
Welcome to The Fallibroome Trust Spring Term Newsletter



We have enjoyed a busy and successful spring term with intense scrutiny by Ofsted and our funding bids bringing recognition of our quality and support for our collective aims.

As we enjoy a well-earned Easter break my thanks go to teaching and non-teaching colleagues, Trustees and Governors for their unstinting commitment to providing the opportunity for all our children to succeed.

Ofsted Inspections

The term started with a full inspection of Broken Cross Primary Academy, closely followed by inspections of Whirley and Nether Alderley Primaries. All three reports recognised the quality of provision and governance at the schools and commend the support of the Trust.

Both Whirley and Nether Alderley reports record very strong 'Good' judgements overall with many references to excellent practice. Broken Cross, which joined the Trust as a 'sponsored' school in RI category, recorded 'Good' judgements for Teaching and Learning, EYFS, Pupil Behaviour and Welfare and Leadership and Management and an RI judgement for outcomes. We were disappointed that this led to an overall judgement of Requires Improvement as the inspector recorded the profound improvements made by Headteacher Donna Lewis and her team and accepted our confidence that the 'lagged' effect on pupil outcomes will be addressed this year. We were, however, hugely encouraged by the recognition of the school's quality, an impression that is shared by the community as numbers have increased and by the LA who have asked the Trust to increase the school's PAN. Governors will consider inviting a re-inspection if, as expected, KS1 and KS2 outcomes improve this summer.

Four of our six schools have now been inspected in the past ten months, all with positive outcomes. Congratulations are therefore due to the children, staff and governors of Winsford, Broken Cross, Whirley and Nether Alderley Academies for their success and commitment to working together as a Multi-Academy Trust.

Funding Bids Success

Support for our school improvement strategies have been boosted by the award of a £15k school to school improvement grant for Broken Cross and a substantial grant from the Regional Schools' Commissioner to facilitate the growth of the Trust.

The S2SS grant will focus on improving writing at KS2 and include the facilitation of a lesson study project and professional development opportunities all our Primaries.

The Growth Fund allocation recognises DfE's confidence in the quality of our provision and will allow us to build the capacity to incorporate three new schools by the end of the 2017/18

year. This grant will support our growth strategy and Business Plan which propose measured growth to 9/10 schools before a period of consolidation.

New Schools

One of the new schools will be Gawsworth Primary which was approved for incorporation by the Regional Schools' Commissioner at the end of term. We are delighted to welcome the Gawsworth community, hopefully for a July start, as they will bring capacity and expertise to our Primary agenda. Trustees have also responded positively to the request of a further Primary to join the Trust and have commissioned a due diligence report in the summer term. If this leads to the incorporation of a sixth Primary, then our remaining commitment to growth in this phase is likely to be focussed on Secondary provision.

Self-Assessment and Audit

Trustees have completed the self-assessment exercise requested by the RSC's office and shared the audit with Governing Bodies. They have also considered the recent inspection of a Cheshire based MAT in order to prepare the Trust for inspection. The Board will meet with RSC officers early next term to agree our action plan to address areas for development and confirm our growth and capacity needs.

Teaching School Alliance and School Improvement Strategy

There have been national developments in the Government's school improvement strategy that will influence our intention to align the Teaching School and MAT agendas. Cheshire East and West will now be included in the West Midlands region, in order to align with the RSC regions – whilst remaining in the North West for Ofsted's administration. The DfE have also announced a £140m school improvement fund that will be allocated to 'opportunity' areas that will include Cheshire East and West along with Stoke and North Staffordshire.

We will consider school improvement opportunities that arise from this strategy, alongside our plans to develop a MAT school improvement team that will complement the Primary and Secondary Peer Support teams that have been successful in improving classroom practice this year. The Primary focus for the summer term is writing and will be led by Broken Cross. The Secondary department teams met for a conference early in the spring term to share intervention and support strategies that aim to improve GCSE outcomes later in the year. In addition, the Academy Principals visited The Keys Federation in Wigan and received valuable advice from Business leaders during the Spring Term Whole Education Leadership Culture and Change conference in London.

Academy Success

Congratulations are due to Jean Willerton, Whirley Primary Deputy Head, who has been appointed as Headteacher of Mottram St Andrew Primary. Also to Nic Curran, Fallibroome Academy's Deputy Pupil Manager, who was appointed to the post of Assistant Principal at the Winsford Academy. This follows the appointment of Mathew Galvin from the AET Trust in Sheffield to the vacant Vice Principal post at Winsford and the completion of the restructure of the school's Leadership Team.

Congratulations are also due to the Fallibroome Performing Arts Team who have been nominated for an award at the North-West Cultural Education Awards evening in April.

I hope this newsletter brings a flavour of our successes and achievements during this busy term. As we head toward the crucial exam season we can be reassured that our efforts have been recognised and our students well supported.

Governors, teachers, support staff and Trustees have my thanks for their contribution to a very successful term.

P W Rubery
Executive Principal/CEO
The Fallibroome Trust