



Collaboration & Community News

GOVERNOR BULLETIN

March 2025

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STAYING IN TOUCH

A joint bulletin from the CEO & Director of Governance

We have had a good start to 2025 at The Great Heights Academy Trust with many successes. In this edition of our Community Newsletter, we have some exciting items to share including a world cup medal winner who started out at one of our own academies. Our governor's network meetings continue to be well attended – this time we even had a Greetland governor joining us virtually all the way from Japan!

It is also very pleasing to note the Ofsted reports from both Colne Valley and The MFG acknowledged the good work our governors and trustees do. The MFG November 2024: "Trustees and governors have a strong commitment to the school. They have a thorough understanding of the school's work and fulfil their statutory duties." CVHS January 2025: "The trust has put in place an experienced interim local governing body (ILGB) to support and challenge school leaders. The ILGB and the trust have a strong oversight of the school."

This bulletin is designed to celebrate and connect LGBs, trustees and members within the area of community news. As ever, do contact the Trust offices and/or Andrew as Director of Governance if any further clarity is required.

- ★ Communication within this bulletin should support the regular in-between reportable time frames between board members and leaders, again within a workload friendly backdrop.
- ★ Principals and Heads of School have been reminded of the importance of keeping their board updated on significant changes, emergency activation or near misses in 'real timeframes.' We are working on guidance and best practice sharing to further articulate the importance.

IN THE NEWS

1. Former Carlinghow pupil earns bronze medal with GB bobsleigh team

Proud mum and Senior Business Support Officer at Carlinghow Academy Debbie Greenwood is celebrating her son Leon's success as a GB bobsleigh athlete. Last month Leon was part of the four-man team that won the bronze medal for Great Britain in the World Cup at Lillehammer.

Born and raised in Batley, Leon's journey began at Carlinghow Princess Royal Primary School. Originally a sprinter, Leon's athletic aspirations suffered a setback following an injury. Despite being told he would never run again, he defied the odds with sheer determination. Today, he is a Team GB competitor, preparing for the next Winter Olympics - now less than 12 months away.

This 2024/25 season, Leon's hard work and resilience have earned him multiple World Cup medals, including a spectacular gold in St. Moritz. His impressive performances also secured the prestigious Bronze Crystal Globe, proving that no obstacle is too great to overcome.

Leon's story is a powerful testament to resilience and the relentless pursuit of dreams. With the Olympics on the horizon, his journey continues.



4. Spotlight on Colne Valley High School

Parents' SEND Coffee Morning



Our Inclusion team is hosting a coffee morning on Friday 28 March, from 9:10 am to 10:10 am.

This event is for parents who would like to have an informal chat with the SEND team, Wellbeing Team, Family Support Worker and School Counsellor. A great opportunity for parents to ask questions and meet with the teams. If you are interested in attending the coffee morning, please email kmackie@thecvhs.co.uk

Student council strengthen connections with local community



Cllr Bev Addy and Michelle Ross from Democracy Kirklees met with our student councillors to discuss community engagement and launch a social action project. The students are now advocating for improved youth provisions in Slaithwaite, encouraging their peers to contribute to local services and foster a sense of social responsibility.

Year 8 crowned Pentathlon champions



Several of our Year 8 pupils participated in the Kirklees Pentathlon competition and were crowned Kirklees champions. They went on to represent Kirklees at the West Yorkshire finals and finished an impressive 4th out of 8 schools. The winning team scored 75 points, while the CVHS team earned 71, making it a very close result. A huge congratulations to all our team members!

MAKING 'HUGE STRIDES': RESEARCH SCHOOL CONTINUES TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN



Great Heights
Research School
West Yorkshire

Supported by the Education Endowment Foundation

2. Great Heights Research School secures funding to strengthen school support as its influence grows

★ We were delighted to learn that the Research Schools Network has extended the funding for the Great Heights Research School into 2026/27, enabling the team to continue supporting many schools in the region. The letter confirming extension of funding said "Together we've made huge strides in delivering the activity in the regional mobilisation strategy, from the co-constructed regional partnerships through to a suite of Clips from the Classroom videos. Throughout this work, our shared mission to break the link between family income and pupil outcomes has remained a driving force."

★ Research School lead Jess Mellor is this month attending a Research Symposium hosted at Eton College, to discuss a flourishing leadership framework being developed in conjunction with the Church of England. Other attendees include Cat Scutt, Deputy CEO at Chartered College of Teaching and Leora Cruddas, Chief Executive of the Confederation of School Trusts.

★ Jess Mellor has also been invited to a SHINE drinks reception at the House of Lords in April. The event will bring together winners of the SHINE grant with key philanthropists and influencers, for a conversation about ways of working together to improve outcomes for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Jess was awarded a £25,000 Let Teachers SHINE award in 2024 for the Fixing Fluency project, which aims to help children read more fluently, so they can understand and enjoy their reading, helping them to achieve greater success at school.



WORLD BOOK DAY 2025



3. Photographs from around the Trust



Linking Governors to existing communication

Please do connect to your academy leaders on these trust communications for regular updates.

- Leadership Update [Newsletter](#) February 2025

