



14th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to write to you and thank you for all your support this term. It has been an incredibly busy time in schools and I am delighted to inform you that there have been many successes across the Trust.

The progress scores for children issued by the government this term show almost all of our primary schools were placed in the 'above' to 'well-above' average categories. This means children are making better than expected progress in their learning. This is the result of fantastic teaching, care and guidance, but also support from Parents and Carers to ensure children are in school and ready to learn. Attendance at our primary schools has also been well-above national averages, always a good sign that children and Parents and Carers value what schools are trying to achieve.

Progress scores for secondary schools were equally impressive, with the Trust likely to retain its top 10 place nationally for value-added at GCSE. Again, attendance has been exceptional in most schools despite Scarlet Fever, Strep A and anything else that has been thrown at children to overcome. Pupils work hard, as do staff and it is lovely to see this hard work rewarded by excellent outcomes across all of our schools. Some particular highlights include Writhlington School which scored a very high progress score this year for the first time in 10 years – evidence that the improvement work at the school is having a direct impact on children. Buckler's Mead and Preston Schools in Yeovil also saw results improve by over half a grade, per pupil, per subject – a stunning improvement since joining the Trust. St Mark's Secondary in Bath deserves a special mention for improved GCSE progress scores, particularly for those pupils who are in receipt of Free School Meals. On average these children achieved almost a grade higher per subject than the national rate.

Whilst results are important for pupils, schools are clearly about far more than SATS, GCSEs or A levels. Ofsted regularly inspects schools and we have had several inspections this year, all of which have been positive. Two schools in particular deserve mention here. Dundry Primary and Hayesfield Girls' School. Whilst I cannot give you the grading for each of these schools yet, both did extremely well. For Hayesfield, this represents superb work to maintain very high standards. Keeping schools excellent, is as important as improving them, so I am delighted that Ofsted recognised the fantastic work of the school. At Dundry Primary, the excellent Ofsted outcome was great news, as it represents many years of hard work to improve the school. It is now a successful, pleasant school for children to attend, something Ofsted recognised in their visit a few weeks ago.

There is so much to be proud about across our 28 schools and this is the result of partnership between staff, Parents, Carers and pupils. I do hope that everyone manages a restful break over Christmas and come back to a new term feeling refreshed.

Merry Christmas

Alun Williams
CEO

