



Grant Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 7HZ
01344 772658 | enquiries@corvuslearningtrust.co.uk
www.corvuslearningtrust.co.uk



Corvus Learning Trust

Update Letter

July 2020

As the school year draws to a close, we would like to thank everyone for their hard work and contribution during what has been an unprecedented and difficult time for our education community.

Like many Trusts, we have had to react quickly and effectively to a changing situation and adapt to advice from the Government. When we established the Trust, it was important to us that our school leaders retained responsibility for the running of their schools, being best placed to understand the needs and requirements of their school communities. During this pandemic we have pursued this approach, allowing our schools to make their own decisions about the most effective way of delivering teaching and learning and support to our pupils/students, which has been supported by the vast majority of parents and we thank you for your continued understanding.

Whilst allowing each school the autonomy they require to make effective decisions, there has also been amazing teamwork between the schools to share their thoughts, ideas and communications. Headteachers have liaised regularly, as have the Chairs of Governors, and as a Trust we have facilitated and supported where needed. This collaborative approach is one of our Trust Core Values – “we are in it together...with a shared vision by collaborating and supporting to the benefit of us all” and we have been heartened to see this in action over the past few months.

Finances

Financially, the period of lockdown has been difficult for the Trust, for example, with significant costs around COVID-19 and loss of revenue. This will be partly offset by additional Government grant funding for schools, but not fully. We are therefore pleased to report that the Trust will benefit from a £100,000 grant from Wellington College to help local schools to close attainment gaps that have opened up during Covid-19. We expect a broad spectrum of pupils to benefit from this grant. Wellington is making these grants to Trusts under its new Educational Grants Scheme, using funds generated from Wellington College licensed schools in Asia. We are very grateful to Wellington College for this financial support.

We are also pleased to announce that we have been successful in being awarded a Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) grant of £500,000. This will be used to make improvements to the Hatch Ride and Edgbarrow school buildings and facilities (last year's £400,000 grant was used for improvements at Oaklands Infant and Junior Schools).

Trustee Leadership

As a Trust we are dependent upon the voluntary work undertaken by our Trustees and Members. We have had some changes in the Trust and would like to take the opportunity to say a big thank you to Suki Carr and Joanna Nightingale, who are now leaving, for their valuable contribution since the inception of the Trust. We have also welcomed Jarlath O'Brien and Stephen Crouch to our Trustee Board over the past year. Jarlath has also taken over as Chair of our Education and Outcomes Committee and Stephen has become Chair of our Business, Assets and Risk Committee.

As we mature as a Trust, we are learning more about our roles and responsibilities and where more focus is required. As such, we have asked Graham Oakley (Vice-Chair of Trustees) to take a lead on the Governance of our Trust and Justine Waight (Trustee) has become Chair of our Policy Committee.

We are always looking for individuals, with the right skills, to join our Trustee Board. We would like to achieve a healthy diversity on our Board too. At this time, we are specifically looking for individuals with skills/experience in the areas of HR, Finance, Legal and Primary Education. However, should you feel you could bring any other skills to our Trust and have time to commit to the role, please email us at enquiries@corvuslearningtrust.co.uk.

As a Trust, we have both a Three-year Strategic Plan and a One-year Development Plan. We wanted to share with you that under the one-year plan, our key areas of focus for the next school year 2020-21 are School Improvement, both at Primary and Secondary level, Growth (through new schools/academies joining our Trust) and, as mentioned above, Governance.

If you would like to know more about the running of our Trust, please take a look at our website

<http://www.corvuslearningtrust.co.uk/>

At school level, our Local Governing Bodies (LGB) are key to the running and success of their schools. We have many new Governors on our LGBs, and we would like to welcome them all to the Trust and take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Governors for all their hard work and support.

Future

We are hopeful that we will be able to welcome all of our pupils/students back to school in September. This is requiring some detailed planning and continuous updating of risk assessments by our schools. The competing demands our Headteachers are facing include:

1. The aim for all children to receive an education that is close to normal, as soon as possible
2. The need to minimise risk for both children and staff
3. A focus on well-being and lost learning with a desire to minimise its impact
4. The impact of any decisions we make for September onwards on parents/carers and childcare arrangements
5. Continually reviewing our plans in a timely fashion.



Grant Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 7HZ
01344 772658 | enquiries@corvuslearningtrust.co.uk
www.corvuslearningtrust.co.uk



Your school will continue to communicate with you over the coming weeks to ensure all parents/carers and pupils/students are aware of the school's plans in advance of the new academic year.

Once more we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of you; pupils, students, staff, parents, Governors, Trustees, and Members for everything you have done over the last school year. We hope you stay safe and have an enjoyable Summer break and we are looking forward to seeing you all in September.

Warmest regards

Bob Elsey
CEO

Steve James
Chair of Trustees

