



*Come as you are and leave as a Champion*

Dear Staff, Parents and Children,

I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with an update at the end of my first term as the Chief Executive Officer of the Creative Learning Partnership Trust which your child's school is part of.

Despite the many challenges facing our schools with learning to live with Covid, this spring term from January to April has been as close to a return to life before Covid within our Trust schools. From 1<sup>st</sup> April, all measures around Covid have been removed as per the government guidance. Teachers are focussed on their children and improving their practise through collaboration. Leaders are leading their schools and visiting others again, schools are undertaking visits to wider cultural settings, sporting competitions are up and running as well as music and dance performances back at the theatres. Normal routines have returned involving the local communities and local governors are visiting and supporting our schools again. There is a real desire of providing a first-class champion education for all our pupils. Across our Trust, each school and community are coming beyond the pandemic in a different place, with different areas of focus but, what holds true for us all is that the pandemic isolated everybody and to recover, collaboration and working together will be the key.

As a new Chief Executive Officer, the key priority over this term was to introduce the strategy; Vision 2026 and to introduce myself to all schools, communities, parents, and staff. I have visited each school and community on a two-week rota with some schools having a weekly visit. The Trust held a vision day where there was a focus on our motto and providing champion moments for all our children. During this term, leaders are working with staff, governors, and children to decide on several activities that all children within our Trust will participate in regardless of which school they attend.

Another area the Trust has developed is the technology strategy. All schools now have access to more resources, more technician time and over the next few months, we are putting in better broadband across all our schools. We saw the importance of technology and remote learning during the pandemic and we want to build upon the Trust successes. The Trust has also been challenging schools to improve their provision with a focus on reading being at the heart of their curriculum. It has been a joy to visit schools, see their libraries, their phonics schemes and to hear children read and, share their love of reading. Having three children of my own, I know the importance of reading, a love of books and the doors it opens to curriculum areas and to their own imagination.

This term however has provided schools with many challenges. We have had to deal with high staff absence rates due to Covid. Some schools have had to close classes at times and move to remote learning. Leaders have had to manage community expectations when often dealing with complex matters caused by the effects of the pandemic upon children, upon their behaviour, upon staff and upon themselves. Amanda Speilman from Ofsted talks about the education contract where parent's responsibility was for their child to attend school, with minimum absences, and schools were to do

their level best to educate their children. This has been damaged during the pandemic and it is important that as a Trust this is re-established over the next term with greater opportunities for parents to return to our schools. I thank you personally for your understanding and patience at times in realising the pressure schools and leaders were under this term.

Finally, I want to wish you all a Happy Easter and I look forward to the term ahead and to see the achievements of your children and see the positive impact that Trust schools can make upon their local communities. Our vision as a Trust is to support our pupils in living champion lives through providing day after day champion moments for all our children, all the time so that they can 'Come as you are and leave as a champion.'

Thank you for your ongoing support



Samuel Compton