides a challenge, settling new arrivals in to the school and helping them get used to their new classes.

The nursery is a great environment and has fantastic space inside and out. Its numbers are growing steadily and we hope to continue to grow over the coming year and aim to offer care from age 2 in the future.

Working in a brand new building is a real luxury but also brings its own challenges with additional work for the school's leaders and governors dealing with the inevitable snagging and defects.

The parents and wider community are hugely supportive and we are looking forward to working with them in the coming year to set up a Parent Teacher Association and links with the growing community on the new development.





River Mead School joined the Trust in September under the leadership of Head of School Nicki Henderson. The school community has welcomed the Trust and been hugely supportive during the move from United Learning to The Mead Academy Trust. The children were involved in choosing a new name for the school and designing its new logo.

The classes have been immersing themselves in a range of topics with role play areas and visitors to enrich their learning environments—the use of ‘super starters’, ‘marvellous middles’ and ‘fantastic finishes’ is an approach shared across the Trust to inspire children to write with a purpose and to enjoy their learning. Parents are invited to get involved in sharing and celebrating their children’s learning.



We have been working to ensure that the children have a well designed and supportive environment in which to learn. This has involved changing the use of some rooms and areas creating opportunities for interventions and other activities. We have been working to improve the IT provision with improvements in hardware and software and connectivity to support the children’s learning.



The introduction of music opportunities with a Trust specialist music teacher working with specific year groups and peripatetic music teachers offering individual tuition has been an important development since September. As a Trust we are passionate about giving children the opportunity to enjoy and explore music during their school life.



At the Mead Teaching School we are at the forefront of shaping inspirational leadership and learning in education. With children at the heart of everything we do, we aim to nurture a passion for lifelong learning through an enriched and innovative curriculum.



The Mead Teaching School is focused around The Big 6:-

- Initial Teacher Training
- School to School Support
- CPD
- Leadership
- SLEs
- Research and development

The teaching school is developing and growing all the time, led by Lindsay Palmer.



The school has been involved in projects with 3D printers, Lego and continues to be an exemplar of Early Years education. Some of the key achievements and benefits this year include:

- a new website www.themeadteachingschool.org.uk
- 29 Trainees started the Schools Direct programme on 1 September 2014.
- Applications for 45 primary SD places for 2105/2016 submitted to NCTL.
- 'Early Years at The Mead' days continue to be over-subscribed and are fully booked until May 2015.
- Learning Setts continue as a basis for CPD and R&D activity with The Mead.
- TMAT staff continue to access high quality CPD due to the Teaching School.



The Mead Academy Trust



The Mead Academy Trust: a company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England: Company number 08024396.
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