

Mark Wilson's April Message

Mark Wilson, CEO

Wellspring Newsletter – April 2019



WELLSPRING
ACADEMY TRUST

We Make A Difference

At the time of writing, we have just had the fifth Ofsted inspection of a Trust Academy this term. Every one of them has endorsed the quality of leadership and management in our schools.

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We have now had thirteen Ofsted inspections overall of Trust Academies. All thirteen have endorsed the quality of leadership and management in our schools. This is a source for celebration for all of us – as it represents endorsements of Governance, the work of every individual in our Academies, leaders and the Trust. My very sincere congratulations to everyone involved.

This is a remarkable achievement. And it is one that is ongoing. We anticipate further Ofsted inspections in the coming terms and look forward to them with the same anticipation of the same opportunity to celebrate the distinctiveness, vibrancy, moral purpose and dedication to our young people that we have demonstrated in each of the other inspections, thus far.

Ofsted judgements, however, are not the way in which we measure our effectiveness. We measure that through

the quality of what we offer our young people every day. Excellence is the next five minutes. Excellence is what happens every day. Excellence is not a far-off aspiration that we aim to work towards in an 'Ofsted cycle'. That would not do for our children. That would not do for us.

I am proud to belong to an exceptional community that is authentically committed to the welfare and wellbeing of all young people in its care. I am proud to belong to an exceptional community full of exceptional people who are daily doing exceptional things. Our true worth lies in our judgement of our own high standards and our celebration of each other and of one another's successes.

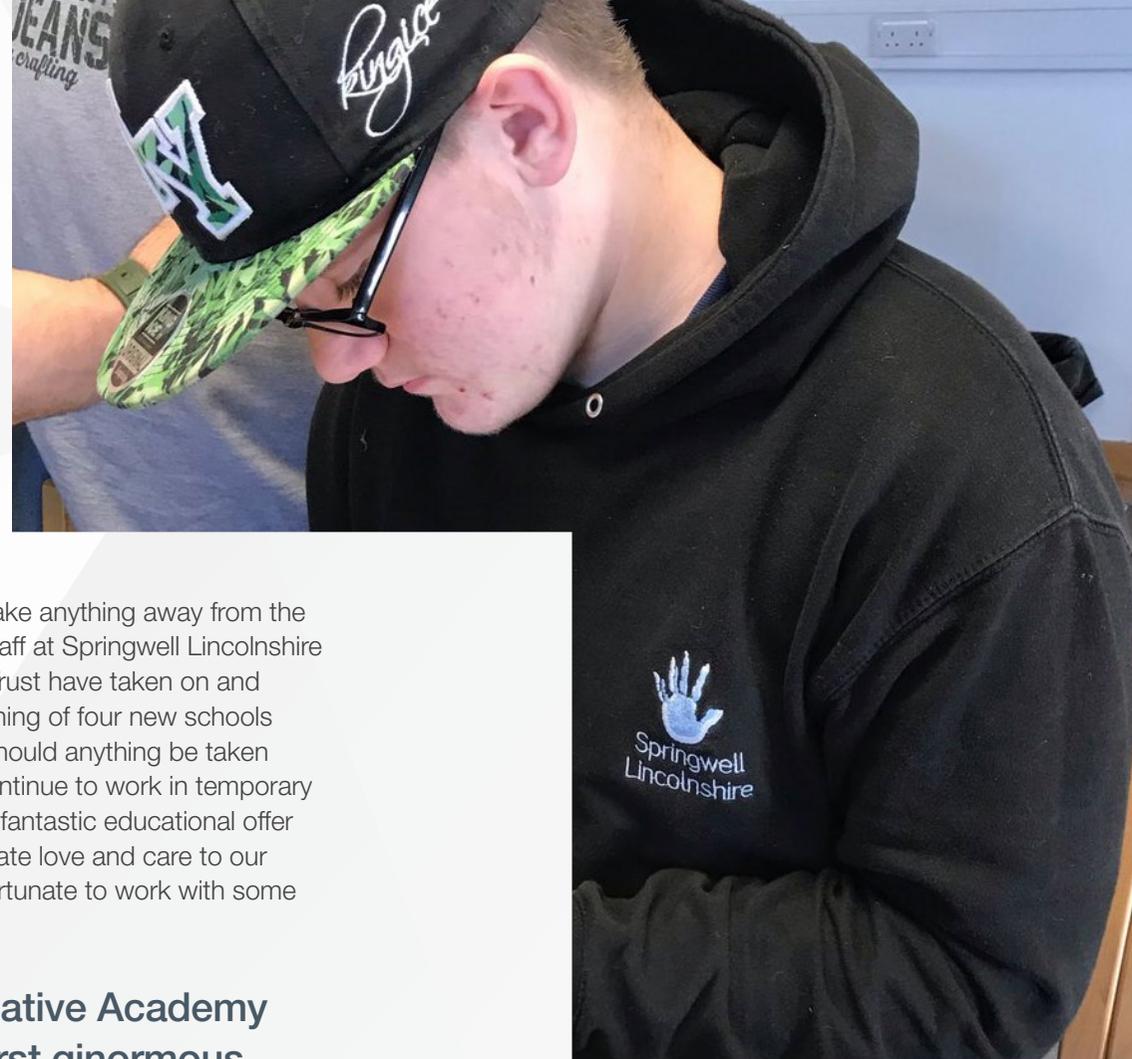
Thank you for your continuing contribution to our extraordinary community.

You make a difference.

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Springwell Alternative Academy Spalding; the 20th Wellspring Academy!

Phil Willott, Executive Principal,
Springwell Alternative Academy Spalding



On the evening of 31st March 2019, I received a text message from Dave Whitaker, wishing me the best of luck with my first headship, which was about to begin on 1st April 2019. And this was no April Fools!

The 1st April 2019 was a defining and very proud moment for my career but more importantly it signalled the first of the four new schools to be opened across Lincolnshire, replacing some very inadequate provision, which Lincolnshire's most vulnerable young people had been taught in for many years.

Springwell Alternative Academy Spalding, officially opened on 1st April for 63 young people living in the South of the County. The school "will" provide these young people with an environment that will support their academic and social, emotional development. It will allow staff to deliver; engaging, creative and bespoke learning opportunities and provide the young people with positive moments that will remain with them for a lifetime. Unfortunately, due to some unforeseen circumstances, we will have to wait a little longer before we move into our brand-new building, January 2020 (at the latest!), hence my "will" above.

However, this should not take anything away from the mammoth challenge the staff at Springwell Lincolnshire and Wellspring Academy Trust have taken on and are achieving with the opening of four new schools across Lincolnshire. Nor, should anything be taken away from the staff that continue to work in temporary accommodation proving a fantastic educational offer and consistently demonstrate love and care to our young people. I am very fortunate to work with some amazing colleagues.

Springwell Alternative Academy Spalding is the first ginormous step in providing a better future for Lincolnshire's most vulnerable young people, and I am extremely proud to be part of this adventure.

We really do make a difference!



Springwell Lincoln
City Academy

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Transition and Beyond

Greenacre would like to invite you to their School Futures Event, 'Transition and Beyond', which is taking place on Wednesday 15 May 2019 1-5pm in the School Hall.

Greenacre School
Keresforth Hill Road
Barnsley
S70 6RG



Each year Greenacre School stage an important information sharing event to help young people to make informed decisions about their futures. The event will be open to year 8-14 students, who have additional needs, and who attend schools in the Barnsley area.

Representatives from Independent Specialist Colleges across the region will be attending as well as local Further Education providers, Adult Services, Parent Partnership, Connexions (TIAG), Barnsley College and the People Directorate (formerly Disabled Children's Team, Transition Social Workers, and Adult Community Learning Disability Team).

All the information will be about provision and services for young people with Special Educational Needs after they leave school or college. Please come along and join us, find out more and have any queries you have answered.



Wellspring at the Schools & Academies Show 2019

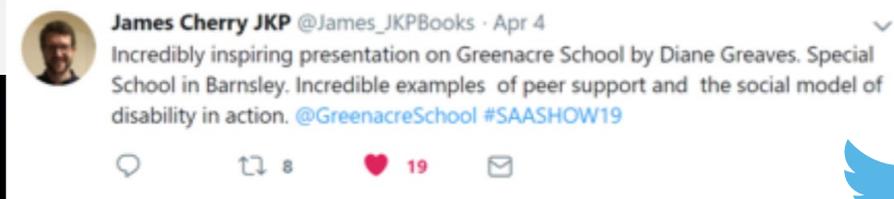
A huge thank you to Di Greaves for flying the Wellspring flag at the Schools and Academies Show 2019. Di gave a typically inspiring talk to delegates from around the country on SEND and the benefits of promoting Social Inclusion.

“It was a privilege to share the School and wider Trust ethos in such a vibrant arena,” said Di. “Feedback following the presentation was extremely positive and as a result Greenacre is already making links with some of the many schools that joined the session. A number of these emerging links relate specifically to our school’s sophisticated and deeply-embedded coaching model and the tremendous outcomes that result.”

“It was a privilege to share the School and wider Trust ethos in such a vibrant arena.”

Di Greaves

Greenacre are always keen to share their coaching ethos. If you are interested in exploring this further, email Di Greaves on dGreaves@greenacre-school.co.uk



A Leadership Conversation Paul Warne



Positive Regard was delighted to host the second of its Leadership Conversations on 4 April with Paul Warne, the Manager of Rotherham United Football Club.

School leaders from across the Trust had the privilege to listen to Paul, who spoke with passion and conviction about his leadership philosophy and how he believes in people working as a team. In the cut and thrust of professional football management, Paul has taken a unique approach to leadership. He believes relationships are key and gave insights into how to get the best from a team, develop strong relationships and strive for success against the high stakes backdrop of Championship Football.

Paul spoke openly and honestly and with great sincerity about his leadership style and the challenges he had to overcome.

He stressed the need for leaders to make hard choices and have difficult conversations, but that these can always be done with a values-driven approach and with compassion.

He also talked of 'legacy' and how it is important to consider your own contribution to your organisation. Making sure that you add value and leave that organisation in a better place than it was when you came.

The audience then had the opportunity to discuss with Paul how his style may be transferable to an educational setting. The session was extremely well received and linked very much to our culture. We passionately believe that relationships make the difference.

Our next leadership conversation is:

A Curriculum Conversation with Hywel Roberts on 4 June 2019, 3.30pm – 5.00pm at Springwell Leeds South.

Contact Amy Hinchliffe on a.Hinchliffe@positiveregardtsa.co.uk if you would like to attend.



Making sure that you add value and leave that organisation in a better place than it was when you came.

A Leadership Conversation Paul Warne



Social Media Reaction



HRH The Duke of Gloucester visit to Springwell

Springwell Learning Community, Barnsley, were thrilled to welcome HRH the Duke of Gloucester for a school visit on 19 March.

It was a special day for the school and an excellent opportunity to share the work of their amazing pupils and staff.

The Duke arrived with his entourage and took a tour of the school. The visit ended with a live musical performance by Springwell pupils.

Barry Eldred, Trust Member, was in attendance in an official capacity. For the last year Barry has had the honour of serving as the High Sheriff of South Yorkshire, which is an appointment made by HM the Queen. In addition, Barry has served as Deputy Lord Lieutenant for South Yorkshire for a number of years.

“Organising a royal visit is some undertaking, but very much worth it.”

Dave Whitaker, Executive Principal

Requests for royal visits are made via the office of the Lord Lieutenant, who make approaches to the Royal Household. Karen Froggatt would be happy to assist regarding any requests. Karen can be contacted on 01226 720741.

