



# End of Year Report 2015-2016

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## Summary of 2015-2016

The purpose of this report is to inform EOCT members, partners and stakeholders of our work in 2015/16.

At the beginning of the year we set out our aims in the EOCT Development Plan. Our objectives were:

- To ensure that there is effective co-ordination of the EOCT calendar of events to enable maximum participation across a wider range of different activities whilst targeting a wider cross section of pupils.
- To ensure that there is a planned and co—ordinated programme of headteacher and network meetings taking place between each of the member schools within EOCT.
- To ensure that the operation budget for EOCT is managed effectively and that opportunities to generate income are maximised to ensure that the current level of activity within EOCT is self-financed.

This academic year has seen the continuation of many established EOCT projects alongside the development of new activities and ideas. Over 1600 opportunities have been offered to EOCT students in areas such as music, literacy, engineering, event management and school exchanges.

South Parade Primary School joined EOCT as an associate member at the beginning of this year, so even more Ossett students have benefitted from our work.

Thank you to all our stakeholders – our community partners, our sponsors, parents and carers, our member organisations and of course our schools and the staff and students within them.

# Projects

## The Big Build – In partnership with Jacobs Engineering

**Now in it's 5th year the Big Build project has gone from strength to strength.**

Working with graduate engineers from Jacobs Engineering 335 students have participated in engineering lessons throughout the year. The graduates have delivered lessons on subjects such as health and safety, planning, materials and structures. For most graduates this is their first experience of teaching young people; school staff support the graduates throughout this process.

The theme of the Big Build this year was the Rio Olympics and students have therefore participated in visits to local stadiums to learn about what engineering is involved in the planning and construction and day to day running of a stadium. Many thanks to Dewsbury Rams Rugby League Club, Ossett Town Football Club and Ossett Albion Football club for their help and support with these visits.

The final Big Build day took place at Ossett Academy and saw an increase in students involved with over 100 young people taking part. The day involved attending workshops in the morning and an afternoon of using the knowledge from the workshops to build a variety of structures in various materials.



The day was also attended by special guests who acted as judges in the afternoon and decided together on the best performing students from throughout the day. These students were presented with bespoke handmade trophies to recognise their hard work.

Many thanks to Jacobs Engineering for their continued support and enthusiasm with this inspiring project.

## School Exchange



### **An exciting new project and experience for our Year 2 students.**

At the 2015 Students' Voice Conference some attendees suggested that it would be good if students could write to their peers in other EOCT schools. The EOCT headteachers also thought this would be a good idea and the School Exchange and Penpal Project was born.

Letter writing began in January 2016 by year 2 students and continued throughout the rest of the school year. In March the first school exchange took place with 50% of year 2 students visiting their EOCT penpal. In April the second exchange took place.

Whilst spending a whole day with their penpal, students looked at ways in which their penpal's school is different to their own and took ideas for change or improvement back to their own school. Feedback from both staff and students has been very positive about the experience. A member of staff from Dimple Well Infants commented that "Children benefitted from the letter writing and loved meeting their penpal".

## **Students' Voice Conference – 'A Day for Change'**

### **Year 11 students from Ossett Academy organised and facilitated the Students' Voice Conference in March.**

The theme of the conference was Diversity in Learning. The conference was attended by 40 students from EOCT schools who listened to presentations and took part in workshops and activities.

We were very grateful to our main conference sponsor – Alicia Mai Jewellers and our other sponsors RTC Travel Consultants, Spedding Goldthorpe Insurance Brokers and Building Ossett Better Community Interest Company.



Rob Whitehouse the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator from Ossett Academy was a guest speaker, inspiring delegates with his 'One Size Does Not Fit All' presentation. Closing remarks were made by Alan Warboys – Ossett Academy Principal.

Emma Holley (Ossett Academy Deputy Head Girl) said "Today was a great opportunity to meet a lot of people within the Ossett community. It was overall a successful day, with many positives – everyone enjoyed it and came out of the conference with a different perspective on certain things".

EOCT Trustee, David Bairstow commented "I would like to say how much I enjoyed the conference – events like this put the word 'community' into EOCT!"

## Highfield Visits

**Each year Ossett Academy year 8 students get the opportunity to spend a day at Highfield School.** The aim of this visit is to broaden students' understanding of disability and to gain some knowledge of how Highfield School accommodates for the needs of young people with disability.



This year over 60 students participated in the visits. In a letter to the school following their visit two students wrote "We really enjoyed break and lunch time because we played basketball with some of the students. We also enjoyed going into the sensory room and we would like one in our school"!

## The Book Awards

**Key stage 2 and 3 book clubs in each school participate in the Riveting Reads award and Key stage 1 students participate in the Picture Book awards; both awards are totally student led.**

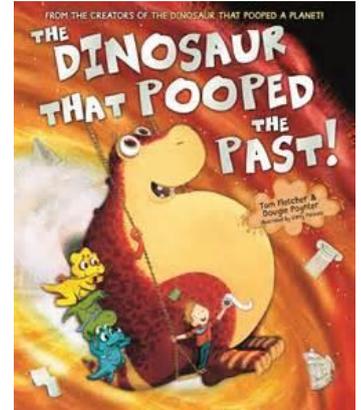
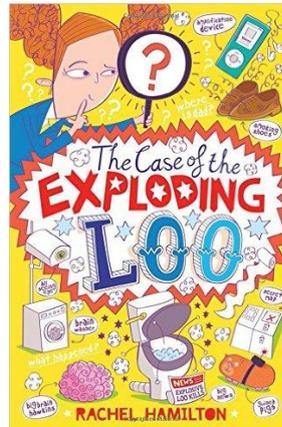
The Riveting Reads Award shortlisting event took place in January where 43 books were whittled down to just 5 by the students. Students then read each book and voted for their favourite.

The shortlisting event for the Picture Book Awards took place in April at Dimple Well Infants School. Representatives from Key Stage 1 from EOCT schools attended this fun event and voted, in secret, for their favourite book.

The winners of both awards were announced at the Book Awards Ceremony in June at Highfield School. The ceremony was attended by 120 students from all EOCT schools along with special guest authors Nigel Smith and Rachel Hamilton. The ceremony was compered by Craig Bradley 'That Poetry Bloke' who brought lots of fun and amusement to the proceedings.

The winner of the Riveting Reads award was Rachel Hamilton with her book *The Case of the Exploding Loo*. Rachel commented that this was the best school led book awards ceremony that she's been to!

The winner of the Picture Book Awards was *The Dinosaur that Pooped the Past* by Tom Fletcher and Dougie Poynter.



## EOCT Music events

EOCT music co-ordinators continue to work together to produce high quality music experiences and events in the town.

In December students from EOCT schools sang carols in the town centre. This event saw us raise £128 for Wakefield Hospice. Thank you all who joined us on that cold December day.



In March all primary school choirs participated in a concert at Trinity Church. This was a wonderful event with all songs being based around the theme of peace.

The final music event of the year was the annual EOCT Celebration Event at Ossett Town Hall in July. Over 200 students aged between 5 and 18 participated in this concert to a packed town hall of family, friends and special guests. The programme was entitled 'Sing' and featured a variety of songs performed by the choir and additional pieces by the Ossett Uke-adeemy, a drum solo and a vocal solo by students from Year 13 at Ossett Academy.



## **Staff activities**

### **Staff Twilight**

Over 70 members of staff attended training on various topics in February including: domestic abuse awareness; restorative practice; child exploitation and online protection and an introduction to the Early Help Hub. Many thanks to all providers and colleagues who were able to provide this training free of charge.

Feedback was very positive and suggestions were made for further training that EOCT staff would like to undertake. The theme for the 2016-17 staff twilight will be decided in the Autumn term.

### **Networking**

2015-16 saw 26 networking meetings happen for school staff. These were in subjects such as Maths, English, Computing, Science and Special Educational Needs. Outcomes and minutes of all networking meetings are shared with subject co-ordinators and headteachers, to ensure that content is acted upon in line with school improvement agendas.

## Partnership Working



EOCT's relationship with The Ossett Rotary Club has developed this year. The Rotary Club aims to enhance its local community in a variety of ways; one way being by working with and supporting young people.

Ossett Academy students again attended the Rotary Technology Challenge and the won the foundation level tournament.

The Rotary Club is funding places for Ossett Students on their Youth Development Under Sail programme in the summer. Two students will attend week long sailing training aboard a 70 foot yacht with the Ocean Youth Trust North, the emphasis of the week is around personal achievement and self development.

As part of the Rotary Club's Dictionaries 4 Life scheme at the end of the school year all EOCT year 2 students were presented with a dictionary by Ossett Rotary. This marks their transition from infants school to junior school.

Next year we hope that more Ossett students will participate in Rotary activities such as development of an Interact Club and involvement in Young Chef and Young Musician competitions.



We continue to work closely with Building Ossett Better CIC; they supported the Students' Voice Conference through help, guidance and sponsorship, and we will be working together with Ossett Academy to develop a community volunteering programme.

Building Ossett Better CIC have also committed to a financial contribution towards the EOCT music project which we hope will impact the local community.



EOCT's relationship with Leeds Beckett University continues to grow. Links to other organisations to support our work have been provided as well as support with funding bids. An overview of student teacher opportunities and link has been provided to EOCT schools; it is likely that these will be developed further in 2016/17.

## Fundraising and Income Generation

### Sponsorship

As mentioned previously year 11 students from Ossett Academy were successful in gaining sponsorship from local organisations to help fund the Students' Voice Conference.

In 2016-17 we will again be seeking sponsorship to help fund our events and activities. Opportunities for local businesses include sponsoring the Students' Voice Conference, The Book Awards, music events and the Big Build. Local businesses should contact the EOCT Co-ordinator for more information about these opportunities.

### Grants

EOCT was successful in being awarded a grant by the Safer Communities Fund. This grant will be used to fund a video music project where EOCT schools will work with schools in different communities (Wakefield and Dewsbury) to learn about similarities and difference through the medium of music. The end result will be a music video which will hopefully act as a launch for a bigger music project.



Significant time and effort has been put into developing a music project this year for which EOCT, along with partner schools, has applied to Youth Music for a grant. Should this application be successful EOCT will deliver a programme of music activities over the next two years.

## Looking forward into 2016/17

**2016/17 will see EOCT being involved in the development of a number of new initiatives as well as development of existing projects.**

We aim to increase our involvement with Rotary Club projects such as supporting at least one student to attend the Rotary Young Leaders Award; supporting students in the development of an Interact Club; and supporting students in participating in Rotary competitions such as Young Musician, Young Chef and Young Writer.

EOCT's application to Youth Music, if successful will see a whole host of new music activities taking place across Ossett, Wakefield and Dewsbury. If unsuccessful our aim is to apply to other funding streams to ensure that this important piece of work can take place.

Working together with Ossett Academy and Building Ossett Better CIC we aim to develop a community volunteering programme for 6<sup>th</sup> form students in 2016/17.

Further community work will see EOCT being involved in the Hannah Pickard Memorial project – a community led project which is seeking to establish a permanent memorial to Ossett philanthropist Hannah Pickard. We will also look to establish firm links with York House – a local care home for young adults with disabilities.

Through our existing projects and future development our key ongoing aim is to ensure that we are able to provide first class educational opportunities for all students in Ossett.

## Contact details

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### Schools

Dimple Well Infants School and Nursery  
Flushdyke Junior and Infant School  
Gawthorpe Community Academy  
Highfield School  
Holy Trinity CE (VA) Primary School  
Ossett Academy and Sixth Form College  
South Ossett Infant Academy  
South Parade Primary School  
Southdale CE (VC) Junior School  
Towngate Primary School