

Message from Bob Elsey—CEO

Introduction

As we move towards the end of the autumn term, I hope all the children who have joined a new school have settled in and are starting to feel a little more confident in their new surroundings, and that all other children have enjoyed the start to their new school year.

This year looks like being another busy time for the Trust, with two schools joining Corvus by Spring 2024. These transitions are rarely straightforward but we are excited at the prospect of The Bulmershe and Kennel Lane schools joining us soon.

Pupil outcomes & results - Summer 2023

Once again, we are delighted to report that all of our schools had results to be proud of – both as year groups and individually. Huge congratulations to all of our pupils for their commitment and hard work, whether it was doing their Phonics test in Year 1 or their A levels/BTecs in Year 13. I do hope that you and they are all proud of what they have achieved and it encourages them to go further with their learning. If there are some pupils that are disappointed, I do hope that they can learn from their experience and move forward positively to the next stage of their learning or career.

None of this would be possible without the commitment and hard work of our staff who I know are equally nervous on results day (whatever that might look like!). They always want the very best for all their pupils and I would like to thank each and every one of the staff for their passion and dedication.

For further details regarding your school's results, please refer to their website.

Attendance

Could I please take this opportunity to highlight the need for all pupils to be in school and that attendance is really important for their progress and development. This year, our half-terms and the Easter break across the Trust are aligned. This should help parents as you plan family time.

Corvus as an Academy Trust

We continue to be very proud of our Trust and work hard to maintain the excellent reputation we have within the educational setting and our local community. It has always been our aim, as we grow, to ensure that we continue to do our best to support all our schools as they play their part in the development of Corvus as a Trust. We endeavour to reflect our Vision and Values in the conversations that we have, the decisions that we make and the work that we do and will continue to do so as we grow and develop.

We believe that this collaborative approach, showing integrity, shared leadership and, wherever possible, making decisions together has encouraged schools to approach us with regards to joining Corvus. Alongside this, we are delighted with the level of

interest shown in any vacancies that we have advertised.

We are excited that as we grow, we are able to introduce different types of schools to our Trust and strongly believe that there is a benefit in the Trust being well-rounded and being able to share knowledge and expertise with each other. This gives us the opportunity to effectively support all our children in all our schools.

It has never been our aim to “empire build” but to grow steadily, effectively and for the benefit of our children, schools and community.

Trust Central Team

Each year, as we grow, we are able to develop and grow our central services and our team. This is hugely encouraging to us as we welcome new colleagues who can offer focused, specialist support to our schools. This year, we are delighted to welcome:

In our Quality of Education Team:

Sherry Zand – Secondary Quality of Education Lead

Sherry is an experienced educationalist, with 16 years of school leadership behind her who has served previously as a Headteacher. Her background specialism is in teaching English which is her passion and she has had successes in raising standards and improving outcomes across secondary schools. She has previous leadership experience in large national Multi Academy Trusts and brings with her a wealth of experience around curricular development, teaching and learning and leadership.

Annabel Watson – Primary English Lead

I am excited to join Corvus Learning Trust as Primary English Lead. In my role I will be working with the primary schools to support the delivery of the English curriculum. I have worked in primary education for many years and have a broad range of experiences which I look forward to bringing to the role.

Claire Cornish – Pupil Performance Data Assistant

I work for the trust as a Data and Pupil Performance Analyst. My background has been in business, working in both operational and project based roles, and more recently I have completed a BA Hons in History. My role for the Trust focuses on gathering both mock and exam results to understand opportunities across the Trust to enhance pupil progress, helping to ensure every student has the chance to achieve their greatest potential.

In addition, Stuart Matthews, Edgbarrow Headteacher and our Director of Education, will be spending two days a week working with all our schools within the Trust. Carolyn Pyke, our Transition Project Manager, who oversees the process of new schools joining the Trust, is also increasing her time with us.

Please see [Central Team Structure 2023-2024](#).

Please note that although we have 18 members of staff working within the Central Team, all are part-time and this equates to 6 full-time equivalent roles. As you can see, we are still quite a small Trust. Thankfully, all our colleagues work incredibly hard and bring a variety of knowledge and experience.



Governance

I'd like to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers that do so much to support our Trust, this includes our Members, Trustees and Governors (over 80 volunteers in total). All our schools have amazing Local Governing Bodies, that help to provide valuable support and challenge to their Headteachers, SLTs and Staff.

Our Board of Trustees and our Members Group are truly committed and willingly give of their free time to offer advice and support as well as attending regular Board and Committee Meetings throughout the year.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Stephen James, our outgoing Chair of Trustees, who has recently stepped down from Chair but will continue to support as Vice-Chair. Steve has been involved with Corvus since before we established and participated in all the planning meeting in the build up to our creation. We have been so fortunate to have Steve to lead the Board of Trustees from its inception to the present day. His manner, integrity, kindness and unwavering support are reflected in our Trust values. We could not have chosen a more appropriate Chair as we established the Trust, developed relationships with our schools and welcomed new schools to the Trust.

I would like to welcome Justine Waight as the incoming Chair of Trustees. Justine has been Vice-Chair for the last year and joined the Board in May 2018, shortly after we established, and was a former Vice-Chair of Governors at Oaklands Junior School. As a Trust we are delighted with this appointment and we wish Justine every success in her new role.

We have various vacancies on our Board of Trustees and Governing Bodies. We would be delighted to talk to you if you think you have the necessary time and skills to join us. For further information please contact us on enquiries@Corvuslearningtrust.co.uk.

Please see the [Trust Governance Structure 2023-2024](#).

Working Together as a Trust

On Wednesday 8th November 2023, the Trust held a gathering for our existing Trust Schools and those schools soon to join us. Around 70 colleagues from our Central Team, Members, Trustees, Governors and Senior Leaders from our schools attended the event.

In the past, these have proved valuable in terms of strategic discussion and this year we had a presentation from Amanda Woodfin, the Headteacher of Bulmershe School. She gave an inspirational speech full of passion and commitment to Bulmershe School, her students and staff. A key part of the evening was also the use of breakout groups to discuss and evaluate our Trust strategic growth plan; feedback from which will help to shape our plans for the next few years.

For the first time we have also arranged a Trust Training Day on Tuesday 2nd January 2024 (an Inset Day). This is also a great opportunity for us to bring all staff together.

We anticipate that there will be over 500 delegates from all our schools and the focus will be on how we learn and well-being. A huge thanks to Wellington College who have been kind enough to allow us to use their Auditorium for this event. We will feed back to you on this event in our next update.

My first Six Weeks at Sandhurst School –

Headteacher Gareth Croxon

As I look back on my first half term of being the Headteacher of Sandhurst School I can't quite believe how much has happened in such a short period of time. We have welcomed in the Year 7 who have made an excellent start and have settled in very well. We have introduced positive learning routines across the whole school which have ensured we have a calm and purposeful start to our lessons. We had numerous events to engage with our prospective Year 6 students and parents including a parent information evening, open evening and six school tours. I have been incredibly proud to show families around the school and it has been lovely to hear their feedback.

On top of the standard day-to-day teaching, staff have still found time to run a wide range of trips, clubs and fixtures which is fantastic. As much as we want students to remember the lessons it is often the co-curricular experiences they have that they look back on fondly in adulthood so I am incredibly grateful to our staff for making this happen.

I would like to thank everybody for giving me such a warm welcome to the school and I am excited to see what we can achieve this year as it progresses.

Reports from Chairs of Governors

Edgbarrow School – Daphne Hill

The start of this year has brought with it a few changes to our Governing Body with me as the new Chair and some new faces. Welcome to Emily James our new co-opted Governor, Oli Johnson our staff governor and we look forward to being joined soon by a newly elected parent Governor.

We would like to recognise the contribution our outgoing Chair David Boothe made in steering the Governing Body and supporting the school over 4 years especially through the challenges of Covid and Ofsted.

Once again, we start the year with a backdrop of budgetary pressures; as the Governing Body we work with the school in ensuring that any decisions made are based on robust thinking and that the outcomes on pupils are central to all considerations. Another focus area for the Governing Body this year is to cement our strong links with the school through subject link visits, with safeguarding, staff and student wellbeing always to the fore.

A highlight this term has been the school's introduction of ClassCharts which has received great feedback – thanks go to all the staff, Lou Rea-Palmer and Alison Mullane in particular, who have put in long hours to get this off the ground.





Whilst the processes and policies are central to ensuring a well-run school it is the people that make the difference; a big thanks therefore to all the staff for their drive, determination, and passion to make Edgbarrow a great place to study.

Hatch Ride Primary School – Helen Thompson

Welcome to an update on Hatch Ride. We are pleased to welcome new members of staff, Miss Costello, Mrs Pratt, Ms Fillipini and Mrs Mallett - and also Ms Capozzdi who has joined us as a school counsellor - they have all fitted in seamlessly to our school.

The school community rallied to collect food for Harvest and contributed much needed supplies for the food bank. The children have also raised £196 for 'Just One Tree' to plant more trees to support the children's understanding of environmental issues. Hatch Ride were 'collaborators' on Friday 17th November for Children in Need. One of their core values is collaboration and the children clocked up 231+ miles in support of Radio Berkshire's Ten x Thames challenge. Headteacher Ms Sparrowhawk was on the radio to share the hard work of the children to run, skip, dance whatever way they wanted to move to support the challenge.

Oaklands Infant School—Mat Parker

As we returned to school on the Monday after half term, Headteacher Miss Weston received the call from Ofsted to inform her that Oaklands Infants would be inspected the very next day. This was a two-day inspection conducted by two inspectors.

Miss Weston, her leadership team and the staff at Oaklands Infants displayed remarkable dedication, enthusiasm and resilience over the course of the inspection and I can confirm that the report will be available in the next few days for us to proudly share with staff, parents and the wider community.

What I will say is that whilst an inspection is important and demonstrates the performance of the school against academic expectations, a school is the centre of its community all year round. What was learned by the inspectors across the two days is a reflection of the commitment and care demonstrated each and every day by our teachers and support staff at Oaklands Infants.

Oaklands Junior School – Charlotte Kieran

Oaklands Junior School governors have cemented their team for this academic year and have four key sub committees to the Local Governing Body: staffing, curriculum & standards, finance & premises, and admissions.

Representatives from Oaklands Junior School Governors and the Senior Leadership Team recently attended the Corvus Learning Trust gathering. This was a fantastic event where all the Corvus team shared the development plan moving forward and how the Trust has expanded to meet the needs of the schools. There was also a breakout session where leaders discussed their views and ideas about how the Trust develops and grows. It is clear that, central to everything is each individual child within the Trust and their needs.

Governors remain delighted with the curriculum planning intent and development work that is implemented at the Junior school. They continue to monitor the curriculum impact. The Junior school continue to offer a host of events throughout the Autumn term to enrich the children's learning experiences. Cycle to School week included the opportunity for children to cycle around the daily mile track, a dance workshop for all children, Roman day, Diwali day, anti-bullying week and road safety week are also coming up. All these events enrich the quality of education delivered at Oaklands Junior School.

The Oaklands Junior School governors are delighted with the latest Key Stage 2 SATS results. The results are above local and national, this is a great achievement. The Governors sincerely thank the Oaklands Junior School team for all their continued hard work and passion for the school and its children.

Oaklands Junior School are delighted to welcome a new Governor to their team – Damian Cope. Damian joins the team with a wealth of knowledge to share and contribute to the team.

We are always interested in new people joining the team and stakeholder feedback. Our Chair of Governors, Charlotte Kieran can be contacted on, ckieran@ojs governors.co.uk.

Sandhurst School—Rachel Adamson

It has been an incredibly busy term for Sandhurst School as we have welcomed a new Headteacher, Mr Gareth Croxon, and two new governors to the board. It has been great to see how well Mr Croxon has settled into his role at Sandhurst and I am thankful to all staff, students and governors who have made him feel welcome and have embraced the initiatives that have been put in place. I am grateful to the support that the parents of Sandhurst School give us as a community and am looking forward to the Spring Term and everything that it brings. I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our pastoral team who work tirelessly to support the wellbeing of everyone.

It has been an exciting time within the governance of the school across the board with changes in how we monitor and challenge areas such as quality of education and staff and student support. We are looking to increase our board membership over the coming months and would welcome any interested parties getting in touch with the school directly. I am looking forward to the challenges facing us and know that with the continued dedication of our entire board along with the support of the Corvus Learning Trust the school will continue to build on its strengths.

With December and the holidays just around the corner we have many exciting things going on at Sandhurst including our Winter Showcase, a Year 7 visit to the Warner Bros. Harry Potter Studios and the end of term assembly. I would like to wish everyone in the school and the wider Trust a very Happy Holidays and look forward to welcoming everyone back to school in January.



From the Trust Schools

Oaklands Infant School

The school's first 'Reading for Pleasure' morning.



Oaklands Junior School

Year 5 pupils made Mayan masks and pupils attended a remembrance service in Crowthorne.



Hatch Ride Primary School

The Harvest Assembly took place on Friday 6th October.



Edgbarrow School

Photos from the Year 7 trip to Kidderminster and the annual 10k sponsored walk to raise money for the school.



Sandhurst School

Visits to the Tate Art Gallery and Kew Gardens



And finally...

I hope that the first term has gone well and with the holidays just around the corner, wishing you all a very happy Christmas with family and friends.