

### Message from Bob Elsey - CEO

#### Introduction

My word, this academic year has absolutely flown by and we hope that children and students have enjoyed being back in their school on a more regular basis. The next time you hear from us Bulmershe School should have joined the Trust and our pupil numbers will have more than doubled since we established in January 2018, to over 4,700. As we grow, there is a huge responsibility on the Trust to do all we can to support our schools, colleagues and children. Collaboration and teamwork at all levels across the Trust continue to be fundamental to the success of our schools and huge thanks go to all of our colleagues for their commitment to the Core Values of the Trust.

#### Debbie Smith (Headteacher, Sandhurst School)

Debbie Smith retires at the end of this academic year after 37 years of unswerving, dedicated service to the children of Sandhurst School. This is an outstanding achievement and contribution to education. There will be few who have given more to the children of Sandhurst and the wider Bracknell community.

Debbie joined the school in September 1986 as a young, enthusiastic teacher and has worked tirelessly, whilst always having the children at the centre of her work. During her years at Sandhurst School, Debbie has held a number of roles as she moved into senior leadership. As a Headteacher and leader of some ten years, she has the most outstanding reputation for the care of her students and staff, always going the extra mile to support those within her community.

Debbie is fiercely proud of Sandhurst School and the fantastic work they do for their children. She has created a school with a wonderful ethos and atmosphere in which all students are welcomed and supported through their education.

Debbie has shown an absolute commitment to the children, the staff and the school and will be hugely missed by everyone. She has embraced the role of Headteacher in all areas of her work from the day-to-day care of the children to the numerous extra-curricular activities she supported and has constantly used her free time to ensure all children receive the very best care and education.

As a recognition of her work, we are delighted to share the wonderful news that Debbie was voted Teacher of the Year at the 2023 Pride of Bracknell Awards held at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst, on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023. We were thrilled to see Debbie's outstanding contribution to education recognised. Many congratulations to Debbie on such a well-deserved award!

We would like to this opportunity to thank Debbie for her commitment, hard work and dedication and to wish her a very long, happy and healthy retirement.

#### Appointment of Headteacher

Following Debbie's announcement to retire the school found itself in the position of needing to appoint a new headteacher. Our congratulations go to Gareth Croxon (Deputy Head, Edgbarrow School) who was offered the position and will start as Headteacher at Sandhurst School in September.

This was a hugely important appointment that was led by the Trust in collaboration with the Local Governing Body. As the Trust's first permanent Headteacher Appointment since our formation, we were delighted with the process which involved presentations to staff, assemblies, interviews with the student council and a number of panel interviews. All of which was run very effectively by the school. Our thanks to everybody involved in what was an exciting and challenging two days.

#### Ofsted – Edgbarrow

At the time of going to print for our last Update, Edgbarrow School had just received a visit from Ofsted and we were waiting for the official report. Well, we were obviously delighted to receive, in early January, the official notification that the school was judged as "outstanding" in all areas. Many congratulations to Stuart Matthews (Headteacher), all the staff, the children and the governors. It was truly a team effort and a very well-deserved outcome.

More recently, at the Pride of Bracknell Awards, held in April, Edgbarrow School gained Silver Award in the School of the Year category. Once again, congratulations to everyone concerned.

#### Infant School Headteacher

In our last update, we shared with you our intention to create the role of Executive Headteacher across both Oaklands Schools. To date, we have not filled this role and we continue to review our options. Both the LGB and the Trust are very pleased with the progress the Infant School is making under Ellen Weston's leadership and we have therefore asked her to extend her Acting Headteacher role until at least Easter 2024. We are delighted that she has agreed to continue in this role.

#### Progress with Bulmershe School

We had hoped that, by now, Bulmershe School would have joined the Trust. However, due to some consultations regarding contractual leasing arrangements with Wokingham Borough Council our timetable has slipped. We are, along with Bulmershe, hopeful of completing transition by September. We have already started working together, both at school and governance level, and look forward to our future partnership.

#### Kennel Lane School

As we have mentioned previously, we continue to look for opportunities to steadily grow the Trust and we can now share with you that we are in conversations with Kennel Lane School with regards to them joining the Trust in 2024. Kennel Lane School is a Bracknell Forest School of approximately 200 pupils with additional learning needs and we are excited that they are keen to join our Trust. We will continue to update you as we have more information to share.



## Trustees and Members

We continue to expand both our Central Team and our Members Group and Board of Trustees. If you are interested and would like to know more about becoming a Member or a Trustee please contact us. We would welcome a conversation with any interested parties.

At the same time, if you work for a large local company that has a local community programme or development opportunities for individuals to become Members or Trustees.

Member and Trustee enquiries should be addressed to:

[enquiries@corvuslearningtrust.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@corvuslearningtrust.co.uk).

## Governance Review

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 our schools. The Trust governance review has taken place by the National Leaders of Governance (NLG) funded by the DfE. The aim of the review was to ensure that the board is fulfilling its core functions, fully compliant with regulations and guidance and for the organisation to be sustainable.

The key message from the review was that individual schools are performing well. The Trustees are committed and demonstrate great qualities and the governance system is professionally managed. The report concluded that the board is working effectively and identified some opportunities and recommended areas for development.

The Trustees have now submitted an action plan which has been approved by the NLG. We will collaboratively progress this action plan and evolve the content as the Trust grows.

## Three-Year Strategic Plan 2023-2026

A core element of our Trust governance is the Three-Year Strategic Plan. The plan contains our long-term objectives that reflect our Trust Vision to deliver an exceptional education to all our young people; and Mission (to deliver outstanding outcomes, achieve sustainable growth and provide excellent trust services).

It also reflects the ambition and direction of the Trust and enables us to allocate resources to achieve these objectives. The Trust Three-Year Strategic Plan also provides direction to our schools with each school incorporating relevant elements into their own plans.

This year we have updated our plan in consultation with headteachers, chairs of governors, and trustees to ensure that we continue to deliver an exceptional education to all our young people. A big 'thank you' to all the leaders who have contributed our plan.

Please [click here](#) to see the details of the plan.

## News from Chairs of Governors

### Hatch Ride Primary School—Helen Thompson

Well done to our Year 2 and Year 6 children for their consistent approach to their learning all year which culminated with SAT testing. Their resilience, with support from their teachers and support staff, ensured that the tests came and went without the turmoil that was widely reported in the press. Year 1 children and staff are completing their phonic testing, whilst Year 4 are having their times tables tested. Well done to all of our children and thank you to every member of staff who contributes to this. Welcomed onto the team of Governors at Hatch Ride are Kelly Slaughter and Adam Hicks and our new clerk Jo Chalkley.

A project is growing in the soil and fabric of Hatch Ride. In the courtyard, collaboration between the school community has seen the area transformed into a 'Courtyard Garden'. RE3 donated compost and parents Tim Watson, Luke Thompson and Matt Hodgson gave their valuable time to build raised vegetable beds and a pagoda for vine and trailing flowers.

All classes throughout the school helped with the planting during our recent Healthy Minds week. Year 6, with the support of Clare Firth, are the main year group now maintaining this space by vigilant watering. Come harvesting time we will have pumpkins, tomatoes, courgettes and potatoes to feast on.

A particular thank you to Annie Wilson for making this project happen and giving so much time to support the school.

### Oaklands Infant School—Mat Parker

Oaklands Infants School has had a very busy first half of 2023. Ellen Weston has accepted an extension to her role as Interim Headteacher. Ellen has been an incredibly proactive leader this year and has overseen some hugely positive developments across the school.

The governing body has also continued to develop this year. We are in the process of appointing a new parent governor and hope to also announce the appointment of a new staff governor before the start of the next academic year.

We are busy analysing the results of our recent staff and parent / carer surveys. Governors recently met with teaching and support staff to discuss the results of the staff survey and identify areas of development for the next 12 months. These surveys are hugely beneficial in helping the LGB shape our strategy moving forwards and provide us with an insight on the wellbeing of our wider community.

The LGB would like to take the opportunity to extend their ongoing gratitude to all staff. Without their efforts, dedication and commitment the school would not be the holistic, nurturing environment our pupils are privileged to thrive in.

### Oaklands Junior School—Charlotte Kieran

Oaklands Junior School Governors have welcomed Gary Burrige to the team, Gary is a Financial Controller and brings a wealth of knowledge to the team. He is doing a fantastic job strengthening the financial oversight. We recently held Governors Day, where the team had the opportunity to see the curriculum in action. We joined the children for lunch and held our LGB meeting, where everyone had the opportunity to share their feedback. The Governors found the children's behaviour exemplary and were delighted to see the children's genuine enjoyment and high level of engagement with their learning. Governors found the school warm and welcoming.

Governors have collated the data from their annual stakeholder surveys and are grateful to everyone that took part. The parent survey has the best results ever, across the last 5 years it has been completed. 96% of parents said their child is happy at Oaklands Junior School and 98% said that their child is well looked after. The results will be published in full on the web site. The Governors always welcome your feedback and can be contacted via [chairsofgovernors@ojsgovernors.co.uk](mailto:chairsofgovernors@ojsgovernors.co.uk)

### Edgbarrow School—David Boothe

We were thrilled that Edgbarrow had maintained its outstanding result following November's Ofsted visit. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the dedication, hard work, and commitment



of our entire school community, including our exceptional governing body. It has been a delight to witness how each governor has played a pivotal role in shaping the vision, ethos, and direction of Edgbarrow. Their invaluable contributions, guidance, and strategic decision-making have been instrumental in creating an environment where students and staff thrive and achieve their full potential. We look forward to the future with great enthusiasm and anticipation, knowing that the support and dedication of the entire school community will continue to propel Edgbarrow to new heights of excellence.

### Sandhurst School—Rachel Adamson

It has been an exciting time here at Sandhurst over the last half term with many things happening across the school. Perhaps the most significant of these is that our Headteacher, Debbie Smith, received the Teacher of the Year at the 2023 Pride of Bracknell Awards. Sandhurst school and its children were delighted to see that Debbie's outstanding contribution to education was publicly recognised.

As Headteacher she has an outstanding reputation for the care and support she gives to her staff and students. She is always going the extra mile to support those within her community and is fiercely proud of Sandhurst School and the fantastic work we do for our children. The ethos and atmosphere that we enjoy at Sandhurst has been driven by Debbie and her dedication to improving student outcomes. We are so proud of you and your achievements Debbie.

### Trust School staff retiring this year

The following school staff are retiring at the end of term. We thank them for their years of service and contribution to the school and wish them a very happy retirement.

**Brian Bingham**, *Teacher of Chemistry at Edgbarrow for 21 years (returning to teach part time)*

**Julia Cooper**, *Senior Pastoral Manager at Edgbarrow. She has worked at the school for 23 years*

**Yvonne Scott**, *Advanced Maths Support Programme (AMSP) Area Coordinator at Edgbarrow for 5 years*

### From the Schools

#### Oaklands Infant School

Oaklands Infant School had a wonderful week celebrating the Kings Coronation. Firstly, we visited Pinehurst Care-home to make crowns with the residents. Then on Friday 5th May, we carried out a mock coronation, crowning our very own King Charles.

This was followed by a shared picnic and afternoon of festivities with the Juniors. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the King's Coronation and build life long memories for our children.



#### Oaklands Junior School

Our joint Coronation Picnic event was a memorable occasion for a historic event that our children and families will always remember. It was fantastic to see so many parents, with children from our Infants and Juniors able to join together with their families for this celebration. We are also pleased that Bob Elsey as CEO of Corvus and our Director of Education, Stuart Matthews, joined us.

During the picnic there was a flash mob where children all got up to dance to 'Celebration' by Kool & the Gang which gave a real party feel to the afternoon. In addition, there were lots of songs for all to join in and a beautiful song 'Sing' with some very meaningful words for this occasion:

'To sing we've had a lifetime to wait  
And see a thousand faces celebrate'

A fun penalty shoot-out organised by our Year 6 children added to the excitement of the picnic and raised much needed funds for the school, while Year 5 children ran lots of fun games to raise funds for their trip to Osmington.

Following the picnic, we sang 'God Save the King' and Junior belle plates performed the National Anthem. We were treated to several dance performances, one from Kali's Dance Academy and another from our junior children who also performed at the Hexagon for WASMA to the music of 'Angels'. In addition, William B from Year 6 performed a fantastic guitar solo.



Oaklands Juniors displayed their shoe box creations for celebrating the life of Prince Charles and his Coronation, along with Years 3 & 4 displaying bunting that was created as part of a sewing day. Years 5 & 6 made banners displaying felt crowns that they had made. Our Infants displayed a coronation banner, as well as singing beautifully 'If you're a king and you know it' to the well-known tune of a similar name and at the end they were part of a wonderful parade of crowns.

To round it all off, we had an ice-cream van on site which was very busy due to the sunny weather. All in all, a lovely atmosphere with many parents saying how wonderful this was to celebrate together for the King's coronation.

#### Hatch Ride Primary School

Hatch Ride pupils have recently enjoyed Health Minds, Healthy Planet week which included a wide variety of activities and special visitors. We had lots of fun celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III with a whole school lunch and a creative crown making competition. We are very proud of our Year 6 class for sitting their SATs with such a positive attitude, they are now looking forward to their residential trip.

The Hatch Ride Summer Festival takes place on Saturday 8th July, 2pm-6.30pm. There will be live entertainment, animal encounters, a bouncy castle, silent disco, food stalls and much more!

All are welcome.



## Edgbarrow School

Ex-student Alistair Allen attended Buckingham Palace recently to be presented with his Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award by Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh. We are delighted that Alistair has been recognised and rewarded for his commitment to completing his Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards whilst at Edgbarrow. Many congratulations Alistair!



Meanwhile, our Bronze and Silver DofE students have had successful training weekends walking and canoeing with their assessments taking place in July.

We're so proud to see our Year 8 Boys' and Girls' Football teams reaching the League finals, and the Boys' team also reaching the County Cup final before half term.

After a successful season being unbeaten, the girls worked hard across the field with excellent defending and skill and speed in the midfield and attack. Unfortunately, the girl's hard work and determination didn't provide the result hoped for as they lost 3-1 against the strong Piggott side. A big well done to all the girls who have represented Edgbarrow U13 this season. We can't wait to see you play and progress further next season.



The boys' League Final against Forest saw multiple near misses for Edgbarrow who were dominating the game. Unfortunately, Forest smashed one into the back of the net from a near impossible angle. Edgbarrow then spent the rest of the game chasing this goal, but with some great defending. In the final 15 minutes, Forest scored three more from their incredibly fast and skilful striker who was on fire. This resulted in us losing 4-0, but this did not give an accurate representation of how close the game was.



The boys were raring to go in the County Cup final against Park House to retain their cup from last year. It was a fast-paced game with our defence keeping out a strong attack from Park House. Luke Gray scored a screamer from the edge of the box followed by another from Luke making it 2-0. In the second half Park House found their feet and put the pressure on scoring an early goal making it 2-1. The boys are now 24 wins to 1 loss.

In March, our whole school production of *Billy Elliot* played out over three successful evenings. The cast and crew were fantastic and showed incredible maturity and respect as they depicted the story of Billy Elliot. Thank you to all of those who came and showed their support and a huge well done to all involved.

**And finally...** A special mention and best wishes to all of the children and students who have taken national assessments this Summer. We know that you will have done your best, supported by some great teachers and parents/carers and we hope that you are pleased with your results. It was so good to see such great celebrations in our Primary Schools to commemorate the Coronation of our new King. I do hope that in the years to come, the children will remember the picnics and parties given on such an important and historic occasion. A highlight of the year for me was judging the "crown competition" at Hatch Ride with lots of worthy winners.

As the end of term is in sight, it feels like the right time and opportunity to thank our staff for their unwavering support and commitment to the children, their colleagues and their school. We are so grateful for all that you have done this year and hope that you have also enjoyed the work and enjoy the Summer break when it finally arrives.

*Warmest regards, Bob Elsey*

## Sandhurst School

Whilst the day-to-day business of schools rolls along guided by bells and timetables, underneath the surface of this familiar and established routine is where a school comes alive.

This past term we have crammed so much into enhancing learning opportunities and I am proud to share a few highlights with you. Bringing visitors into school to share their expertise and experience with students is always incredibly valuable and rarely more so than on our Citizenship days. Our recent days saw Year 8 focus on Crime and Punishment and we enjoyed listening to police and prison officers. The Year 10 students had several experts join them for our Holocaust Day and were particularly delighted and in complete awe of Holocaust survivor Susan Pollack.

Visits play a huge part in the extra-curricular life of our school and since the end of Covid restrictions Sandhurst students have over the past term travelled far and wide, including a London theatre visit to see Hamilton, Snowdonia for A Level geography and the Covid cancelled ski visit to Italy and the geography visit to Iceland. As always, our students were wonderful ambassadors for our school and a pleasure and privilege to spend time with.



We have enjoyed much sporting success this year but particularly want to share the success of our Year 7, 8 and 9 girls whose respective teams are East Berks champions. This is an incredible achievement and we are all absolutely delighted.



Our school productions are always a highlight and none more so than *Beauty and the Beast*. A whole school production showcasing the incredible talent and teamwork of our students. It was a real treat and everyone involved should be so proud.

My thanks to all staff whose support, commitment and generosity in giving of their own time mean such visits and extracurricular activities happen at all.

