

STEP Voice

December 2022

A message from Paul Glover, CEO, STEP Academy Trust

In my first term as Chief Executive Officer of STEP Academy Trust, I have witnessed first-hand the incredible efforts of all our people across the Trust, and the many things that we have achieved.

This term saw two of our academies, Park and Turnham, undergo successful Ofsted inspections, with both academies recognised for significant improvements since joining the Trust. Westbridge Academy also received their Ofsted inspection; and whilst we cannot share the result yet, we are very proud of the team and community at Westbridge. These fantastic achievements are testament to the hard work of the dedicated pupils, teachers, support staff and governors across the Trust. We are also grateful for the continued support from all parents.

I am delighted by these fantastic achievements; our number one priority as a Trust is to provide an excellent education and to improve life chances of all children, no matter their circumstances. These inspections underline the ongoing fantastic work which enables the Trust to continue to improve and provide the best environments for children to learn and achieve in. This is further reinforced by our KS2 validated data, which puts the Trust well above the national average in both attainment and progress measures.

Another core part of the Mission is our iron-clad commitment to anti-racism across all our academies. This term saw fresh achievements in this area, with Phoenix, Hawkes Farm, La Fontaine, Burfield, David Livingstone, Gonville, Turnham, Heathfield, Beddington Park and Benedict receiving their Race Charter Mark

awards. This is a rigorous process which involves a comprehensive package of training for governors, senior and mid-level leaders. All academies also developed their own targeted action plan to promote positive cultural awareness and improve equality, among both staff and students. Congratulations to all who were involved in this process, on your well-deserved recognition and we know that we will have more news about our other academies coming soon.

Finally, Turnham Academy received a visit from an old friend, alumni and celebrated footballer Ian Wright, to kick off the construction of a new football pitch at the school. The 'Rocky and Wrighty' football pitch was named after Ian and his Arsenal team mate and fellow former Turnham Academy pupil, David Rocastle. This pitch will give not only students, but the entire Lewisham community, access to a state-of-the-art sports facility where we can grow our next group of local legends. We look forward to the opening of the new pitch next year.

As a Trust we have been moving from strength to strength and these achievements underline that hard work. I also want to acknowledge that I know this winter poses challenges and I want to reinforce that STEP is here to support our academies, teachers, support staff, pupils and parents over the coming months.

Thank you once again for your continued support throughout this term. We greatly value all our stakeholders and recognise your contributions. We are looking forward to the start of the Spring Term, which we know will be another successful term for STEP Academy Trust, thanks to your continued support.



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Ian Wright helps secure football pitch at Turnham Academy

One of the most exciting developments this term has been the work Turnham Academy have been doing with football legend, Ian Wright, to secure a new football pitch on the school grounds. Headteacher, Richard Piggford, has utilised an existing relationship with Ian, a former pupil at Turnham Academy, to gain funding from EA Sports, Adidas and the Football Foundation to build a new football pitch.



This pitch, named after Ian and his Arsenal teammate, and fellow former Turnham Academy pupil, David Rocastle, 'Rocky and Wrighty', will provide the community in Lewisham with access to a state-of-the-art sports facility. Crucially, it will improve the sports access for the pupils at Turnham Academy and it will feature an impressive mural designed by local artist Lionel Stanhope.

We are also pleased that the pitch will be used by local sports groups to open up access for young people locally, in particular local girls' football teams, which have historically struggled to access facilities. The pitch will open in 2023 and we are all incredibly excited for the opening.



Academies awarded for commitment to racial equality

Finally, I want to highlight the fantastic work of Phoenix Academy and David Livingstone Academy for being awarded the Bronze Race Charter Mark by The Schools, Students and Teachers Network (SSAT).



To receive the award, Phoenix Academy completed a comprehensive package of training for governors, senior and mid-level leaders. It also used assemblies, school trips and subjects such as RE and PSHE to teach pupils about different faiths and cultures.

David Livingstone Academy focused on diversifying the curriculum; subject leaders used learning and guidance to inform decisions on texts, resources and images used in lessons. This



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national recognition for efforts to improve racial equality and foster an inclusive culture highlights the fantastic work being done within both academies.

We are proud that every academy across the Trust has engaged with the Race Charter Mark, and we continue to support academies in embedding anti-racism and becoming champions of diversity and inclusion. Throughout the application process, both academies were supported by the Trust; we have a strong anti-racist approach across all our academies, which underpins our wider mission to improve the life chances of all children.

Turnham and Park successful Ofsted ratings

This term saw two members of STEP Academy Trust, Turnham Academy and Park Academy, receive very successful Ofsted inspections.

The inspector at Park Academy praised the academy for working hard to drive an exceptional path towards improvement. The most recent report indicates enough evidence of improved performance to suggest that “the school could be judged outstanding if they were to carry out a graded (Section 5) inspection now”. Inspectors cited an impressive positive attitude from pupils and staff alike, as well as “exemplary” behaviour and a stand-out curriculum, whilst also stating

the academy is a “nurturing school that pupils love to attend”.

The Ofsted inspection of Turnham Academy similarly highlighted that it is a supportive school where “pupils are happy and well cared for”. The inspector found a positive learning environment where staff are well acquainted with pupils and their families, and that pupils have lots of happy memories of experiences at the academy, including summer fairs and curating the school ‘museum’ for parents to view pupils’ work. The inspector also highlighted that the academy sets high expectations for pupils, and that they are encouraged to be aspirational in their learning ambitions.

Every academy knows how much work goes into preparing for an inspection. Across the teaching, support and administration staff, it requires a whole academy effort to achieve these results. Congratulations to all who contributed to these brilliant outcomes for Turnham Academy and Park Academy.



**Bryan Adams visits
Westbridge
Academy and
donates books to
every child.**

