

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we near the end of the summer term, I'd like to thank all parents and carers for your ongoing support of our seven schools and The Sixth Form College. It means a lot to the Principals and to the staff as they work tirelessly to educate your children and young people.

Updates

This term I have continued to visit all the schools and the college to talk about the overall vision and values of the Trust that were shared with you in my newsletter. It's really important that we are all aligned in our values. In this way, we will be more effective as we raise standards across the Trust.

Governance:

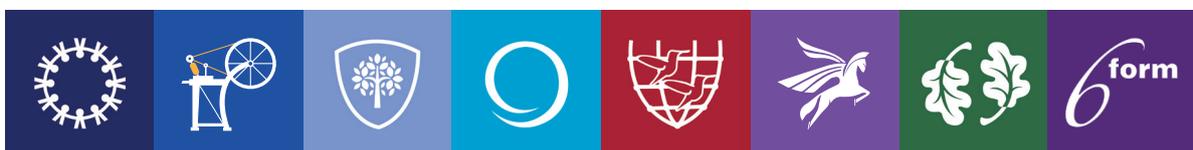
We have reviewed how local governance was working across our schools. Taking a range of views into consideration, including of course parent governors, we have made changes for September 2018 which all seem to be looking forward to! The existing Academy Councils, stretched as they were across two schools, simply didn't have sufficient time or resource to support and challenge leaders, and get to know their schools in enough detail. So, from September we will have a **Local Governing Body (LGB)** for every individual school. There is a clear scheme of delegation for each which shows what responsibilities have been delegated to the LGB by the Board of Trustees. A range of school policies will also be in the remit of the LGB. In this way, we hope that the members of the LGB will get to know their schools much more closely, and that parents will feel that you can contribute more closely to your own school/college.

LGBs will meet termly; members will have individual responsibilities for example for monitoring SEND, or Safeguarding in the school, and all will be welcome to visit the school/college. If you think you might be interested in becoming a school governor, then please do get in touch with your school/college Principal to talk about it.

Trust Leadership

Our Executive Team goes from strength to strength in terms of the support and challenge it offers to our schools/college. Principals tell us that they really value the expert support they get from our HR, Finance, ICT and Estates Directors and teams. Our **Primary School Improvement Director** took up her post in April and joins the **Secondary/6th Form School Improvement Director** in really driving up standards still further in leadership and teaching and learning across the Trust. From September, we'll be putting in place a Quality Review system, where all schools are reviewed by our SIDs and sometimes external experts too. This will help us to have very good knowledge of standards in all our schools/college.

To support all leaders, we are very pleased to have appointed a Trust Data Insight Analyst this term. He will work on Trust wide systems for gathering and reviewing information from a wide range of areas to inform how we continually improve in all areas.



School Leadership

There are few changes in leadership for next term.

The Principal of Pegasus is leaving at the end of term: from September, the school will be led by an interim **Head of School, Mrs Simcox** (previously the Vice Principal), and an interim **Executive Head of School, Mrs Phillips** (our Trust Primary Principal). This will provide great continuity and excellent support for the school as it moves towards 'good' at the next Ofsted inspection.

It was excellent to see the very positive comments about leadership in the most recent **Ofsted** inspection and report for a Trust school in May - **Lyndon School**. The school has improved significantly and is no longer in special measures. Leadership was given a 'good' grading in recognition of the work that has been done to improve the school. Congratulations to Mr Butt and his team!

'The principal and an ably supportive new senior team share an uncompromising vision of improvement in the school. They have worked tirelessly and effectively to improve pupils' attendance, behaviour and progress.'

It was also very pleasing to see the work of the Trust recognised in the report:

'The newly appointed chief executive officer (CEO) of the trust has swiftly identified the main issues that were holding the school back and wasted no time in solving them.'

'As a result of the trust's increased capacity, which led to strengthened leadership, from May 2017 the trust swiftly provided appropriate, effective support.'

On Saturday 16th June, we held our annual **Leadership Conference** and welcomed Michael Pain, CEO of Forum Education to talk to Trust leaders. We then worked on developing Trust wide leadership principles and behaviours, and on strategic development planning. The mixture of inspiration and practical work was a great combination, and was very useful to our dedicated school and Trust senior leaders, who gave up a precious Saturday to work together.

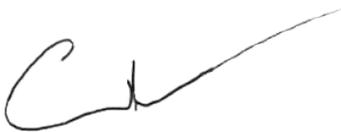
Together, we are much more than the sum of our parts.

As we aspire to be the best we can, we invite in external scrutiny to schools/college so that we can learn from experts outside the Trust. Ninestiles, An Academy, Cockshut Hill and Lyndon schools, and the Sixth Form College Solihull have all been externally reviewed this term, and feedback has been very useful in planning for future improvement.

We're looking forward to welcoming Sir David Carter, National Schools Commissioner back to the Trust in July, and showing him all we've achieved since his last visit in January. I'm sure he will be impressed by all we've achieved for the benefit of your children and young people in Ninestiles Academy Trust.

I wish you and your families all a wonderful summer break.

All best wishes,



Catherine Anwar
CEO
Ninestiles Academy Trust

