

CEO NEWSLETTER



School Year 2018/19

Issue 6

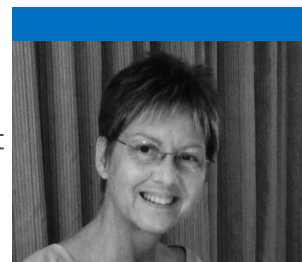
Summer 2

Good afternoon everyone!

What a fantastic year we have all had....yes it has been very busy with so many different events and of course, two successful Ofsted inspections!

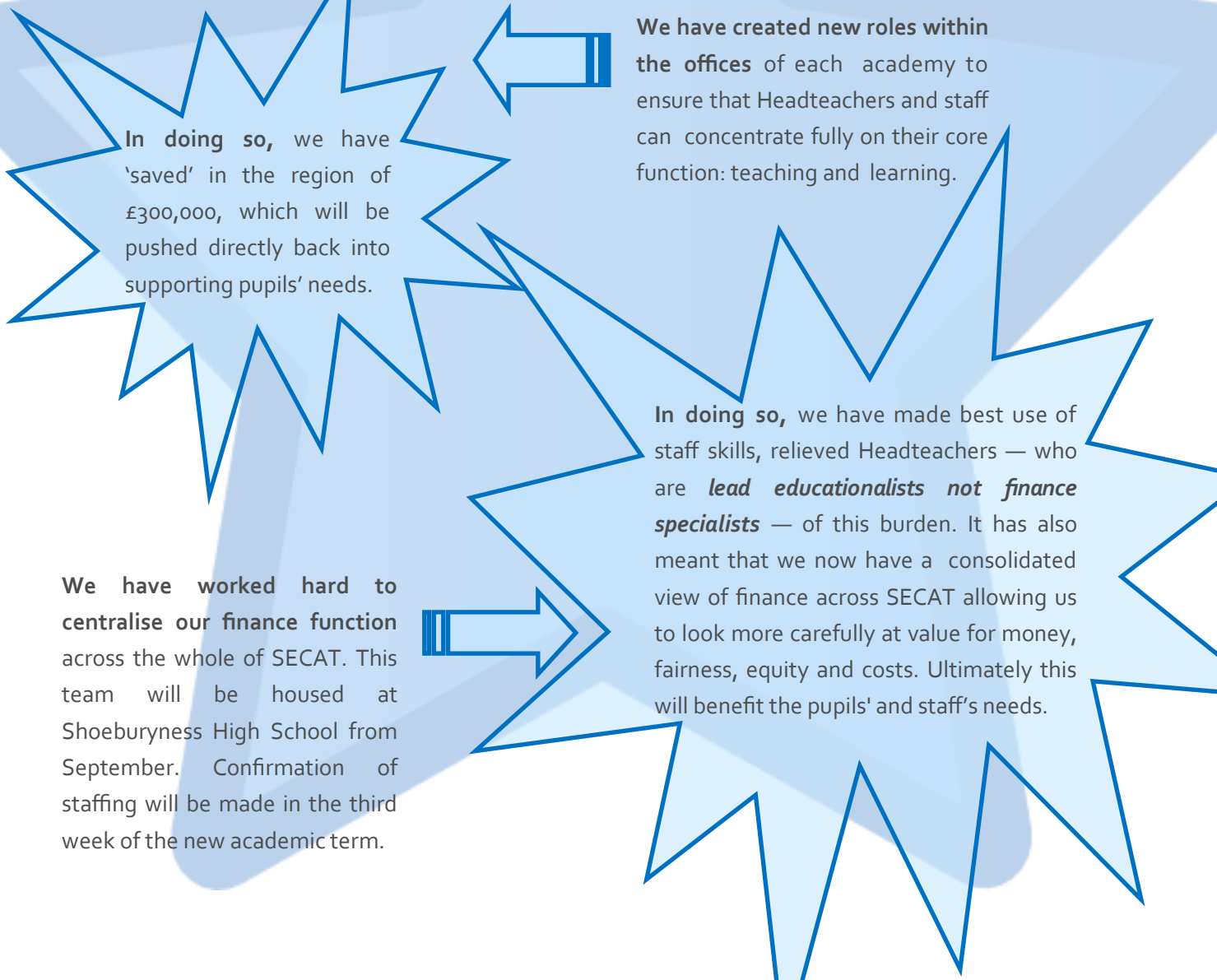
Well done everyone—pupils, parents, staff and governors.

Since starting in the role of CEO of SECAT in September 2018, there has been much to do...that could not have been possible without the dedication and determination of not just me, but a whole team of people. These include those staff who are currently supporting the Central Team, Headteachers and their staff, Trustees and Members.



RUTH BROCK
SECAT CEO

So I hear you ask, what have we done to benefit the children and young people in our thriving community?



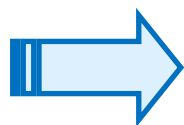
In doing so, we have 'saved' in the region of £300,000, which will be pushed directly back into supporting pupils' needs.

We have created new roles within the offices of each academy to ensure that Headteachers and staff can concentrate fully on their core function: teaching and learning.

We have worked hard to centralise our finance function across the whole of SECAT. This team will be housed at Shoburness High School from September. Confirmation of staffing will be made in the third week of the new academic term.

In doing so, we have made best use of staff skills, relieved Headteachers — who are *lead educationalists not finance specialists* — of this burden. It has also meant that we now have a consolidated view of finance across SECAT allowing us to look more carefully at value for money, fairness, equity and costs. Ultimately this will benefit the pupils' and staff's needs.

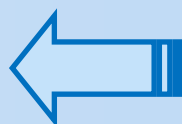
We have begun to create a Central Team taking some of the functions that take up so much time and is often repeated across each academy



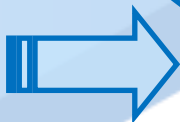
In doing so, we have managed to review all support staff roles, making NO compulsory redundancies, and accommodating all of the Central Team new roles from **within our existing SECAT staff**. Not only will this be a more efficient way of managing SECAT, but also it has ensured that we make best use of staff skills, which ultimately benefits all of our pupils.

In doing so, we are not only changing how our providers view us as a whole entity, but we are also benefiting by reducing costs. We have therefore, saved in the region of £50,000 which again will be ploughed back into supporting pupils' needs.

We have negotiated contracts as a **Multi-Academy Trust** (rather than individual academies) with a whole variety of providers. For example, Human Resources, ICT Support, Health & Safety, printing costs, to name but a few....



We have ensured the safety and upkeep of our collective buildings and now have a comprehensive asset list which prioritises where our funding **needs** to be spent. For, example in making very much needed repairs to rooves, boilers, kitchens and swimming pools.



In doing so, we have ensured the safety of pupils and staff and adhered to Health & Safety and Hygiene regulations; thereby keeping the academies open, when otherwise they may have had to close. Of course, not forgetting the better environment we have created for both pupils and staff to work in.

In doing so, all of our pupils can expect to have had similar curriculum experiences throughout their time in SECAT academies—no matter which academy they go to.


We have worked together to design a 'core curriculum' for all of our pupils across SECAT. Headteachers, with the support of a Local Leader of Education, have worked hard to have a clear understanding of what we want for all of our pupils. All of those who attended our **Away Day** at the beginning of the summer term had input in this work.

The Trust Board—to whom I report—has been completely revamped; both in terms of its make up, skills and oversight of SECAT's 'business'

In doing so, we have a skillset including professional colleagues with vast experience in Secondary Headship, Primary Headship, School Improvement, SEND, Safeguarding, Human Resources, Governance, Finance, IT, Multi-Academy Trusts, Public Relations and Charities.

In doing so, this has direct impact—and will continue to develop—on pupils' outcomes, provision for our most vulnerable pupils, use of our academy leaders across SECAT to support improved leadership and management.

In turn, this has meant that we now have committees which are responsible for looking at pupil welfare, pupils' outcomes, the quality of teaching and learning, how we spend our funding on statutory areas like Pupil Premium, Sports Premium and SEND.



In doing so, we are developing succession planning for leading subjects within each academy. Pupils are benefiting from a much more consistent 'offer' and sharing not only good practice, but skills, from Early Years to 6th Form.

We have developed further our Curriculum Strategy Groups. At the request of Headteachers, we devolved the responsibility for managing those groups—which span the whole curriculum—to middle leaders in our academies.

Through the hard work at Shoeburyness High School, we have been able to offer all of our Year 6 pupils throughout SECAT, the opportunity to have a 'Secondary Experience Week'. All of the Year 11 teachers (and no doubt many, many more) arranged 150 different activities in all areas of the curriculum, for pupils to take part in.

In doing so, this continued the excellent work that Shoeburyness High School have done visiting our Primary academies, teaching science, languages and sport (to name but a few) and allowing our primary colleagues and pupils an opportunity to benefit from specialist teaching.

***" Strong Partnerships, Strong Community,
Strong Schools"***



KS2 SECAT Games Victory!

The competition was fierce this year for the winning title, but Hinguar again managed to beat the odds and retain their KS2 SECAT victory. The KS1 team lost out on first place this year; coming a respectable third and are looking forward to trying to gain back their first place title next year! The games were, once again, a wonderful opportunity for our schools to come together and compete as a school community. The children had been looking forward to the event all year and the enjoyment was evident by children, parents and staff alike. A fantastic achievement for our SECAT sport teams.

Swimming Gala Success – A 'together we achieve' result

We were devastated to learn that our school pool would be out of action for the remainder of the summer, not least because the whole school want to improve their swimming ability, but because we were looking forward to competing in this year's borough swim Gala. So as not to disappoint, parents and staff worked together to escort the entire swim squad back and forth to the local pool at Shoebury Leisure Centre in the lead up to the event. The result.....A second place victory and only one point away from first place! The children, parents and staff had put in so much effort to make this work and this was a very well deserved outcome. On top of this we received many comments about how supportive our children were to others and how much enjoyment they were clearly demonstrating just by taking part. A wonderful result all round!

Life Skills Sessions in Nursery and Reception

Over half a term, parents, staff and specialist outside agencies came together weekly to support our youngest children in developing key life skills; such as cooking, gardening, computing, shopping, outdoor learning and first aid. This has been a wonderful opportunity for our school community to work closely together for the benefit of the children. The children have gained many new and important life skills as a result.

Musical Success

Over the year our Year three children have been learning to play the violin with our peripatetic violin teacher. The celebration of their learning was presented through an assembly for the school and their parents, where each child performed a different musical piece in a small group. Families were amazed by how much they have learned over the year and a number of children have taken up individual music lessons as a result.

SHOEBURYNNESS HIGH SCHOOL



Shoeburyness High School's motto is 'Proud of our students, Proud of our school' for the very simple reason that every year our school community astound us with their diverse talent, enthusiasm, spirit and commitment.

At this time of year, not only have we just completed another successful examination period, hosted our first full SECAT Secondary Experience Week and held a number of celebration events for our students, we are bidding farewell to five long term teachers who will be retiring, having dedicated themselves to Shoeburyness High School for a collective 138 years.

We have so much to be proud of and here are just a few examples of the excellence we come to expect at Shoeburyness High School.





CONNECTING WITH OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Alongside academic achievement across the curriculum, we feel it is extremely important to connect and build relationships with our community and we are particularly proud of what we have enjoyed and achieved together during 2018/19.

In addition to shows/ performances (starring different year groups), sports and music events at our school, around Southend and further afield, we have enjoyed a number of events at BGJS throughout the year.

Hundreds attended our MAGs & FUDGE days (where family members come in to join their children with their learning), Family Picnics, Fayres, Nativity (with live animals), Weekly Book Looks, Thank the Teacher, Meet the Teacher Open Evening and a Summer Community Festival.

We have done all of this and more to help ensure that parents/ carers and wider family, feel respected as an integral part of all things Bournes Green.

The atmosphere at all of these events has been fantastic with outstanding support and we want to say Thank You from the BGJS Team!





I feel very proud when I look back on our achievements over the past year. Our children, staff and governors have all worked so incredibly hard to get us to the point we are now at, with the much appreciated support of our PA and families.

Below are listed a sample of some of our greatest achievements this year, we can't wait for next year and the exciting new opportunities that will bring.

- Every child will have represented the school in a sporting event by the time they leave Year 2
- We won the SECAT Games and are proudly displaying our shield in the foyer
- We gained the PE and Sports Challenge Award
- We launched our new and exciting library with a Mad Hatter's Tea Party – the children and parents love our new space
- We successfully completed the Wellbeing Award which has included training for all staff and opportunities for all our children such as yoga and healthy eating workshops
- We have introduced outdoor learning for all year groups which the children have loved
- Our EYFS outdoor provision has been developed throughout the year and is an exciting and inviting learning space
- We came 1st in the library Reading Challenge which included all Southend schools
- Our themed weeks; Sports Week, WW1 Week and Carnival Week have been incredibly successful and have helped support our broad and balanced curriculum
- We now offer a wide range of teacher led clubs which have been well received by the children and families
- We recently introduced hot meals at lunchtimes, which the children are thoroughly enjoying
- We renovated our Breakfast and After school club to include a safe and inviting outdoor area for the children to enjoy
- We have modernised our reception areas, hall and classrooms and the children are enjoying learning in bright and fresh spaces
- We launched our new APP and website to help improve communication





This is the second year that Thorpedene have dedicated a full week to delivering high quality, healthy-living strategies across our broad and balanced curriculum.

The intent for this year's Healthy Living Week was around the model of Total Fitness: Physical, Nutritional, Mental, Social, Spiritual and Emotional Fitness. With that in mind, we implemented a range of activities for children in each key stage including EYFS. These activities included Yoga, Cricket, Relax Kids (mindfulness), bespoke Kid's Fitness classes, Fencing, Street Dance, Self Defence as well as Design & Technology activities. The design and Technology activities included tasting healthy foods, comparing healthy and unhealthy food and drinks and making meals and snacks specifically for the improvement of health and to implement a robust understanding of obesity and tooth decay.

We also held a Healthy Living Carnival (which was free of charge) to parents, pupils and our local community as an after-school activity. We were able to fund this using Sport Premium funding that we specifically ring fenced for Healthy Lifestyles.

In addition to this we integrated Puberty and Hygiene lessons for Year 5, Bikeability for Year 6 and Race for Life for every pupil in the school, to highlight the need to stay fit and healthy to prevent cancer and to reflect on those we have known who have been affected by cancer.

The impact of our Healthy Living Weeks enables our children to have a robust understanding of how to manage their physical, nutritional and mental health, prevent disease and dis-ease for their lifetime and feed their knowledge and understanding to the generations above and below them.



RICHMOND AVENUE PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL



As I look back on the last academic year it fills me with pride to part of the Richmond Avenue family. Everyone, children, staff and parents have worked together to ensure that the children receive the best of what we can offer them.

- The children are a credit to their parents, they work hard, they enjoy the challenges of school and they know they have people to talk to when they are feeling wobbly.
- The teachers have attended hours of additional training to ensure that the children are receiving the most up to date methods and resources to progress their learning.
- The parents supporting their children through learning workshops, sport event attendance, homework and so much more.

Some of the highlights from the year:

- The Legacy Box Project, with the other SECAT schools
- Leading Emotional Health and Wellbeing School
- Sainsbury's Gold Award for Physical Education
- Gold for KS1 in the Borough Sports
- A proactive Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- Leading School for Maths Mastery
- Two of our girls now play for Southend United Youth Team

We are looking forward to what the new year brings!

