

Chief Executive Officer – Mr Jonathan Taylor



As we approach the end of term I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your contribution to supporting our pupils this year. Our schools are generally happy places and over the past few weeks Kelly, Zoe and I have met pupil panels in all of our schools to discuss their perspectives on school life.

Pupils always offer a fascinating perspective. Our Secondary pupils engaged really well in discussions about learning and enrichment and many of our Primary pupils very vividly described their best experiences at school. What is clear is the commonality across the schools – according to our pupils learning is best where relationships are strong, activities well planned and feedback helps pupils improve. The ‘perfect lesson’ was commonly described as: something to do straight away, a section of ‘teacher talk’, followed by paired work or discussion, then something active to do and then the opportunity to apply the new learning to ‘real life situations.’ Amazing how pupils can cut through the complexities of effective teaching and learning with such clarity!

This year has seen our Trust grow and develop and we will now start to really accelerate the benefits of belonging to a wider group of schools. Already we are seeing significant impact in terms of standards and the ability to generate additional resources to benefit all.

Our Primary results at KS2 and KS1 have demonstrated significant improvement, with more pupils than ever reaching and exceeding age-related expectations. Put very simply our overall results are significantly up in writing, reading, maths and SPG. This is really terrific!

Primary staff have benefitted from high quality training and collaboration and this will accelerate as ‘Talk for Writing’ and ‘Power Maths’ programmes become more fully embedded next year. We have further to go though and it is not unreasonable to expect 80% of our Year 4 students to reach expected standard in two years’ time. (65% this summer).

Our secondary schools are starting to establish stronger subject links and there are lots of exciting activities planned for next year. Stradbroke, Framingham Earl and Wymondham College share many strengths and the use of IRIS connect will help to connect staff in a really meaningful way next year. We look forward to welcoming Old Buckenham High School next September and you can read about some of Zoe’s plans below.

Next year will see several significant infrastructure projects completed: A £2.4 Million classroom center will open at Wymondham College; Stradbroke will benefit from significant repairs over the summer and we will continue to enhance facilities across our schools, including planned summer work at Framingham Earl and across the Primary schools. Our Trust growth should enable us to receive additional capital monies from the DfE next year to further benefit all of our schools.

I can confirm that our new Primary school will open in Summer 2020, probably on the Wymondham College site. We are in the final stages of discussion with the DfE about location and the DfE has completed several feasibility studies assessing possible locations for the school and a new boarding house. Whatever the outcome the facilities that will arrive as part of the project will include a large performance space, enhanced sport areas and improved parking facilities - which should add to the educational benefits of providing education from reception through to Year 13 for the local community.

I am privileged to work with so many great leaders, teachers, pupils, trustees and governors and I am excited for the future, now SET is firmly established.

SET Trust Schools

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A recent external report on our work as a central team included the following comments:

- There is a real sense of ambition and dedication to improving the life chances of children in SET schools.
- SET has some of the best leaders and teachers in England and the SET is ‘tapping into’ such expertise, spotting potential, developing it so that it can be utilised and shared for the benefit of all.
- The growth of the SET has been well managed, and it has occurred following a careful analysis of need. The first year of operation has been a great success but there is much still to do.

So, I’ll end with a positive note moving forward: We have made great strides this year, but we have lots still to do – but I know that we have the ambition, desire and drive to realise our vision of providing a world class education, locally to all of our pupils.

Exciting times ahead.

Enjoy the summer!

Mr Jonathan Taylor

CEO - Sapientia Education Trust

Chief Operations Officer Update – Mr Robert Moorhouse



Since the last newsletter, two significant estates projects have progressed. The replacement roof work at Stradbroke High School is now underway and this work will continue over the summer and early into the autumn term. At Wymondham College, the final planning and detailed design elements for the Peter Rout Centre have been completed and we expect the contractors on site in mid-August to start construction work. In the meantime, occupants of the Student Services Building which will be demolished to make way for the new Maths building, have been moving out. Significantly, the Estates Team will be moving to a new purpose built building which is almost ready for occupancy. The Estates Team have been carrying out most of the internal fit work themselves and their new accommodation is far more suitable than that they had been previously working from.

During the summer period, the Estates Team will be working across a number of Trust schools to carry out those tasks e.g. painting, that cannot normally be done during the normal school year.

The new Finance Director, Graham Hough, is due to take up post in mid-July replacing David Herring who will be taking a well-earned retirement. David has been at Wymondham College and latterly the Trust for well over 20 years and has provided an outstanding service during that time. He will be missed by all his colleagues, both current and past, as well as a number of external auditors who David has worked with over the years and helped facilitate out external audit processes.

Chris Lloyd, Trust Health and Safety Officer has hit the ground running and has visited all the schools in the Trust at least twice during this term – one visit of which was a formal H&S inspection. Chris has been working on a suite of H&S policies for all schools to use and these are almost complete. These will provide the structure for his work in the next academic year where he will be working with schools to ensure that they meet the policy requirements.

Mr Robert Moorhouse

Chief Operations Officer

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Mrs Kelly Stokes – Director of Improvement – Primary Lead



As we come to the end of the school year, we begin to reflect on all the things that have taken place over the last three terms. Schools have joined the trust and collaboration has really taken off to allow support in all areas of school life. Training has taken place for HR and finance at SET central and networks have been set up for heads, teachers and teaching assistants in all key focus areas.

Training for the whole trust has taken place in Talk for Writing, with a huge selection of resources being provided to ensure it has maximum impact in the classroom. Along with these resources, the schools also now have DfE recommended maths books to support with rolling out a mastery curriculum in mathematics.

Children have had their say by meeting with SET leaders and trustees to discuss what they love about their schools and what they want to be even better about them. One thing they discussed was links between schools for the pupils and this was made possible with a SET sports festival held at Wymondham College for Year 4 and 5 pupils. It was a huge success and pupils all received medals for participation. Next year, there are plans for Secondary schools to work more closely with SET primaries to provide support in Modern Foreign Language and a music festival is being planned to bring everyone together. Old Buckenham High School, even though not officially in the SET yet, has already begun to link with our primaries with Jazz music being played by the school band on the playing field.

Safeguarding audits have been carried out to support with keeping children safe and our new Director of Health and Safety has already been to all schools to offer advice and guidance on that aspect of safety.

Our Attendance Officer and SEND lead continue to work with our schools to provide additional capacity which will be added to in September when our Maths, Nursery and EYFS leads begin their roles.

On Tuesday 11 July, KS2 Data was released and we are really proud of our pupils and staff as the SET achieved 65% in combined Reading, Writing and Maths which is above the national average at 64% and a significant improvement on the previous year at 57%.

Around the schools, there is a real sense of pride and achievement being seen with momentum to drive up standards and improve the lives of all our children through fun and rich learning experiences. With the support of the teaching school CPD program, NQTs and an increase in capacity in the SET Primary Central Educational Team, I know the schools will continue to go from strength to strength.

Mrs Kelly Stokes
Director of Improvement – Primary Lead

Mrs Zoe Fisher – Director of Improvement – Secondary Lead



The final half term of the academic year has been a great opportunity for me to visit all of our SET schools, chatting to children and staff and getting to know the individual personalities of each school. The children I spoke to were excited at the prospect of working collaboratively with each other and have put forward their ideas around Drama, sport, art, masterclasses, mentoring and student forums including meeting up with SET school councils to share ideas. As a result, we are also hoping to have a SET student voice with each Secondary school represented so that our students are at the centre of our drive for improvement.

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It has also been a time for celebration; it was wonderful to see the creative work of our students being celebrated across the Art exhibitions, hearing about the fabulous time our graduating students had at their Proms and seeing the Year 11 celebration assembly at Framingham Earl and Speech Day at Wymondham College. A big thank you to all the members of staff who have gone above and beyond to ensure our school leavers had a farewell to remember.

The academic calendar keeps moving and we are already putting plans in place for the next academic year. Our Education Advisors will be out and about meeting you all in September and working with schools to provide bespoke support. Complementing this will be IRIS Connect, a cloud based teaching tool for pedagogical reflection that you can use independently or join up and share best practice across your school and the SET. Framingham Earl High School have already been playing with their new equipment and Mr Keats (Head of History and SET Education Advisor) is buzzing with excitement; full training will be rolled out at the start of the academic year so you can see the opportunities it offers. We will also be launching Education Debate, an online forum for SET staff to engage with topical issues in the world of education. Open to the views of SET staff, it will combine academic theory and political ideologies with the reality of the classroom. I have also been working with Senior Leadership Teams reviewing the progress that has been made this year and devising priorities to raise standards further, to support this I am currently researching a programme that can track the progress and impact of teaching, learning and assessment, which will also give teachers their own profile to support CPD and highlight their areas of strengths. The SET team have also visited Old Buckenham High School, ahead of them joining the Trust in September. We visited lessons, spoke to students and met with staff and it was great to see how they celebrated individual teacher's practice through their morning briefings. I'm really looking forward to welcoming them into our family of schools.

Finally, thank you all for the work you have put into supporting our students to achieve their potential, which I am sure will be represented in the summer exam results for our Year 11 and Year 13 students.

I wish you all a well-deserved rest over the summer break.

Mrs Zoe Fisher

Director of Improvement – Secondary Lead

Mrs Tina Smith – Director of HR



The HR team are delighted to welcome HR Manager Lauren Smith to the central team who will be starting at the end of August. Lauren will offer support to the Team with employee relations, recruitment and training advice in addition to managing casework and supporting the Team with business planning and organisational development. Lauren will be out visiting schools in September.

As the long-awaited summer break draws near, the Team are continuing to work with all SET staff to ensure that recruitment requirements are met for September and to ensure the Single Central Record is updated whilst ensuring updated GDPR compliance. The information gathered allows us to update MHR itrent and HR and Payroll systems while offering support to schools in following Safer Recruitment guidelines.

The team are also updating the Trust's Payroll system in preparation of transitioning Stradbroke High School and Old Buckingham High School from Suffolk and Norfolk County Council's payroll to the Trust's system for September.

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Employee Self Service (ESS) is now up and running for those schools who have transitioned allowing staff to review and amend their own personal records and view their payslips on the new system. This will be rolled out across the Trust to all other schools in the next 12 months.

In the new academic year we will focussing on both the Trust's corporate and local induction programmes, developing mandatory and developmental CPD and developing an apprenticeship programme. This will enable us to develop our current staff and build the skills for the future. In the meantime, we are currently working with training provider First Intuition, to offer an AAT approved Finance Apprenticeship to a strong candidate with a keen interest to develop a career in Finance. If you would like more information about this opportunity (or know someone who would be interested), please get in touch.

We wish you all a restful summer break and look forward to welcoming you back in September.

If you require any assistance over the holidays, please do not hesitate to email HR@sapientiaeducationtrust.org or call 01953 609012.

Mrs Tina Smith
Director of HR

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