



CEO Update – Mr Jonathan Taylor



We have had a very busy start to term and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and successful 2019.

This is a crucial term as we prepare pupils for the challenges of public exams in the summer. Year 11 and Year 13 pupils have recently taken mock exams and it is important that we work to support pupils to identify and overcome any barriers to success. The role of diagnostic feedback is vital here, together with wider strategies to ensure that pupils are fully prepared, including the support that is provided in terms of well-being and pastoral support. Year 6 will continue to work towards their SATs and we need to build on the improvements seen in our primary schools last summer. Kelly and I have recently been looking very closely at phonics programmes, work that will continue this term as ensuring children are taught to read in as effective manner as possible lays the foundation for their future success. Encouraging evidence informed approaches in all of our contexts is essential.

This term we welcome two new Headteachers to our Schools, following the retirement of Carol Green. Iain Hunter has joined Seething and Mundham and Mark Carlyle is the new Executive Headteacher of Burston and Tivetshall Schools. Mark has already introduced Waffle the new school dog – a move that has been much welcomed!

All staff should have received details of our new SODEXO benefits scheme. HR staff will be visiting schools to explain this further, but I would encourage you all to sign up and use the available benefits.



We have two major pieces of news to share with you on the next pages.

SET Trust Schools

Primary: Old Buckenham Primary School | Seething & Mundham Primary School | Rockland St Mary Primary School | Surlingham Community Primary School | Burston Primary School | Tivetshall Primary School | Great Hockham Primary School & Nursery | Ghost Hill Infant & Nursery School

Secondary: Wymondham College | Stradbroke High School | Framingham Earl High School | Old Buckenham High School



White House Farm Primary School



I am delighted to announce that the Department for Education has appointed SET to open and run the new White House Farm Primary School in Sprowston, Norwich. The school will open for reception aged children in September 2019 and build up over time to educate 420 pupils. The brand-new, purpose-built school is already under construction and is at the heart of the new Manor Park housing development. It is on track to open for the first cohort of pupils in September 2019. We have taken opening the school on from another MAT and everything is on track to be ready for September, with the overall investment being in the region of £8 Million.

Norfolk County Council is leading the building project and is funding the new school, via developer contributions. All new schools are opened as free schools, with decisions about who runs the school made by the DfE.

Cllr Stuart Dark, Chairman of the Children's Services Committee at Norfolk County Council, said:

"We want all children in Norfolk to have access to the very best education and are creating hundreds of new school places across the county, investing many millions of pounds. Sapientia has a great track record of providing a good education for its students and we look forward to working with them at the new White House Farm School."

Places are still available for September 2019 for Reception aged children and further details and updates will be posted on the Sapientia Education Trust website at www.se-trust.org.

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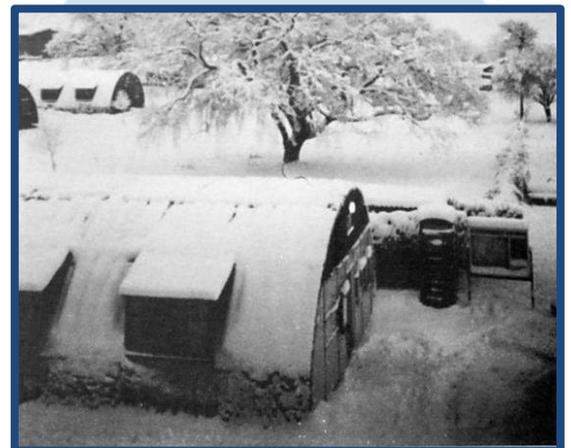
Wymondham College Prep School

Our plans to open a new primary school in Wymondham in September 2020 have progressed and I can confirm that we have now moved to the next stage of the opening process. Subject to planning and consultation, the School will open for reception-aged children in September 2020 and there is the possibility of opening for a Year 5 day cohort, should there be sufficient community demand. The school will build up to a total pupil number of 452 pupils, including up to 32 Year 5 and Year 6 boarders in a brand-new boarding house. We are expecting contractors to be appointed by the end of this month. The school will be located on the Wymondham College site and it is our intention that pupils will progress on to Wymondham College for their secondary education, being given priority status in the oversubscription criteria for the College. The school will help provide much needed additional school places in the Wymondham area and also solve a national gap in state boarding provision for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils. We have worked very closely with Norfolk LA to ensure that the proposed admissions policy helps support school place planning. The school will bring a range of new facilities to the site, including a large hall and outdoor all-weather sports facilities.

Whilst our track record is strong, our challenge is to continue to raise standards further – to provide all of our pupils with a world-class education locally. An education that combines high academic standards, with extensive extra-curricular opportunities and high standards of pastoral care. Our pupils should make better than nationally expected progress in every classroom, at every age, in every school. We will not settle until that is realised. We will continue to support staff by offering comprehensive professional learning opportunities through our teaching school and by working to further improve school environments and working conditions. We have excellent working relationships with professional associations and take seriously our responsibilities to our staff, including fairly evaluating workload issues.

My final announcement is to confirm that we will be running our first secondary teaching conference on April 23rd 2019. We have two high profile key note speakers already confirmed, as we work towards our SET 2021 vision. Zoe will share further details shortly, but we are already really excited about the way the day is shaping up.

As I write snow is forecast for next weekend. The picture to the right was taken in 1986 at Wymondham College. One Nissen hut remains as the College Chapel, but 30 years on it is interesting to contrast with new style school buildings, both at White House Farm and the new Peter Rout Centre at the College, due for completion very shortly.



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CEO - Sapientia Education Trust

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