



## Chief Executive Officer – Mr Jonathan Taylor



### CEO Update

I would like to start by congratulating the community of Old Buckenham Primary and Nursery School following the recent Ofsted inspection. The inspection was their first since the school joined SET and evaluated the school as **'Good'** in all areas. As recently as 2015, the school was rated as 'Inadequate,' so I am delighted that the hard work, commitment and dedication of the team has been recognised.

There were very many positive comments. The following provides a flavour of the report:

- 'This is a good school ... standards are rising and pupils are making better progress than in previous years'
- 'The effective Executive Headteacher, ably supported by the Head of School, has successfully built a strong staff team ... determined and ambitious leadership has created a positive ethos'
- 'Pupils are well cared for in a safe, positive and inclusive learning environment'
- 'Pupils are polite and behave well'
- 'The strong staff team are fully committed to improving the School'
- 'Teachers plan learning that motivates and interests pupils'
- 'There is a harmonious, busy and purposeful atmosphere in classrooms'
- 'The variety of lunchtime and after school clubs and the opportunity to learn a musical instrument enhance pupils' sporting and creative development'

The role that SET has played to support the school is praised in the report. Comments included:

- 'The school benefits well from the support of the Trust, which provides resources, specialist teachers and effective training programmes for staff. Frequent visits by the Trust's Director of Primary Improvement ensure that leaders are held to account ... the Director has helped to ensure that the quality of teaching has improved'
- 'Staff are positive about the various training opportunities provided by the Trust which sharpens their practice'
- 'Leaders responsible for Early Years, English and mathematics have received effective support and training from the Trust'

This is a great example of why we developed our trust – to help schools to provide a better quality of education for pupils and to benefit from improved training, collaboration and resourcing. In simple terms, under Julia and Amanda's leadership an 'Inadequate' school in 2015 is now a strongly 'Good' school in February 2019. That's terrific!

Our challenge, of course, is for all schools to continue to improve and benefit from the synergies associated with an effective Multi Academy Trust.

We have further work to do in all of our schools – but positive Ofsted visits help validate the work we are doing. In this case Talk 4 Writing and Power Maths gave clear evidence of approaches to learning that are working. There have now been three Ofsted inspections since SET was formed. Wymondham College secured an 'Outstanding' judgment in its 2017 Social Care Boarding Inspection; Stradbroke a glowing 'Good' in 2018 and now Old Buckenham with a highly impressive report.

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### SET Trust Schools

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

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

The new Ofsted framework due to be implemented in September 2019 has a number of changes, not least its proposed emphasis on the curriculum. Intent, implementation and impact are all terms we will become more fully acquainted with in the near future. It is certainly right to ensure that our curriculum planning has a secure basis, and a clear progressive intent for our pupils.

Our first SET Secondary Professional Learning Day on April 23<sup>rd</sup> will explore this in more detail. Our guest speaker was recently ranked as the 16th most influential educator in the world by the American based Global Gurus organisation. Our primary schools will all be focussing on the wider curriculum too in the summer term; more details to follow!

We have made a number of leadership appointments this term.

#### **a) White House Farm Primary School**

I am delighted to announce that Kelly Stokes, our Director of Primary Improvement, will be the founding Headteacher at WHFPS. Kelly is an outstanding school leader and has been instrumental in helping support our primary schools over the past two years. I am delighted that her next career move is within SET. Whilst I will miss her bubbly, 'tiggerish' enthusiasm, I know she will deliver a brilliant new community school.

#### **b) Great Hockham Primary School**

Following an intensive interview process Natasha Hall has been appointed as Headteacher and will join the school in May. She has a wide range of experience, including SEND and partnerships, and will be an excellent fit for the school. She currently works as Assistant Head at Costessey School and previously worked in the Wirral.

#### **c) Stradbroke High School**

John Axtell is semi-retiring this summer, having served the school excellently as both Deputy Head and Headteacher. Karen Millar has been appointed as Head of School from September and will be supported by Zoe Fisher as Executive Headteacher.

Karen is stepping up from her Deputy Head role and Zoe will share her new responsibilities with continuing her role as Director of Secondary Improvement lead across the Trust. As part of the restructure, Claire Elliott will now become Deputy Head. It is very rewarding to see our own staff stepping forward to lead our schools! They will make a superb team.

Finally, our plans for Wymondham College Prep school and White House Farm Primary continue to develop. Both are on schedule to open on time and we have been involved in a series of building-related meetings in recent weeks – very exciting!

I will be visiting all schools over the next few weeks and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Best wishes

**Mr Jonathan Taylor**  
**CEO - Sapientia Education Trust**

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