

16/07/2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is the first of our new monthly Trust Newsletters which we will be sending out to parents from September. This will enable you to get to know the Trust better and for us to share all the good news stories that are happening in our Academies.

As we approach the end of what has been an extremely challenging year for all of our Academies I would like to pay tribute to all of our pupils, staff and parents/carers who have been so supportive throughout this challenging time. I hope that next academic year will be a year without disruption.

### **Covid Risk Assessments**

We have a significant number of pupils across the Trust who are having to self-isolate at the moment as their bubbles have been sent home due to positive cases so we have made a collective decision with our Head teachers to follow our risk assessments until the end of term. I understand this can cause frustration, as this time of year we would normally invite parents into Academies for various events, but with rising cases we are trying to keep as many children in school as possible. Thank you for your support and understanding with this. Head teachers will update parents before September through MCAS and on the Academy website as to any new arrangements for the new term.

### **Trust Local Advisory Committees**

There will be a change to Local Governance from September. Trust Local Advisory Committees (TLAC) will replace the Local Governing Body. This is to ensure that all of our Academies are equally represented by skilled members and all our pupils have the same opportunities. All of our existing Governors have been invited to express an interest in joining a TLAC but we would also like to open up the opportunity to others who feel that they would like to be more involved with the Trust and support our Academies. Please email your child's Academy and they will be happy to provide you with an Expression of Interest form if you are interested.

TLAC's will meet once per term and most of these meetings will be held online. TLAC's will represent more than one Academy to enable us to work collaboratively and also for members of the Committees to have an insight into more than one school.

The principles that all of our TLAC's are based on are:

- We place pupils, parents and our communities at the heart of our vision and values for the Trust.
- We want to keep local connections and engagement and link this to the Trust Board's activities in meaningful ways.
- We want to establish and communicate our organisational identity and value with our communities, and our stakeholders, and listen at the same time.

The TLAC groupings are outlined below:

|                        |  |  |                       |                         |
|------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Wednesfield<br>Smestow | Edgar Stammers<br>Tame Valley<br>Reaside | Fairway<br>Featherstone<br>Albert Bradbeer | Pye Green<br>Orchards | Woodhouse<br>Heathlands |
|------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|

I would like to thank all of our existing Governors who have served our Academies and for the time and commitment that they have given.

### **Investment in our Academies**

We are investing significantly in our sites and there are some exciting works going on over the summer. We now have three 'new build' Academies and we are committed to improving facilities and equipment for all our pupils. Some of these projects include;

- A new Early Years classroom and outside learning space at Fairway
- An Information Hub at Albert Bradbeer
- New computers at Featherstone
- New toilets at Smestow
- New toilets and playground equipment at Edgar Stammers
- A new library and books at Pye Green
- A new dining space at Wednesfield High School

Phillip Scott, our Finance and Operations Director is visiting all our Head teachers to see how we can support with the vision for their Academies and future projects.

### **Wednesday 'Take Over' Afternoon**

As you are aware each Academy was given the responsibility to take over learning for all of our Trust pupils during the period of school closures when we were working remotely. This was on a Wednesday afternoon. The feedback from this was so positive and the sessions were such a success that we will continue these afternoons next academic year with each Academy being responsible for one afternoon when we all share our learning. The only difference is the children will be in school! It is a really good opportunity for children to get to know other Academies across our Trust and the experiences other children are having.

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I hope you all have a safe and restful summer break and we look forward to welcoming your children back in September. Good luck to all our students who are receiving their exam results in August. I'm sure you will be rewarded for your hard work. To all our pupils who are moving onto their next school or further education I wish you great future success.

Best wishes



Professor Michelle Shaw  
Director of Education  
CEO University of Wolverhampton Multi Academy Trust