

7th July 2021

A Message from Mark Burnett, Chair London South East Academies Trust

Dear Colleagues

The last eighteen months have been an extraordinary and unparalleled time for us all. It has demonstrated the important role public services play in supporting the health and wellbeing of local communities and how Schools and Colleges are integral anchor institutions. This has also demonstrated the importance of education in the broadest terms and across the education landscape and the importance of the work you all do. Multi-Academy Trusts have demonstrated how responsiveness and agile they can be supporting multiple schools and sites, switching to online learning and safeguarding pupils through constant home contact and visits and remaining open through the duration of the pandemic to support vulnerable and key worker children. Education has truly played a key and important part in supporting communities and children throughout the pandemic.

Despite the limitations and restrictions of the pandemic, 2020/21 has been very good year for the Trust. Commencing in October 2020 with the conversion of our first Special School in Surrey, **Bramley Oak Academy**, joining the LSEAT family.

In Spring 2021, the **Bexley Music Service** became part of the Trust with a commitment to ensure the continuation of fantastic music services in Bexley, previously provided by Bird College. Music education is particularly valued across all our settings and the Board understood and supported the importance of making music fully accessible to all children as well as adding value to our communities beyond just the delivery of qualifications. Bexley Music will very much be part of our social value strategy over the coming years.

Individually there were London regional awards for the Inclusion and Pastoral Team at the Horizons Hub and in May 2021 Endeavour Academy were awarded SMSC Gold quality mark, recognising the school's commitment to raising its pupils' aspirations and helping them to develop empathy and compassion.

The Trust Sponsor, London South East Colleges, also had a very successful year winning three TES Awards for **Overall FE Provider of the Year**, **Contribution to the Local Community** and **FE College of the Year**. In addition, earlier in the year we were awarded the **Social Value Public Sector Leadership Award**, recognising our strategic work as a social enterprise and the first Education Group to win such an award. Finally we are incredibly proud of our **CEO, Dr Sam Parrett**, who was awarded a CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) for Services to Education in the Queen's 2021 Birthday Honours list.

There are also many individuals, both personal and professional, achievements that have been reported across the Trust and featured in Trust News throughout the year, documenting the extraordinary work you do with our pupils and communities. This includes the work with London South East Colleges on **FE Friday Foodbank** and the **EDI Grants Programme** supporting and prioritising community projects addressing racial inequality. Once such project **Save by the Ball** initiated by a staff member from our Bromley Hub Academies has been very successful, reaching out to young people at risk of exclusion using the power of sport.

Group Principal and CEO: Mrs Sam Parrett OBE, FCIPD MSc t: 020 3954 4000 w: LSEC.ac.uk

The Trust Board has also seen some changes with the appointment of new Trustees and Local Governors. Our Trust Board continues to comprise a diverse mix of skills, experience, ethnicities and backgrounds, that has an ethos, understanding and empathy for the enormous difference the Trust makes to so many lives economically and socially.

The Trust Board has also been working with the Executive on a new Mission, Vision and Values to represent our “**One Trust**” ethos. This work has now been completed following a rigours staff consultation period that included One Trust Road Shows delivered across all schools and sites in the Summer Term and attended by most staff. This was complemented recently with the first All Trust Staff Meeting attended by circa 500 staff at the end of June.

Our new **Mission, Vision and Values** was shared at the All Trust Staff Meeting and outlined below.

Our mission is to create a network of outstanding schools that promote excellence, celebrate diversity, enable personal development and achievement and foster social value in the communities they serve.

Our vision is to create a future where **every child, in every school, thrives, every day.**

Our values are **Success, Teamwork, Achievement, Respect and Service** (STARS).

The Board have also approved a **new local governance structure** to be implemented in September 2021, which moves away from the current Hub based Local Governing Boards to new Provision Based Governance Boards and Local Academy Councils. More details with regard to staff and parent elections to the Academy Councils will be forthcoming in September 2021.

Collectively as a Board we endeavour to make transparent and ethical decisions on the future direction of the organisation and support the Executive in navigating the strategic direction of the Trust. You can read more about the work of the **Trust Board** and its composition and members, [here](#).

The Board are extremely proud and grateful for the enormous work and dedication that you have demonstrated in supporting the wellbeing and interests of our students, each other and our communities, throughout these difficult and challenging times.

As we now head towards the summer break and the unlocking of the country from this pandemic, the Board would like to extend its heartfelt thanks and gratitude and to wish you an extremely well-deserved break and summer holiday. We know that this will not be the usual or normal summer holidays that we have come to enjoy, however we hope that you will be able to enjoy some rest and relaxation and spend some valuable time with family and friends in these new normal times, whilst adhering to public health recommendations.

Wishing you a safe, healthy and restful summer break and look forward to seeing you in September 2021.

Yours sincerely

Mark Burnett
Chair
London South East Academies Trust

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