

### Message from Bob Elsey - CEO

#### Introduction

As we complete the Autumn term, we are very pleased to report that our new Trust Office at Wellington College (in the old Clay Pigeon Shooting Lodge) is offering us a great opportunity to bring our Central Team together. Once again a huge thanks to the college for their support in both our initial office move and in solving those teething problems that all office moves encounter!

All of our schools have made a positive start to the new academic year and we are all delighted to be back to some normality after the roller coaster of the past few years.

#### How can we help?

Before we move onto Trust work and developments, I would like to take the opportunity to remind all our families that the Wokingham Vineyard Church foodbank situated in the small trading estate adjacent to Crowthorne train station is open and full of food, blankets, hot water bottles etc that they are hoping to give to those of us in need. This is not just for people in crisis but those who just need some help right now with the increased cost of living. Nino Moscardini, the Vineyard Senior Pastor, has asked us to remind all our families that they are there to help.

Referral vouchers can be obtained from the schools but if someone isn't sure how to get a voucher please attend one of the foodbank sessions on Mondays 12-2pm, Mondays 5:30 -7pm and Thursdays 12-2pm where the team will help you. They will give support and talk about how to get vouchers from the school in future.

Crowthorne Foodbank  
Vineyard Church Centre  
25 Wellington Business Park  
Dukes Ride  
Crowthorne RG45 6LS  
Website: [crowthorne.foodbank.org.uk](http://crowthorne.foodbank.org.uk)

#### 1. Outcomes

One of the key roles of our Trust is to support our schools to achieve the best possible results for all of our pupils. It is our Vision to "Deliver an exceptional education to **all** of our young people". Our Director of Education (Stuart Matthews) supported by our Primary Development Team (Amy Chapman and Suzanne Higgins), work with the schools in target setting and monitoring of pupil progress and outcomes.

The Director of Education and Primary Development Lead report to the Education and Outcomes Committee termly and the Committee reviews and monitors each school's results both during and at the end of each Academic Year.

In every school there are pupil outcomes of which the Trust and our schools should be very proud. We also know that in each of our schools there are areas of development work that are being undertaken to improve their pupil results further. Details of results will be available on each school's website. Areas of focus will be highlighted on each school's Development Plan.

#### 2. Ofsted

During the Summer holiday Oaklands Infant School received their official Ofsted Report. We were delighted that the school has retained its "Good" status. Our thanks go to Hannah O'Neill, the leadership team and all staff and governors for the way they represented the school and a special thanks to the children who, of course, behaved beautifully throughout the inspection.

There were a number of strengths of the school identified by the Inspector including it being a happy and nurturing school with very good early years provision and an emphasis on the quality of reading and maths within the school. The primary area for development highlighted in the report is around the teaching of phonics which the school has already started to address.

As we go to press Edgbarrow School have just completed their Ofsted inspection. From our involvement as a Trust, it is clear to see how hard the staff and governors have worked in preparation for this visit. It is also worthy of note how proud the teachers and the students are of their school and each other. We are very grateful to the number of parents who responded to the survey and the school looks forward to sharing the outcome in due course.

#### 3. Leadership Changes

We were sorry to receive the resignation of the Headteacher of Oaklands Infant School (Hannah O'Neill) who has taken the decision to relocate with her family to Northern Ireland. Hannah has been the Headteacher for 5 years and has done a fantastic job of leading the Infant School. Her care of the children, their families and her staff has been outstanding especially during the very difficult pandemic. Her commitment to the role of Headteacher and her community during this time meant she went above and beyond every day. We want to express our sincere thanks to Hannah and wish her all the very best for the future.

The resignation prompted us as a Trust to take a fresh look at both the structure and leadership of the Oaklands Schools. Following consultations with both schools and governors, the Trust made the decision that the schools should remain separate entities but that an Executive Headteacher should be appointed to lead both schools. This will not take place until September 2023 at the earliest.

We are delighted to advise that the current Deputy Head, Ellen Weston, has been offered and has accepted the role of Acting Headteacher for the remainder of the Academic Year following Hannah's departure. We wish Ellen every success in her new role.

#### 4. School Updates from Chairs of Governors

##### Edgbarrow School – David Boothe

"On Monday 21st November the much-anticipated phone call finally came from Ofsted requesting an inspection the next day. As a governing body we are really proud of the way the staff and students conducted themselves throughout our visit. We await the outcome with bated breath....."

##### Hatch Ride Primary School – Helen Thompson

"Thank you to Pat Arthur, clerk to the governors of Hatch Ride, as she is moving onto further clerking duties closer to her home. On behalf of the staff and governors at Hatch Ride can I thank her for her support and guidance over the last 6 years. Invaluable!"

##### Oaklands Infant School – Mat Parker

"There are two significant areas of activity currently ongoing at Oaklands infant School. The first is the upcoming departure of Hannah O'Neill. It is an understatement to say that Hannah's leadership and standing in the community are unparalleled.

Assuming the role of Acting Headteacher from January 2023, Ellen Weston will continue her impressive leadership and with support from the CLT will guide Oaklands Infants into a new era.

The second area of note is the implementation and early impact of our new phonics programme. Following our recent Ofsted visit, the school leaders were encouraged to adopt a Systematic Synthetic Program that would build on our already encouraging phonics results in recent years. The selected programme was Sounds-Write which is based on the science of reading. This multisensory, code-oriented, comprehensive approach to literacy has been designed by teachers—and for teachers. All teaching staff have undergone initial training on this approach and pupils are now using it on a daily basis. Early results are very encouraging."

##### Oaklands Junior School – Charlotte Kieran

"We are delighted to announce our new governors to the team and their roles; Stuart Hine – Health & Safety, Jon Wood – Web site compliance & computing link and Bisi Olaleye – Well-being & Thinking schools Governor.

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November, Oaklands Junior School welcomed 12 Lithuanian teachers for the morning. Also in attendance was Richard Cummings, the founder of Thinking Matters. As a Hub Thinking School, this is the third time we have hosted a group from Lithuania with the intention of sharing our practice and promoting the development of a Thinking Schools approach to a wider audience, which has also included delivering a lecture at the Wellington College Festival of Education in July 2022."

##### Sandhurst School – Rachel Adamson

We would like to introduce and welcome our new governors, Sarah Oliver and Jemma Holmes. November has been a busy time with a strong focus on Year 11 exams but also the opportunity to hold our very popular and competitive Inter House winter tournaments.

The House System is highly regarded both in terms of the pastoral support for students and the competitions for the various cups and trophies. Whilst this has been a busy half term, we were not too busy to make sure, as a school, we fell silent at 11am on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Cadets wore their uniforms and the Last Post was played in a poignant whole school observation of the armistice.

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November at the service in Sandhurst two students laid a wreath on behalf of our school and four students read names of the Sandhurst Fallen – those from our town who lost their lives in World War I.

#### 5. Strategic Plan

The Trustees are presently undergoing a review of the Trust Three Year Strategic Plan. The reason for the review is that the Trust is growing and developing steadily and we need to ensure that we have future plans in place that reflect the needs of our schools and the Trust.

This Strategic Plan is a Trust specific plan and can be found on our website. School Strategic Plans are available on their individual websites.

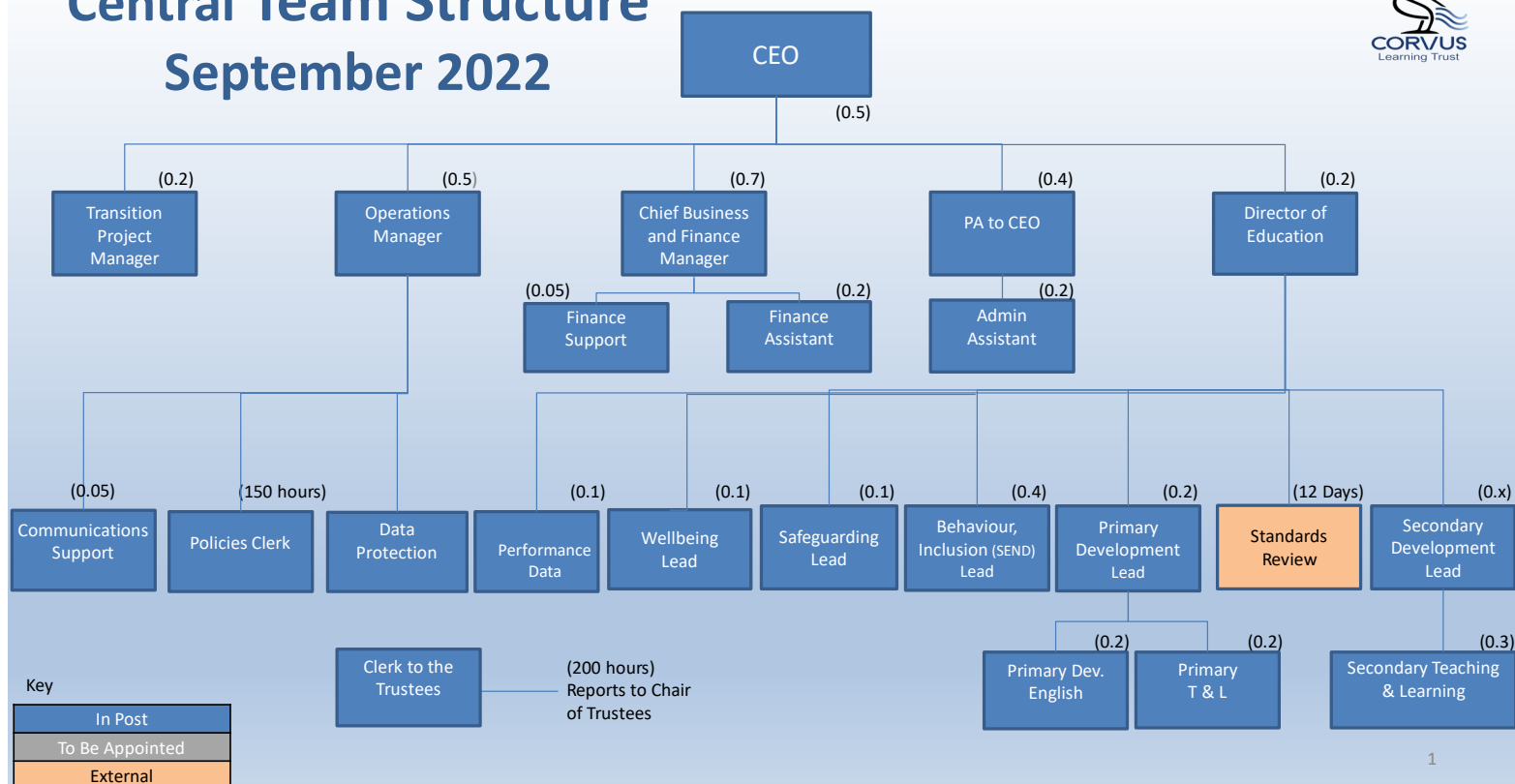
#### 6. Growth

A key part of our strategic plan for the last three years has been Growth. It has always been our aim to grow organically, partnering with schools in the local area that have a similar vision, values and ethos to our own.



Over recent months we have made a number of appointments to the Central Team. We wanted to share with you our new structure for your information.

## Central Team Structure September 2022



Part of this growth has enabled us to develop a number of working groups to focus on key areas of our Trust and school priorities. We are delighted with the way these working groups are helping to formulate our strategy and deliver best practice in support of our children, colleagues and schools. As a Trust we continue to encourage collaboration and the sharing of best practice and therefore regular meetings take place between the school's finance teams (with our Chief Business and Finance Officer), whilst at governance level we meet with the Chairs of Governors and Clerks on a termly basis.

### 7. Governance

Within the Trust, governance continues to be an important area at all levels with a focus on the strategic direction and the financial stability of the Trust and schools. After a few years of operating as a Trust we have invited the DfE to undertake a review of our governance to ensure that we are an effective and compliant Trust whilst offering support and challenge to our schools and the Trust as a whole. We will report back on their findings in our next Update.

As we grow as a Trust it is imperative that our Members' Group and Board of Trustees offer a variety of background knowledge, experience and the passion to help drive the Trust forward with a focus on continuous development. Therefore, we continue to seek new Members and Trustees to support the strategic leadership and growth of the Trust.

If you are interested in finding out more, please look at our website or drop us an email on [enquiries@corvuslearningtrust.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@corvuslearningtrust.co.uk) and we would be delighted to discuss our roles with you.



## From the Schools

### Oaklands Infants & Junior Schools

Oaklands pupils at a Remembrance service at St John's Church.



### Hatch Ride Primary School

Pupils at the Harvest Festival and Remembrance Service



### And finally.....

One of the parts of my role that I enjoy the most is my visits to our schools. I was fortunate enough to be invited into Oaklands Infant School for their Harvest Festival assembly recently which was packed full of pupils and mums, dads and grandparents – I have never seen so many photographs taken and it was a joy to watch.

I also joined Hatch Ride at their Remembrance Service on 11<sup>th</sup> of November which was held in the playground. What a moving occasion it was, with all the children and staff participating and showing their respect.

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, I spent the morning in Oaklands Infant School with Miss Weston and Elm class and Miss Davies, the teacher of Beech class. What a fantastic morning. Great teaching, happy children all focusing on their work and doing their best. Great atmosphere—thank you!

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December, I joined Oaklands Junior School for their Christmas Decoration Day. This event was a really fun day and I had a great morning with the children, staff and parents!

As we grow and develop, we face different challenges. The Trust team and I are committed to ensuring that we offer the best support and guidance to all staff and our school leaders. I am proud of the people I work with across the Trust and the work that we are all doing to ensure the very best education for our children. My thanks to everyone for their continued hard work, support and dedication.

*Bob Elsey*

If you have any questions about our Trust please contact us on [enquiries@corvuslearningtrust.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@corvuslearningtrust.co.uk)

*Wishing you all a happy Christmas and New Year*

