

# EDGE

Welcome to the second edition of the Andover Edge which celebrates the exceptional teaching experienced every day in our schools here in the heart of Andover. Enjoy reading and be inspired by the stories of success and achievement happening in classrooms across our town.



*“There is a genuine sense and purpose to make Andover schools an excellent choice for every child.”*

As parents or carers you expect a first-class education for your child. You expect the school of your choice to have a strong headteacher who is the driving force behind ever improving standards, delivering student success and achievement. No doubt, more importantly, is for your child to feel safe, be happy and enjoy these fundamental formative years.

All of our schools are different, each with their own individual personality

and culture. These subtle nuances give families choice and the opportunity to find the right school for their child. What we need and have are schools committed to delivering outstanding teaching and learning designed to challenge and inspire students to do the very best they can with higher ambitions for their future success.

Ofsted has acknowledged our schools' leaders are ambitious for their school's success, creating strong, aspirational

cultures with high expectations of students and staff. The best schools create a happy, safe supportive environment for children, laying the foundations for fulfilment in adulthood and we have all this and more here in Andover. From our primary schools through to the town's further education college, there is a genuine sense and purpose to make Andover's schools an excellent choice for every child.



## 'Able' Year 4 pupils put to the test by secondary schools


'Able' Year 4 pupils, those predicted to excel at their end of Year 6 assessment tests, were given a taste of secondary school life and put through their paces at a recent 'challenge day'.

### Mathematical mysteries in the Crystal Maze

Medieval Knights and Queen Countemup welcomed Andover's young maths whizzes to Winton Academy for a Crystal Maze mathematical mystery where students worked their way through four eras in the Chinese, Indian, Greek and



Egyptian zones. In each zone these talented students completed puzzles and logic based games. They built shapes out of plasticine and straws, created a three metre tall pyramid out of modelling balloons and went on treasure hunts across ancient Greece. As the students successfully completed their conundrums they were awarded the highly-prized and much coveted 'crystals.'

  
**Shiver me timbers but don't plunder the punctuation**

Across town at Harrow Way the Year 4s became crews of pirate ships sailing the Caribbean, searching for historical evidence about piracy and on the hunt

for punctuation. With strategy and team work the young adventurers raided the facts and punctuation collected by other crews.

After a morning of successful plunder, battles and hoarding full stops and semi-colons the crews embarked on producing a piece of creative writing and an information poster. The tricky part was only using the punctuation collected and using each one only once – something of a punctuation conundrum for the young pirates. Dilemmas and decisions about when a comma could be replaced by something else and how to combine sentences together. Who knew grammar could be such fun?

  
**The science of science**

All things scientific was order of the day at John Hanson where the able Year 4s became expert scientists: As biologist's they improved their observation skills using microscopy on cells and living organisms. As chemists they investigated chemical reactions and the difference between exothermic (transfer of energy to the surroundings) and endothermic reactions (taking in energy from the surroundings) and as physicist were able to apply their knowledge of electricity to independently build electrical circuits.

The day was a huge success with students getting a taste of the secondary school life which awaits them.

## Middle leaders sit at heart of school improvement

It's widely acknowledged that the key to improving student achievement is to improve the quality of teaching inside each school. It's the middle leaders, 'the engine room of every school' (heads of year, leaders of curriculum), who are at the heart of the action and the driving force behind improving the standards of teaching and learning in Andover's schools.

Harrow Way, John Hanson, Winton Academy and Test Valley have joined forces to create the Andover Area Middle

Leader Development Programme (AAMLDP) for these key teachers who implement school strategy into outstanding classroom practice, lead their teams, manage logistics, support staff, develop teaching, learning and assessment, manage behaviour and teach their own lessons too! The work that they do in their departments and year groups is essential in ensuring that students make progress, are safe and happy.

Over the last nine months delegates from our schools met every month to

learn from experienced middle and senior leaders, sharing good practice and discussing any issues they have faced. The programme provides a real balance between 'management' issues – analysing and using data analysis to identify student underperformance and 'leadership' issues - creating a vision for a team and managing performance.

'Caroline Lowing from Harrow Way comments: "All colleagues agree that the AAMLDP has been a real success. This bespoke programme, tailored to the Andover area schools, using our own experts, has been a winner and we've already seen a number of delegates on the programme receive promotions for September. We are now planning for next year!"

**“ The role of middle managers is crucial to the steady and sustained improvement of schools. The headteachers and senior managers provide the vision but middle managers effect the long-term changes, which will raise standards and improve the quality of education. ”** Ofsted.



## Anton Junior School accredited to award Qualified Teacher Status to graduate trainees

Twelve months ago the Anton Andover Alliance (AAA) was accredited as the first teaching school alliance in the town, a forum for our local schools to come together to share best practice. One vital area of responsibility that the AAA take very seriously is their active engagement with Initial Teacher Training which has recently been taken to a new level, following Anton's accreditation as a SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training).

Headteacher Tom Donohoe explains: "As one of only 120 SCITTs across the entire country we are in a tiny minority of schools that can actually award Qualified Teacher Status to graduate trainees. This is something that only universities have been able to do in the

*past and we are very excited about being able to shape the curriculum content that trainee teachers receive at the very start of their career".*

SCITTs are networks of schools that have been approved to run school-centred courses providing practical, hands-on teacher training, delivered by experienced, practising teachers based in their own school or a school in their network.

The AAA will be training a cohort of 30 teachers in September making them the biggest SCITT in Hampshire.

## The Big Write at John Hanson

John Hanson's innovative tutor time literacy programme, covering The Big Read, The Big Spell, The Big Talk and The Big Picture culminated this summer with The Big Write. All Year 7 to 10 students created a short but creative extended written piece which fitted into one of three categories: Short Story, Biographical and Scientific.

The programme has been designed to enhance a range of literacy skills in an engaging and supportive manner, allowing for literacy to be fully embedded across the John Hanson curriculum.



This is also an important aspect of the school's community outreach programme involving local businesses and organisations who both awarded prizes and judged the work.

Verity Woodward from Maidman's Marquees, judge of the short stories category said: 'It was so refreshing to read such imaginative stories which were so cleverly crafted. A great deal of thought and work had clearly gone into each and every entry'.

Laura Valjak, from Barclays' Corporate Communications team, said: 'I am delighted to have supported The Big Write, which is a fantastic opportunity for students to share their creative skills and feel a real sense of pride in what they can achieve'.



## HOME GROWN TALENT

### Paul Roberts

Former Harrow Way student Paul Roberts is the first to admit that without the support of the staff at Harrow Way school he would not be where he is today.

In 1997, Paul's final year at school, he came out as gay in what he describes as: "A very positive environment with

*support from staff which was fantastic". Paul believes it is this support which has led him to where he is now as Chief Executive Officer for the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Consortium, an umbrella body for LGBT organisations across the UK. Paul was recently awarded an OBE by The Prince of Wales for his work with the LGBT communities.*

*He said: "If it hadn't been for the support I received from the staff and teachers at Harrow Way when I came out I wouldn't have the confidence I have now to give speeches, meet government officials and talk to royalty".*

Paul also studied Performing Arts at Andover College before progressing on to a specialist arts degree at Dartington College of Arts.

# Headteacher Q&A

In March this year the government laid out their vision and plans in a White Paper called 'Educational Excellence Everywhere'. Our secondary headteachers **Ian Coombs** (John Hanson), **Michael Serridge** (Harrow Way) and **Nathan Thomas** (Winton Academy) take questions on how the schools in Andover are also working towards this vision of excellence.

**Q. 'Educational Excellence Everywhere' depends on great teachers – how do you ensure you recruit and retain the very best?**

**Michael Serridge:** No school and no education system can be better than its teachers and no single education reform is more important than fostering and supporting a high quality teaching profession. It is essential that we continue in the Andover schools to recruit, train, develop and retain excellent teachers. The management, training, retention, development and pay of existing teachers are now rightly the responsibility of headteachers, free from unnecessary bureaucratic interference and central prescription.

**Q. High quality teacher training is key to keeping standards in the classroom high – what training and improvement initiatives have you introduced this year?**

**Nathan Thomas:** What we want is an outstanding Andover education system and we aim to provide an outstanding education for all local children. This year we have introduced an excellent middle leadership programme with the three Andover schools and Test Valley in Stockbridge. This has been led by the assistant headteachers from the four schools providing high quality training for aspirant middle leaders. This type of initiative gives opportunities for aspiring leaders to shine and also creates the leaders of the future.

**Q. Academics aside the government would like to see character and resilience instilled in every child – what measures have you introduced in your schools to achieve this?**

**Ian Coombs:** There are some common characteristics of resilient people. They keep themselves healthy and we promote good health, good eating and exercise throughout the school. We also promote positive thinking, as a positive

thinker will be more resilient than a negative thinker. There is also evidence that resilient people are ones who know how to give and receive kindness, so we seek to develop opportunities for young people to demonstrate a caring attitude towards one another with little acts of kindness.

**Q. In the last Parliament the government introduced a new, more ambitious national curriculum and reformed qualifications and assessment standards. What difference have these changes made to your classrooms?**

**Nathan Thomas:** The new curriculum and assessment regimes provide challenges and also opportunities. Ultimately they do not change our priority which is to ensure there is good teaching and learning in every classroom every day. The amount of engaging and inspiring teaching has increased enormously and I am inspired on a daily basis by what I see in classrooms at Winton Academy.

**Q. It is important for schools to unlock the potential of every child. How do you ensure your brightest are stretched appropriately and your less able are supported sufficiently?**

**Michael Serridge:** We will ensure we stretch our lowest-attaining and most academically able pupils by increasing the focus on, and supporting approaches aimed at, boosting their attainment.

At Harrow Way, we are committed to providing an excellent education and the highest expectations for all. We believe strongly in the importance of high quality teaching and learning as the first priority for achieving this goal. Quality teaching first – providing an excellent education and the highest expectations for all every day.

**Q. These are ambitious targets the Government has set out – can your school deliver?**

**Ian Coombs:** Taking a phrase from President Obama – yes we can! The 'we' is important because I firmly believe that our ability to deliver on these key issues is about having a clear focus within the school through strong leadership, but also working proactively as a team of educators across Andover.

As secondary schools we build on the great work of our primary colleagues who are doing an excellent job in preparing the young people for secondary education. We work effectively together as secondary schools to build support for all our young people then we continue to work with post-16 providers like Andover College and others further afield to ensure that successful 16 year olds have the best post-16 provision, be that A Levels, Apprenticeships or vocational courses.

Andover's young people will be successful because of the effective partnership working of Andover's schools and colleges. Long may it continue.



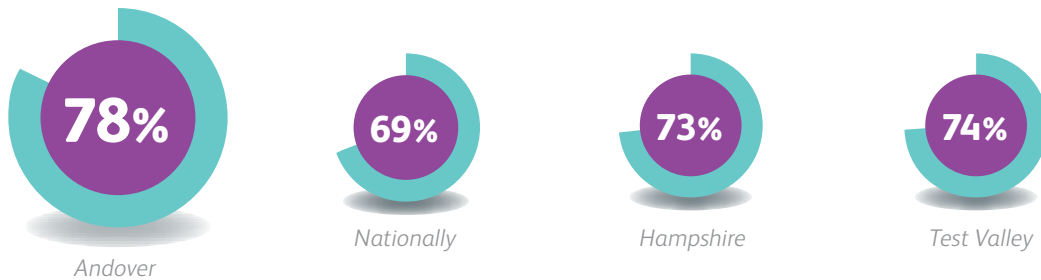


# Andover schools are performing extremely well – it’s official!

Andy Heyes, School Improvement Manager (Education and Inclusion) – Test Valley, Hampshire County Council, discusses how well our schools are doing.

The achievement of students in the area at 11 and 16 years of age, and the outcomes of Ofsted inspections, indicate that it is a system that is performing very well and continually improving.

## 2015 Year 6 pupils attaining Level 4B+ in reading, writing and mathematics combined

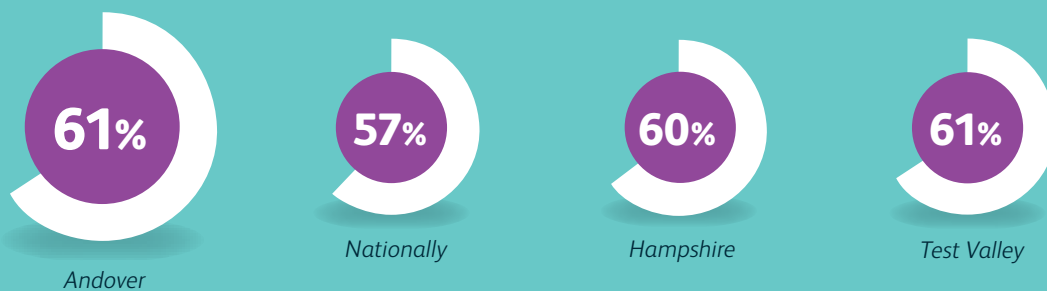


In 2015, 78% of Year 6 pupils (505 pupils out of a total cohort of 646), in twenty-three primary/junior schools in the Andover area, attained Level 4B+ in reading, writing and mathematics combined, a key indicator for pupil achievement at the end of Key Stage 2. This figure compares extremely favourably nationally (69%), across Hampshire (73%) and across the Test Valley (74%). Andover students achieve well at the end of their time at primary school and the overwhelming majority, four out of every five pupils, is well-prepared and ready for the demands and challenges of secondary school.

*“The Andover education system (Andover town and the surrounding countryside) for children and young people aged 4-16 years of age is in excellent shape.”*

At the end of Key Stage 4 in 2015, 61% of Year 11 students in the three Andover secondary schools, attained 5 A\*-C GCSEs (including English and mathematics). Again this compares favourably nationally, across Hampshire and across the Test Valley.

## 2015 Year 11 students achieving 5 A\*-C GCSEs including English and maths



Interestingly, for the young people who joined one of the three Andover secondary schools at age 11 (in 2010) and remained in those schools for the entire five years - 65% attained 5 A\*-C GCSEs (including English and mathematics), 8% above the national average. 71% attained A\*-C in English (5% above the national average) and 77% attained A\*-C in mathematics (12% above the national average).

At the time of writing, 89% of the 37 educational settings in the Andover area

serving 4-16 year olds were judged to be good or outstanding in their last Ofsted inspection. This compares favourably with the 86% of schools nationally, and across Hampshire, that are good or better. This is testimony to the quality of educational provision across the Andover area and is a key indicator that the ethos and culture of learning in the schools is positive.

I have the privilege of working closely with all the Andover schools and the system as a whole has continued to

improve over the past twelve months despite the significant challenges and new ways of working that schools have had to deal with.

The system will only get stronger as school-led improvements, such as the Anton Andover Teaching Alliance, and partnership working with the local authority, strengthens still further.

It is, unquestionably, a good time to be a parent living in the Andover area!

*“There is no question that the schools in the Andover area are in good shape primarily because they are extremely well-led by exceptionally talented and effective headteachers, senior leaders and governors.”*



## HOME GROWN TALENT

# Josh Barnett

The BBC's Great British Sewing Bee's Josh Barnett credits his time at both Portway and Harrow Way with life-long friendships, undiminished by distance.

While studying at Cardiff Metropolitan University Josh first stumbled across a sewing machine and with the help of YouTube videos taught himself to sew. This led to Josh creating a men's fashion label and appearing on this year's hit television show the BBC's Great British Sewing Bee. Josh was the last man standing, reaching week four of the competition.

Commenting on the benefit and value of an Andover based education Josh said: *"It's about being able to manage and create your own friendship groups which are not diluted with people living in different towns. The relationships you make at school stick with you forever - all my closest friends are from Andover and whenever I come home I always see people I know as it's a small, tight-knit community"*.



# Literacy is the key at Winton Academy

At Winton good literacy skills are the key to unlocking the curriculum for all learners, therefore this year the school has extended their day by 20 minutes to add a daily reading session.

All students are either 'free readers' and bring in the book they are currently reading from home or are 'accelerated readers' who read targeted books as part of Winton's reading scheme so the school can support them and accelerate their progress. Some students have one to one reading sessions with staff in this time and some are supported by older students in reading clubs. It's not just students reading, but staff too as the entire academy stops after lunch for this calm and purposeful start to the afternoon.

Year 7 and 8 students are able to access books through their iPads (which are provided by the Academy) and then take the accelerated reader test to see how well they have comprehended the literature.

The scheme has been a great success and had a large impact on improving the reading ages of all students at the Academy.

***“A dedicated reading session for 20 minutes each day has been welcomed by students and is improving literacy levels across the Academy.”***

Ofsted January 16.

# John Hanson take part in BBC News School Report Day



Earlier this year a group of John Hanson students collaborated together to create a fantastic collection of high-quality news reports and interviews as part of the 10th annual BBC News School Report Day. These talented young students also successfully conducted interviews with a range of highly-respected members of the Andover community.

During the day PE Teacher, Mr White, was interviewed about John Hanson's Sports Relief events, while Phil Potts of Tidworth Freeride kindly visited the school to help write an article about encouraging young people to get outside and be active.

Later in the day there were visits by Pat Salmon of the National Citizenship Service and Catering Supervisor, Ann Welbourne, was interviewed about healthy eating in school and a number of exciting dining events. The student reporters also had the pleasure of being accompanied by the former Mayor of Test Valley, Councillor Iris Andersen, to discuss her plans for the future of Test Valley.

Students had a great time practising their journalistic skills from script writing and questioning to recording and editing broadcasts. Mr Adams – Assistant Headteacher said: *"Our participation in the BBC News School Day Report could not have happened without our special guests, who we thank for giving their time so generously to support our students"*.

The interviews are available on the school website (follow the BBC School Report link [www.jhanson.hants.sch.uk/about-us/bbc-school-report-2016](http://www.jhanson.hants.sch.uk/about-us/bbc-school-report-2016)).



## Year Six pupils graduate!

The ninth annual Andover Junior Graduation ceremony took place at The Lights prior to the summer holidays in July.

Andover Junior Graduation congratulates Year Six students as they move from primary or junior school to secondary school and encourages them and their parents or carers to consider higher education in future years. Approximately 480 students attended the event in traditional gowns and mortar boards. Mayor of Test Valley, Councillor Karen Hamilton, welcomed all the pupils before they received a certificate from the University of Winchester and had a photo taken with their head teacher.

Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Carr, said: *"The Andover Junior Graduation is always an inspiring occasion which gives the children and their parents and teachers an opportunity to look back on what they have achieved during their time at school. It's also a perfect chance to look to the future and start to introduce the children to the options that will be available to them in the coming years."*

Test Valley Borough Council funds and organises the event with the support of the University of Winchester.



# Nelson Mandela's niece, Pumeza Mandela visits Harrow Way



The niece of Nelson Mandela, hero of the apartheid struggle and South Africa's first democratically elected president, put Harrow Way on the international map following her visit to the school. Harrow Way was one of only six schools in the county to host Pumeza Mandela, Education Manager for the Nelson Mandela Museum, who had travelled from South Africa to be a keynote speaker at Hampshire County Council's Rights Respecting Education Conference.

Harrow Way's Year 10 Unicef Peer Educators were joined by students from Portway Junior and Andover C of E school to learn about Pumeza's work and discuss children's rights all over the world.

Mr Serridge, Harrow Way Headteacher said: *"It was an incredible honour to be the only school in Andover chosen to host Pumeza Mandela. We are very proud of our status as a Unicef Level 2 Rights Respecting School and the influence this has in developing our students into responsible and conscientious citizens for the future"*.

In preparation for Pumeza's visit, students learned about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the impact of Apartheid on the lives of people in South Africa and around the globe.



## HOME GROWN TALENT

### Alex Dockree

Thirteen years ago Alex Dockree was a Year 6 pupil at Anton Junior School. Clearly his teachers at Anton, and subsequently at Winton, inspired him because if you fast forward time Alex is now a classteacher at Anton Junior himself.

On completion of his degree at University in Cardiff Alex was employed by Anton as a teaching assistant for a year and was supported by the school in his application for a place on School Direct (SD), the government's work-based route into teaching for graduates to gain QTS (Qualified Teaching Status) alongside a PGCE (Postgraduate Teaching Certificate). Alex excelled in his SD year and having achieved an outstanding grade Anton didn't hesitate to employ him as a Newly Qualified Teacher the following year.

Following a superb start to Alex's teaching career Anton is optimistic that, in time, they can support him in achieving his long-term ambition of becoming a headteacher in a school within the Anton Andover Alliance.

It would be fantastic if Alex could become the first person that our Teaching School Alliance has supported in a journey from pupil, to student, to teacher, to headteacher all within schools in the town.

# Winton Academy's Spark FM

Winton has its very own radio station, broadcasting over the internet 24/7, 365 days a year. The station which is run by students during the day is a mixture of educational broadcasts, topical subjects, the news, interviews, non-stop music sessions and much more. Spark FM aims to develop students' oral skills and their confidence through the medium of radio.

*"These are exciting times at Winton for our students as we push for excellence in all areas of the Academy, the radio is just one aspect of this drive that is nurturing our students'*



*creativity and confidences"* said Sean Flavell, Assistant Headteacher and station manager.

Currently the station is looking for community groups who would perhaps like to take up an evening slot. If you are interested contact [sflavell@wintoncommunityacademy.org](mailto:sflavell@wintoncommunityacademy.org)

## HOME GROWN TALENT

### Charlie Stradling

Winton Community Academy has an excellent reputation for producing outstanding opportunities for students in the Performing Arts.

Charlie Stradling was first spotted in Year 8 as having potential in the arts. Having won a Hampshire dance bursary while at school Charlie went onto the Hampshire Centre

for Advanced Training (CAT) scheme for talented dancers, achieving distinctions in his Performing Arts qualifications. He went on to successfully audition for Italia Conti Academy for Theatre Arts in London, one of the most prestigious musical theatre schools in the world. Here Charlie is in the third year of a diploma course.

Since leaving Winton, Charlie has worked with a number of top class performers and bands including Russell Brand, the band "The Vamps" on the Ant and Dec Saturday Night Takeaway and has also been in a number of adverts for ITV.







## HOME GROWN TALENT

### Helen Kirkum

Helen has always lived in Andover, studying at Balksbury Infants and Juniors then on to John Hanson where she first realised her love of the arts. It was at Andover College her path to footwear design began.

In her final year at the University of Northampton, studying Fashion, Footwear and Accessories Helen won the inaugural prize in the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers Footwear Student of the Year Award.

While at the Royal College of Art (RCA) in London, studying a Master's Degree in Menswear Footwear, Helen created her current collection 'Our Public Youth' which has just won the Accessories award at International Talent Support (ITS), a global competition that supports new designers from fashion, art, jewellery and accessories.

Helen is now starting her new job as design assistant for Adidas Originals Footwear. She says: "If someone had told me ten years ago when I was choosing my GCSEs where I would be now I wouldn't have believed them. I am so grateful to everyone I have met and have been taught by, who has encouraged me along the way".

## The Andover **EDGE**

was produced by the Andover Area Partnership for Learning and supported by Test Valley Borough Council and Bulpitt Print Ltd.



## Coca Cola showcases Harrow Way's winning anti-litter campaign

This summer Coca Cola European Partners launched a series of bus stop advertisements across Andover showcasing Harrow Way's winning anti-litter campaign for their annual enterprise competition the Real Business Challenge.

After winning the South East regional final of the competition, the Harrow Way students went on to the grand final of the challenge held in London where they presented their campaign ideas to a host of MPs at a Parliamentary reception at the House of Commons. These poster designs were subsequently installed for two weeks at a number of bus stops in Andover.

A very proud headteacher Mr Serridge said: "The team did incredibly well to reach the final from an original 870 schools (88,900 students) nationally

who entered the competition. The process has seen them all develop many key business and creative skills as well as learning to work effectively as a team, utilising each individual's strengths to create a great awareness campaign which obviously impressed the judges".



Now in its twelfth year, the Real Business Challenge is designed to inspire and educate young people, helping them gain the skills they need to have a competitive edge in the job market.

## HOME GROWN TALENT

### Paul Cox

American university soccer coach Paul Cox says he enjoyed some of the best days of his life at John Hanson. Paul captained the school's football team from Year 7 to 11 leading them to four district schools titles. It was during this time at secondary school that the seed was planted about playing football and studying in the United States.

Following A Levels and with a National Certificate in Sport Paul received a scholarship offer from Midland University in Nebraska. Here he captained the team for three years, was nominated for the team of the year selection for three years and in 2012 graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Management and Marketing.



Paul chose a career in coaching and advising, working for the past three years as the assistant soccer coach for the women's team at Midland, while also earning his Master of Education (M.Ed). Earlier this year Paul also accepted the role as Director of Coaching at Blair FC in conjunction with his role at Midland University.