



Chief Executive Officer – Mr Jonathan Taylor



CEO Update

Ensuring pupils have access to a high-quality education, that is broad ranging, well-planned and extensive is a vital part of our core work.

Nationally there is a renewed focus on the taught curriculum – the knowledge and skills that are taught in classrooms to ensure a progressive and well sequenced curriculum, in all subjects in all schools. It would seem that Ofsted focus relentlessly on this under their new inspection framework. In many ways it is hard to argue against this and in many schools (esp. Primary schools) this is a change of emphasis, where previously English and Maths were very much under the spotlight. Work is well under way in our schools to review and plan the wider curriculum, but it does need to be cohesive and once planned implemented immediately.

Unfortunately, Ofsted have included aspects that I believe contribute to a strong 'quality of education' in other areas of the framework, rather than under their key 'Quality of Education' judgment. So many things that contribute to the overall experiences pupils gain – care, support, guidance, trips, visits, extra-curricular provision – do not appear to contribute at all to the 'quality of education' judgment during inspection. This narrow definition is unfortunate and, in my view, misses the point of what contributes to a great education.

The taught curriculum, including the knowledge and skills taught is vitally important – and we need to ensure that learning is connected and not 'episodic' – one advantage of being in a Trust is that ideas, resources and expertise can be shared – please utilise our networks to benefit our children and potentially reduce your workload!

I am delighted that Attleborough Academy and Fakenham Academy will be joining us shortly. Our growth to 16 schools and 5,200 pupils is exciting and creates lots of additional opportunities for staff and pupils. I am also pleased that we are viewed as a 'trust of choice' for new schools – as we are for many staff.

We have received considerable national coverage with our plans to open Wymondham College Prep School – this has included being on the front page of the Sunday Times, a 'Look East' lead feature and numerous other media interviews and requests. I am pleased to report that planning permission has now been granted and the funding agreement signed by the DfE. We are heavily over-subscribed for our first reception cohort. We still await further details of the building programme.

I take our role as contributing to the overall school system seriously. Through my role as an NLE we are supporting several Norfolk Primary Schools and a Suffolk secondary school. In addition White House Farm Primary School has welcomed pupils and staff from Falcon Junior School as their school faced emergency closure. Kelly and the WHF team have done a superb job in welcoming over 350 pupils and staff to their community – it was simply the right thing to do to ensure that pupils were able to remain in school and I am so impressed by how well that has gone, regardless of the inevitable logistical challenges.

At the time of writing there is considerable uncertainty regarding the coronavirus situation. School leaders have undertaken considerable contingency planning, for which I am very grateful. Can I urge you all to remain updated with the latest government advice.

SET Trust Schools

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Finally, I can confirm that Julia Powar has left her position of Director of Primary Standards. I hope to be able to announce our new Primary structure shortly after Easter.

Best wishes

Mr Jonathan Taylor
CEO - Sapientia Education Trust

Chief Operations Officer – Mr Robert Moorhouse



Estate Management

We are currently working on implementing an Infrastructure Asset Management system. Work took place over the February half-term tagging all infrastructure assets at each Trust school. The next stage is to build these assets into the data base structure which has now started and should be completed in the next month or so

Major works organised by the Trust carried out since the beginning of term include the following.

Framingham Earl High School

Scoping work for external campus improvements carried out
Scoping work for changing room refurbishment carried out

Stradbroke High School

Tender documentation issued for roof refurbishment work (planned for Summer 2020)

Old Buckenham High School

IT cabling re-routing work carried out under East Courtyard canopy

Wymondham College

Boiler servicing and repair
Next phase of foundation work for the Refectory extension completed
Yeoman Guard protective wall shields installed on ground floor of Peter Rout Centre.
Window replacement in Tom Eaton centre carried out
Scoping work for changing room refurbishment carried out

Ghost Hill Infant and Nursery School

Phase 2 of window replacement project completed

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Old Buckenham Primary School & Nursery

Electrical testing and repair work
New carpet installed in classroom

We are now planning a whole range of projects for the Summer holiday period.

Mr Robert Moorhouse
Chief Operations Officer

DCEO: Director of Education – Zoe Fisher



2020 has started well with all secondary teachers coming together in January to further collaborate and develop their professional practice with a focus on the curriculum. The day was spent looking at assessment and impact at KS3 in the morning followed by pedagogical content knowledge in the afternoon. It was great to visit so many of the sessions seeing teachers from across all four of our secondary schools excited about their subject, sharing ideas and thinking about how they can further improve their curriculum. It was a joy to read the feedback and learn how beneficial it is to bring people together

"It was useful meeting with other subject specialists and having it confirmed that we are getting things right."

"It always highlights the fact we don't always have the best ideas ourselves and keeps things fresh."

"It is helpful to have the opportunity to share good practice, compare assessment procedures, current initiatives and current challenges."

"I found it helpful spending time with other specialists. Particularly helpful for a one-person department as we were able to bounce ideas off each other but foremost have reassurance of what you are doing is on similar lines to everyone else. Gives confidence."

"It was one of the most useful CPD's and really helped to forge change, share ideas and actually have the time to discuss things with like-minded professionals."

"I think these sessions are excellent opportunities to share practice and provide the potential to establish future collaborations across schools."

It's not long now until we host our next Trust Professional Learning day which will continue to keep curriculum at its heart as part of our World Class Curriculum 2021 vision. The event details and programmes have gone out to schools and we look forward to welcoming our Primary and Secondary teachers together.

Curriculum continues to be the big focus across both primary and secondary schools. Along with some of our Head teachers, I attended the Ofsted Roadshow where both Heather Fearn, Inspector Curriculum and Development Lead and Sean Harford National Director, Education for Ofsted presented and answered questions. There was a clear reiteration of the message that the framework will want to see a curriculum that is thought through, progressive and sequential across all subjects and that teachers and children should have a good knowledge of what they are learning and why. It led me to reflect on our first Trust professional learning day when we discussed curriculum as a restaurant menu in that the courses should complement and take us on a culinary journey of flavours! I have been working with

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curriculum leaders within our curriculum network, sharing maps and rationales which has been interesting watching how the 'menu' of learning has been further developed over the course of time. It has also given leaders the opportunity to discuss ideas and professionally assure and support across schools.

I am thoroughly enjoying my new role as Director of Education and have spent time visiting our primary schools, seeing how the children are learning and getting a deeper understanding of the strengths and areas for focus moving forward. In terms of the curriculum there are challenges for primary teachers to have a deep knowledge in all subjects and there has been a real willingness amongst our secondary specialists to want to support where they can and will form part of our professional learning day on the 20th April.

I wish you all a restful Easter break and thank you for your continued commitment to providing a world class education to our young people.

Mrs Zoe Fisher

Deputy CEO : Director of Education

Safeguarding

It has been a positive start in my new role as Safeguarding and Attendance Lead. The DSL network brought all school DSLs and ADSLs together to reflect on the safeguarding practices we use to protect our children and how they can be further used effectively so that we can be proactive in our care. We also discussed the Trust's Compact of Care, which will be rolled out across all schools with further training over the next term. We know that some children can find life challenging and can become vulnerable to self-harm and / or suicide ideation or attempt. The Compact of Care provides guidance on how to best support children and their families when these situations may rise.

I have also begun my next round of school visits as I continue to support schools to ensure safeguarding practices are secure and effective in safeguarding and protecting our children and staff. Please remember safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we all have a duty of care and to report any concerns we may have.

Claire Fox

Safeguarding and Attendance Lead

Director of HR – Mrs Tina Smith



Recruitment and Employee Self Service (ESS):

We have recently launched a new recruitment platform, this enables all current staff to apply for any Trust vacancy via the ESS portal; Please sign in to your ESS account regularly to view your monthly payslip, updating where your personal details have changed. One area that is often overlooked is your car registration.

Health and Safety / Accident recording:

If you have an accident or near miss at work, please ensure that the correct incident and accident forms are completed.

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Payroll

A gentle reminder that timesheets need to be received by the payroll team by the 2nd of the month in order to get this processed the same month. The team has in excess of 400 timesheets each month to process so thank you in advance for making this happen.

The Team welcomed 19 new starters and 58 volunteers and contractors across the Trust in January and February.

On-line Training

Please login to your iHasco on-line portal for additional training opportunities; there are up to 15 – 20 courses to access. If you wish to access further courses please contact your HR Officer for details. Their contact details can be found below.

<p>Richard Beastall <i>Old Buckenham High Old Buckenham Primary Rocklands Primary Surlingham Primary Burston Primary Tivetshall Primary</i></p>	<p>Phone: 01953 609012</p> <p>Extension: 3372</p>	<p>Richard.Beastall@se-trust.org</p>
<p>Charlotte Cooper <i>Framingham Earl Wymondham College Administration Wymondham College Catering Ghost Hill Nursery and Infant Great Hockham Nursery and Primary SET Central Team</i></p>	<p>Phone: 01953 609012</p> <p>Extension: 3307</p>	<p>Charlotte.Cooper@se-trust.org</p>
<p>Kirstin Hendrie <i>Stradbroke High White House Farm Primary Wymondham College Cleaning and Campus Services</i></p>	<p>Phone: 01953 609012</p> <p>Extension: 3308</p>	<p>Kirstin.Hendrie@se-trust.org</p>
<p>Vickie Minister <i>Wymondham College Teaching, Academic Support & Boarding Seething and Mundham Primary Wymondham College Prep</i></p>	<p>Phone: 01953 609012</p> <p>Extension: 3310</p>	<p>Vickie.Minister@se-trust.org</p>

Benefits

Please remember to maximise the use of your Sodexo benefits signing into your account using the following link:

<https://sapientia.employeebenefitsplatform.com/>

Mrs Tina Smith
Director of HR

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