

*The magazine of Creative Education Trust schools* Issue 10 November 2017

# Connected



## Meet the founder and Chief Executive

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Interview with Marc Jordan

## In fine voice

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Trust-wide Days of Song

## Exam success

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A great year for our schools

## Days of Sport

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Cross-Trust sporting  
competitions



## From strength to strength



The 10th edition of *Connected* coincides with the new academic year – what better time to reflect on all the successes of the year gone by, while looking to the year ahead.

On page 8, Creative Education Trust Chief Executive, Marc Jordan, shares some of his memories of founding the Trust and explains his vision for the future.

Schools across the Trust achieved some of their best ever results this year – they're celebrated on pages 3 to 5. However, school is about more than just exam results, and this summer, our Programme Day events challenged and inspired pupils in all of our schools. There were a number of new events, including a Creative Writing Competition and a Day of Poetry.

As ever, we are keen to make *Connected* as relevant and interesting to you as possible. If you have any ideas for articles you would like to see in future editions, or ways you think *Connected* could be improved, I would love to hear them. Please email [aaron.hussey@creativeeducationtrust.org.uk](mailto:aaron.hussey@creativeeducationtrust.org.uk).

**Aaron Hussey**

Head of Marketing & Communications

## Cross-Trust events

### Wednesday 8 November 2017

Directors of English meeting,  
GET Head Office,  
London

### Thursday 9 November

Primary Headteachers meeting,  
GET Head Office,  
London

### Thursday 23 November

Sixth-form public speaking prize,  
venue tbc

### Friday 1 December

Principals meeting,  
GET Head Office,  
London

### Thursday 7 – Friday 8 December

Days of Shakespeare,  
Abbeyfield School

### Monday 18 December

Great Yarmouth schools,  
Christmas carol concert,  
Great Yarmouth Minster

## HOT-A-TWEET

140 characters from the Chief Executive

*It is a pleasure to be part of a network full of such talent – highlighted by recent exam results and cross-Trust programme days. Here is to another great year.*



# Our schools in numbers

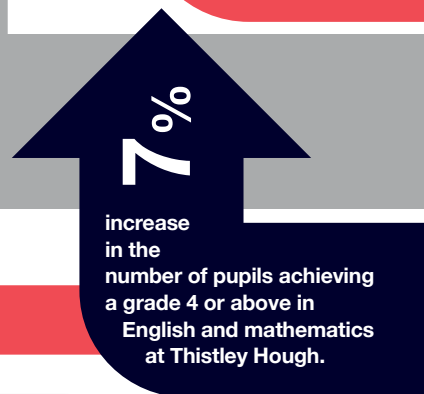
## A round-up of Creative Education Trust schools exam results

**2** 016–17 was another successful year for Creative Education Trust. As well as more than half of our schools receiving Ofsted visits and being graded as good, we also saw some impressive exam results.

**Marc Jordan, Chief Executive, Creative Education Trust said:**

*“This has been a challenging year across the education sector, with tougher exams and changing grading systems. In spite of this, I was delighted to see many wonderful successes in all of our schools. There are some solid headline figures and lots of inspiring success stories of pupils exceeding expectations, sometimes in very difficult circumstances.*

*To our pupils who achieved these results – well done. To all of our school staff that helped to get them there – thank you.”*



## Primary Schools

The number of Key Stage 2 pupils achieving expected levels in reading, writing and mathematics **improved at almost three times the rate** of other primary schools across the country.

Percentage of pupils achieving expected reading, writing and mathematics levels	2016 results	2017 results	Percentage point change
<b>Creative Education Trust average</b>	<b>36.6%</b>	<b>57.8%</b>	<b>+21.2</b>
Harpfield Primary Academy (Stoke-on-Trent)	48%	56%	+8
Queen Eleanor Primary Academy (Northampton)	47%	70%	+23
Three Peaks Primary Academy (Tamworth)	40%	57%	+17
Woodlands Primary Academy (Great Yarmouth)	27%	61%	+34
Wroughton Primary Academy (Great Yarmouth)	20%	45%	+25

## Secondary Schools



### Abbeyfield School Northampton

#### Key Stage 4

- **7% increase** in the number of pupils achieving a grade 4 or above in English and mathematics
- **10% increase** in the number of pupils achieving a standard pass / A\*–C in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

#### Key Stage 5

- Half of all those taking A-level mathematics achieved an A\*–A
- All students studying chemistry achieved A\*–B
- Pupils are going on to top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge

Sisters **Lucy and Laura Read, Abbeyfield School**, achieved 988 and 999, and five A\*s and eight As between them.

Abbeyfield School

**10%** increase in the number of pupils achieving a grade 4 or above in the English Baccalaureate.

### Ash Green School Coventry

#### Key Stage 4

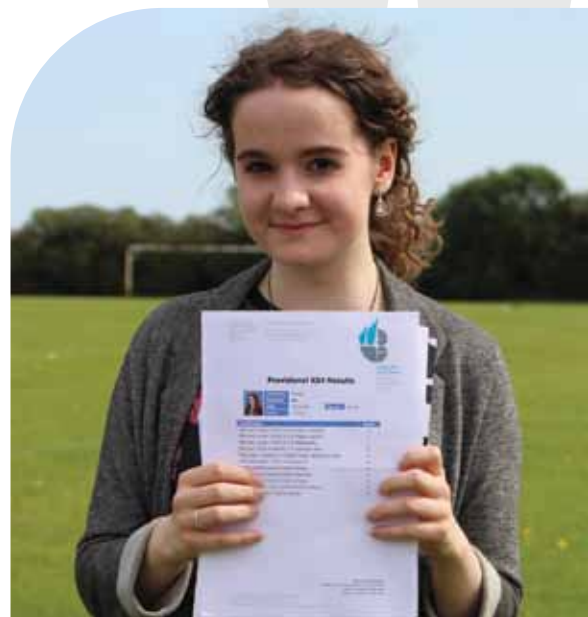
- Three Ash Green pupils achieved grade 9 in either English or mathematics, placing them among the highest-performing students in the country
- **51%** of pupils achieved grade 5 or above in English, and **41%** in mathematics

#### Key Stage 5

- **74%** of pupils achieved the grades to go on to higher education, with **12%** heading to a Russell Group university
- Vocational pass rate of **100%**, **84%** at distinction

### Caister Academy Great Yarmouth

- **60%** of pupils achieved the new standard pass of grade 4 or above in English and mathematics
- **19%** of pupils achieved the top grades 7–9 in English
- **100%** of pupils awarded a grade C or above in business studies, music, and dance



**Hannah Belt, Caister Academy**, achieved top grades in nine GCSEs.

## The Hart School Rugeley

### Key Stage 4

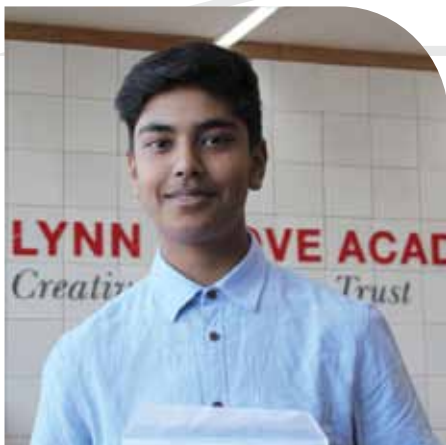
- **25%** of all grades achieved were grade A\* or A
- **75%** of students studying engineering achieved a distinction\* or distinction
- Students achieved a grade C or above in the vast majority of subjects

### Key Stage 5

- More A\*–Bs than ever before
- **Luke Purle** achieved A A B in mathematics, chemistry and biology and **Holly Edwards** achieved A\* A B in Spanish, chemistry and mathematics

## Lynn Grove Academy Great Yarmouth

- Lynn Grove Academy is the best-performing secondary school in East Norfolk for the second year running
- **7% increase** in the number of pupils achieving a grade 4 or above in English
- **78%** of pupils achieved a standard pass in English and **60%** achieved a strong pass
- **73%** of pupils achieved a standard pass in mathematics and **52%** achieved a strong pass
- **80%** of pupils achieved an A–C in MFL, with **31%** of those being at A\* or A
- **100%** of pupils achieved an A\*–C in biology, chemistry and physics



**Sharfraz Choudhury, Lynn Grove Academy,** achieved one grade 9, two grade 8s, and three As.

## Thistley Hough Academy Stoke-on-Trent

- **7% increase** in the number of pupils achieving a grade 4 or above in English and mathematics
- 13 students this year will be awarded the Academy title of 'Bamber Scholars' (set up in honour of the founding headteacher Miss Bamber), as they achieved a minimum of six A\* or A grades

## Lynn Grove Academy

**100%** of pupils achieved A\*–C in biology, chemistry and physics.

## Weavers Academy Wellingborough

### Key Stage 4

- GCSE pass rates of almost **100%** across all subjects (**99.6%**)
- **68%** of students achieved grade 4 or above in English
- **62%** of students achieved grade 4 or above in mathematics

### Sixth form

- A-level pass rate of **98%**
- Vocational pass rate of **100%**, **84%** at distinction\* or distinction

# Winner

This photograph:  
**Richie Harold,**  
**Lynn Grove Academy**

Right:  
**Sophie Hadley,**  
**Ash Green School**

Far right:  
**Bella Morley,**  
**Caister Academy**

Below right:  
**Abi Matthews,**  
**Thistley Hough**  
**Academy**





# Young Photographer of the Year

**S**econdary school pupils were set a challenge to capture an occurrence of serendipity as part of this year's Young Photographer of the Year competition.

150 pupils took part, making this the biggest to date. Each school received a visit by a professional photographer who kicked-off the competition and gave every pupil one-on-one tuition.

This year noted photographers, Steve Macleod, Leon Chew, Marysa Dowling, Nadia Bettega and Othello De'Souza-Hartley provided expert guidance to our pupils.

Three budding photographers from each school went on to the finals and had their work professionally produced at the

UK's leading photographic lab, Metro Imaging. All the shortlisted photographs were exhibited at a central London gallery space, housed in the offices of BuroHappold – a global engineering consultancy.

Steve Macleod, Creative Director of Metro Imaging, Jason Shenai, Director of Millennium Images, and David Knight of DKCM Architects, judged the entries. After much deliberation, they awarded three runners-up spots to **Bella Morley of Caister Academy**; **Sophie Hadley of Ash Green School**; and **Abi Matthews of Thistley Hough Academy**.

The Creative Education Trust Young Photographer of the Year prize went to **Richie Harold of Lynn Grove Academy**. Judges commended Richie for his ability to spot the potential for a good photograph and his patience, ensuring he got just the right shot.

# Past, present and future

A profile of **Marc Jordan**  
Chief Executive and  
founder of Creative  
Education Trust

**A**s Creative Education Trust enters its seventh year, Marc Jordan, chief executive and founder of the Trust, reflects on the Trust's journey, while looking to the future.

Jordan's route was not an obvious one. He spent much of his career in art, architecture and design publishing and related creative industries. He also worked as a consultant to national cultural organisations, and served as a non-executive director with the Heritage Lottery Fund, and as a member of the government advisory panel for the 2008 European Capital of Culture competition.

The importance of education was, however, never far from his mind. *"When my grandparents moved from Eastern Europe to the East End of London before the First World War, they came with nothing but a desire to improve their lives and the lives of their families. Though my grandmother was never able to read, she always made sure that my dad studied hard, and valued the educational opportunities available to him."*

**Marc Jordan, Mary Groom and Miranda Sawyer** judging the first 6th Form Public Speaking Competition in 2014



"A great education transforms lives, builds communities, and helps young people to achieve things they never thought possible. That is why I established Creative Education Trust and that is why, seven years later, I am still as driven as I was on day one."





Below left: **Marc Jordan** addressing pupils at the Secondary Day of Sports 2013

Below: **Marc Jordan** presenting prizes at the Primary Day of Poetry 2017



*I saw first-hand the power of education to transform lives, because it had transformed my family's for the better. I was also taught from a young age the power that individual teachers have. At school in the East End in the 1930s, my father was excellent at maths and a great technical draftsman, but thought nothing of it. It took one teacher to recognise this and encourage him to pursue his passion and develop his talents. After the Second World War, he went on to be a highway engineer, studying in the US and eventually leading the planning team that designed the M25. Whenever I drive over that motorway, I think about my dad and the impact that one teacher had on his, and our lives."*

From 2007, Jordan became directly involved in the world of education, first on the board of the University of Exeter and then as a governor of a failing school in Sussex that was becoming an academy. As the issue of school reform began to gather pace, he wanted to roll-up his sleeves and do more.

*"It became clear to me that universities and government can have as many well-intentioned widening participation programmes as they want; however if young people don't have solid educational foundations and aren't given the advice, guidance and support to make informed decisions, the social mobility agenda is doomed to fail."*

As he began thinking about how he might create an organisation that could be a force for the good in the sector, Labour were coming to the end of their 13 years in power. It became clear that whichever political party won the 2010 election, they were going to continue with the academy programme. Jordan began

talking to like-minded people inside the education sector and the creative industries about setting up a charity to be an academy sponsor with creativity at its heart. *"People were very enthusiastic about my vision, which was encouraging. We quickly gained momentum and got support from the incoming Coalition government."*

*In those days, as today, I had three intentions: to improve standards in schools that had been failed for too long; to make sure that education is relevant not just to the world that young people currently inhabit, but also the world that they will find themselves in as adults; and to equip young people with the attributes that make people successful."*

The Trust has come a long way since then – there are now 13 schools with more in the pipeline, a mixture of primary and secondary schools, employing over 1,000 staff, and educating more than 10,000 pupils.

*"I still look back fondly at those early days, when it was just me and a two-person executive team, around my kitchen table trying to make this happen. It was 24/7, 365 days a year – but I will never forget the pride when the first school opened under the Creative Education Trust banner. It never goes away – I still get it whenever I visit a Creative Education Trust school."*

As the Trust continues to grow, the challenges facing its leader have naturally changed. What is clear from interviewing Marc Jordan is his desire to hold on to the family-feel that makes the Creative Education Trust such a special place to be. *"I have never wanted to be a distant multi-academy trust leader, remote from our schools and our staff. I cannot function only knowing our schools as names on a spreadsheet. I need to know the culture of each school, I want to know the staff, understand what motivates them and hear what ideas they have to improve their schools and the Trust. It is important as a leader to be able to see and hear, first-hand, the impact of decisions made."*

So what does the future look like for the Creative Education Trust? On this, Marc Jordan is clear. *"We will continue to do everything in our power to ensure that all of our young people receive the very best education, preparing them to leave our schools with the knowledge, skills and creativity they need in order to be successful in life."*

*We could not have done what we have done, and we will never be able to do what we want to do, without the best people in our schools and central team. A priority for me is making sure that we attract, keep, and develop great staff."*

*We will grow, but we will grow in a way that makes sense and allows us to develop a strong infrastructure so that our existing schools can continue to improve, while any new schools have enough support to transform quickly."*

*My ambition has never been for Creative Education Trust to be the biggest multi-academy trust; my ambition has always been to be among the very best. As our results continue to improve, and as our schools continue to go from special measures on joining, to good, with many well on their way to outstanding – it is clear that the future is bright for Creative Education Trust."*

Still from the winning drama, ***One for Sorrow*** by Anya Tregay and Benjamin Griffiths of The Hart School

Watch the winning film, ***One For Sorrow***, on the Creative Education Trust YouTube channel. [youtube.com/creedacad](https://www.youtube.com/creedacad)



# Young writers create their own five-minute thriller

**The winners of the first-ever Creative Education Trust Creative Writing Competition had their words brought to life, working with professionals to produce their own short film.**

James Read of Caister Academy instigated the competition at a cross-Trust meeting of English teachers. Year 8 and 9 pupils produced a 500-word piece, incorporating a given phrase or response to a given image.

Two pupils from each school were selected for the finals, where they were given a task closely aligned to the creative industries of today – writing a screenplay for a five-minute drama. Pupils had to use their school as a context, with a plot focused around ‘something overheard’. Inspiration came from the famous ‘apple barrel scene’ in Robert Louis Stevenson’s *Treasure Island*, where Jim overhears Long John Silver’s violent plots to kill.

The 14 finalists spent the day at Swedenborg House, London, with Harry Oulton, a screenwriter experienced in writing television dramas. He is also a children’s author and creative writing tutor. Harry challenged them to write the dialogue that Stevenson’s original did not disclose. Further exercises, interspersed with Harry’s insights into the classic structures of film and fiction, illustrated with short films and excerpts, culminated in a collaborative session with finalists from each school working in pairs to create their screenplays.

**Anya Tregay and Benjamin Griffiths of The Hart School, Rugeley** were the winners. Harry, and Sam Bevitt, a director of photography, spent the day at The Hart School, filming Anya and Benjamin’s five-minute film, *One for Sorrow*. The thriller focuses on the aftermath of the disappearance of a classmate and a mysterious magpie which may hold the clues to her whereabouts.

Our 14 finalists outside the BFI.

Finalists from left to right;

**Alex Croft, Ben Dobinson, Emily Leach, Emily Scott, Marta Macedo, Ryan Jones, Anya Tregay, Chloe Redfern, Benjamin Griffiths, Elyse Forsyth, Ryan Brookes, Kayla Smith, Jamie Newson, and Madeline Coe.**

Below:

**Harry Oulton** at Swedenborg House



# On your marks, get set, go!





**P**upils from across the Trust learned from the very best as Premier League footballers and Super League Rugby Clubs helped to make Creative Education Trust's Days of Sport a roaring success.

Primary pupils met at Three Peaks Primary Academy and took part in training sessions with Wasps Rugby Club and with representatives from the Marc Albrighton Centre of Development – the coaching school set up by Leicester City Football Club's winger.

Pupils also competed in volleyball, netball, archery, goalball, rounders, and participated in street dance, and samba band workshops.

Pupils (and staff) were delighted when Marc Albrighton, the Leicester City superstar made a surprise appearance in the afternoon, to have a kick-about with pupils and to present the winners with their trophies.

It was a win for the home team, as Three Peaks Primary Academy took the trophy as overall winners. Outstanding performance awards went to **Vincent Cong** from Queen Eleanor Primary and **Emilia Wildman** from Harpfield Primary.

The secondary schools' Day of Sport at Weavers Academy had pupils competing in netball, football, dodgeball, table tennis, and athletics, including triathlon. The overall winner of the day was Lynn Grove Academy, with outstanding performance awards going to **Sophia Mason** of Thistley Hough Academy and **Tom Curry** from Abbeyfield School.

Trophies were presented by Catherine Spencer, former England Women's Rugby Union captain, who inspired pupils with her stories of triumph against all the odds.



# Day of Poetry

**Maksymillian Darocha,**  
**Queen Eleanor Primary Academy,**  
 at PureSoho, recording *The Road*  
*Not Taken* by Robert Frost.

**T**he summer season of Programme Day events began with a new addition to the calendar – the Creative Education Trust Day of Poetry.

**Richard Woollacott**, Headteacher at Harpfield Primary Academy created the competition to engage pupils with two key tenets of poetry – writing and recital – from a young age.

Two recitalists from each primary school had the opportunity to visit PureSoho – a professional recording studio in the heart of London's film and media production district. They received expert coaching from producer Simon Bass, and created a permanent recording of their recitals, chosen from an anthology compiled for the competition by Mr Woollacott.

At the Foundling Museum, our guest judge, writer and actor Ian Kelly (who many pupils excitedly recognised as Hermione Granger's father in the Harry Potter movies), commended the children for their diction, poise and expressiveness, and provided thoughtful feedback to each reciter.

Ian and his fellow judge, Marc Jordan, Chief Executive of Creative Education Trust, awarded first prizes to **Emilia Wildman** of Harpfield Primary Academy, for her performance of *The Listeners* by Walter de la Mare, and **Maksymillian Darocha** of Queen Eleanor Primary Academy for *The Road Not Taken* by Robert Frost.

The winning entries for the poetry writing competition were the mysterious and atmospheric *Wind, Snow, Rain and Fire!* by **Anisa Rafiq** (Harpfield Primary Academy) and *Goodbye* by **James Kealey** (Three Peaks Primary Academy), a reflection on the ending of his primary school years. Winners received a Folio Society *Anthology of Poetry*.





## Goodbye

It is time to say goodbye,  
To the school I grew to love.  
So many memories are kept here.  
It is where I met my friends.

I will never forget this school.  
The place I learnt to write, the place I learnt to draw.  
The place I learnt to read.  
I will never forget this school.

The years have gone faster than I have thought.  
Friends have come and gone.  
It feels like just yesterday,  
That I started my primary school.

It is time to say goodbye,  
To the school I grew to love.  
So many memories are kept here.  
It is where I met my friends.

**James Kealey**

Three Peaks Primary Academy



Top row:  
Ella Johnstone, Cody  
Lawes, Kim Woods,  
Connor Keeling

Middle row:  
Khalid Awol, Danielle  
Hebditch, Anisa Rafiq

Bottom row:  
Bethel Takavarasha,  
James Kealey,  
Ruby Stowe

## Wind, Snow, Rain and Fire!

Wind howls.  
Snow falls.  
Rain pours.  
Fire burns.

Wind howls, day and night.  
I shout her name,  
But the wind carried it away.

Snow falls, night and day.  
I shout her name,  
But it hid under the blanket.

Rain pours, day and night.  
I shout her name,  
But it sank deep down in the rain.

Fire burns, night and day.  
I shout her name,  
But it burnt away, lifelessly.

Wind howls.  
Snow falls.  
Rain pours.  
Fire burns.

**Anisa Rafiq**

Harpfield Primary Academy

## Successes and special commendations

# Students

**Jack Johnson**, a year 9 pupil from **Caister Academy** has qualified to take part in the Kickboxing World Games in Florida.



The **Hart School** pupils performed at Wembley Stadium, alongside X Factor winner, Louisa Johnson, before the recent Saracens vs Harlequins rugby union game.

Ex-**Ash Green** pupil, **Mitchell Clarke**, has signed a contract to play for Aston Villa Football Club.



**Weavers Academy** pupils raised money for victims of the Grenfell Tower disaster.



Pupils from **Harpfield Primary Academy** represented Stoke-on-Trent in the city's athletic finals. Pictured are **Gracjan, Benita, George** and **Alex**.



**Amy Grant**, an A-level student at **Weavers Academy** has been selected to play for one of England's top netball clubs, Loughborough Lightning u-21s.







Pupils from **Three Peaks Primary** performed at a private corporate event at New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham. They were invited to perform after impressing a member of the management who attended a musical event at the school, organised by **Hollie Keyse**.

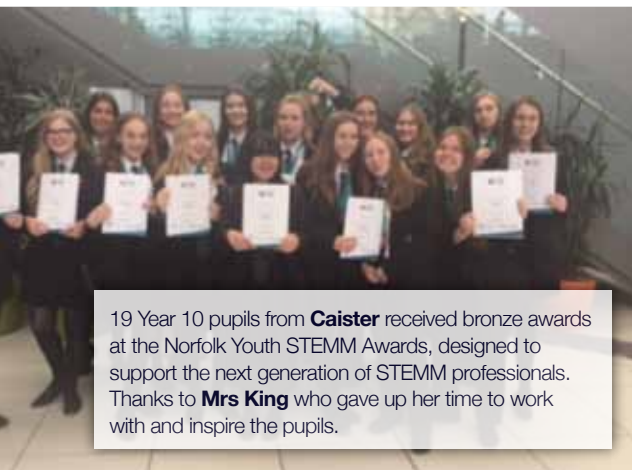
# and staff



Thanks to **Mr Gissendorf** and **Miss Grimmer** for taking Year 10 pupils from **Lynn Grove Academy** to visit Cambridge University.



**Harpfield** Local Governing Body Chairman **Revd Chris Rushton** and his wife, Heather, were invited to Buckingham Palace recently for a Royal Garden Party in the presence of HRH The Queen and Prince Philip.



19 Year 10 pupils from **Caister** received bronze awards at the Norfolk Youth STEMM Awards, designed to support the next generation of STEMM professionals. Thanks to **Mrs King** who gave up her time to work with and inspire the pupils.



**Ben and Isabella** (pictured) have been appointed Head Boy and Head Girl at **Caister Academy**.

Congratulations to Year 7 footballers at **Ash Green School** who won both the local league and cup double. The team is made up of **Elliot Harris** (capt), **Lewis Carpmail**, **Connor Steane**, **Jack Sexton**, **Jack Conroy**, **Lewis Harper**, **Kielan Thackeray**, **Tommy Parsons**, **Harrison Smith**, **Nathan Mhlanga** and **Sean Osborne**.



**Jay Birmingham**, a teacher at **Three Peaks Primary** received a commendation for his entry into the Landscape Photographer of the Year competition. His photograph will be included in a book and exhibited in London in November.



Pupils from **Caister** and **Lynn Grove**, performing together.

# DAYS OF SONG



Singing Ambassadors being coached in rehearsal by Charles MacDougall.

Top row, from left to right:

**Alexis Spillane, Jodie Spaughton, Kezia Welsh, and Charlotte Hancox, Weavers Academy; Oliver Evans and Joanna Wickham, Abbeyfield; Scott Ribbons, and Charlotte Joyce, Lynn Grove.**

Bottom row, from left to right:

**Ellie Holloway, Abbie Holloway, and Libby Pee, The Hart School; Bethany Collins, Caister; Charlotte Hurley, and Sam Smith, Ash Green.**

**L**earning of Creative Education Trust's determination to increase and universalise the making of music in its secondary schools, the Voices Foundation proposed a year-long project for 2017 entitled Chorus. It translated the trust's agenda into two main objectives: an ambition to give everyone in all our schools the experience of ensemble singing; and a common foundation of musicianship assured to all by a Year 7 programme which uses only the voice.

Dr Sally Cathcart's highly interactive CPD sessions for music teachers across the trust yielded rich resources for introducing pitch, rhythm and harmony in the first year of secondary school. These principally use the pentatonic scale, the commonest musical mode which is found in traditional and folk music all over the world. Charles MacDougall worked with teachers on choral conducting, vocal warm-ups and technique, and repertoire. These choral sessions, and Charles's school visits culminated in three joint performances – aka the Creative Education Trust Days of Song – by choirs and ensembles in west and east Midlands and in Great Yarmouth.

The recruitment and training of a small number of soloists from each school added a thrilling virtuosity to the concerts as each 'singing ambassador' performed complex and challenging arias from a classical vocal repertoire. We look forward to the fourth Day of Song, a joint performance by the Hart School and Thistley Hough, in spring 2018.

Connected compliments all the singers – choirs and soloists – on their hard work and accomplishment. Thanks to all the teachers who participated with such energy and commitment to the Chorus project, which continues into 2018 with a special focus on boys' singing.



Creativity is the ability to find connections between the things we know and turn these connections into new ideas and action.

The academic arts and the sciences, practical subjects and life skills all need creativity.

Creativity is highly valued by employers.

With knowledge, skills and creativity, every young individual is equipped to succeed in the knowledge economy.