

Mary Astell Academy's Journey



2018

Prosper Learning Trust is formed

Jan

Sponsorship

Linhope PRU is sponsored by the newly formed Trust.

Teaching and Learning

New SENDco appointed who immediately focussed on the needs of pupils. A very high number of pupils were found to have unidentified SEND needs. This led to a significant number of pupils transitioning to more appropriate provisions to meet their needs.

Leadership

Appointment made to the Head of School role. Significant external appointment bringing extensive mainstream pastoral experience.



Culture

In partnership with parents and pupils a culture of learning and respect was instigated. A set of non-negotiables was established with safeguarding at its core. Pupils were expected to remain on site throughout the day, mobile phones were locked away during the day and smoking was no longer tolerated with a smoking cessation programme introduced.

Apr



Learning Environment

One of the first jobs was to improve the learning environment. A full programme of decorating was carried out. New windows were fitted to large parts of the academy and a gym was developed.



Branding and Uniform



In partnership with parents and pupils we renamed the academy Mary Astell Academy, developed a new logo and introduced a pupil uniform for the first time. This was a significant step forward in setting the tone for a new start and new ways of working.

Dec



Teaching and Learning

To develop closer working between the two AP academies within the Trust, the first staffing appointments were made with responsibilities across both academies. These included the Data and Exams Officer and the CEIAG and Transition Lead.

2019

Teaching and Learning

New pastoral team developed to support the social and emotional needs of pupils. Increased support for pupils enabling teaching staff to focus on classroom delivery.



Sep

Governance

A new Chair of the Local Advisory Committee appointed which finalised a completely new governance committee that had been in development since September 2018



Curriculum

As a result of a comprehensive curriculum review new vocational options were introduced in Catering, Construction and Hair & Beauty.



Learning Environment

To support the changes to the curriculum a professional standard hair salon was developed as well as a construction workshop that included a mock-up of a house to allow plastering and decoration

Dec

School Improvement



External audit from Bolton Impact Trust highlighting areas of strength and areas to develop leading to a re-focussed Improvement Plan on key areas.

2020

Learning Environment

The Trust is successful in a Condition Improvement Fund bid to replace all remaining old windows and to replace the boiler.

May

Leadership

New Executive Headteacher appointed which is a significant step forward for the Trust and Academy. This appointment enables the CEO to focus specifically on that role while giving both AP academies a dedicated Headteacher.



Outcomes

The academy records zero percent NEETS. This compared to 23% in 2018-19 and is reward for the strong investment in preparing pupils for their next steps and transition.

Aug

2021

Academy Developments

The academy opens its doors to a new cohort of pupils with an In-reach offer to mainstream schools for pupils struggling to cope and at the point of permanent exclusion.

Apr

Curriculum

The vocational offer is increased to include photography for the first time.

Our Journey Continues.....