



Newsletter

Issue Number 338

Friday 23rd September 2022

Looking forward with optimism and hope

At the moment, it can sometimes seem as if all news is bad news, and that applies in education as much as anywhere else. As we began this school year, we have had to cope with significant additional financial pressures as a result of the rising cost of energy, the impact of general inflation, and unfunded and unexpected pay awards. Although the government has announced some support for energy costs, this is a sticking plaster, not a solution, and we are still left with significantly increased prices. Across the system, we are coping with the legacy of Covid, which has seen many pupils lagging behind where they would have been and left a legacy of social problems, including rising mental health issues. I am sure you have seen and heard school leaders in the media talking about issues and concerns, such as the problems recruiting quality staff.

All of these are genuine problems to be faced, but it's striking when I visit schools and talk to staff, that in all of our schools there is an atmosphere of optimism, positivity and hope. They are all happy places, with excellent pupil behaviour and attitudes, and strong relationships. It is always great to see the exciting curriculum work that takes place in classes, and to see the progress of pupils. Although there has undoubtedly been an impact of Covid disruption on some pupils' learning, this impact is being addressed and we are now very confident in the progress that our pupils are now making.

One of the most important reasons for hope is the quality of the staff teams in all of our schools. I am very pleased to say that we have had great success with recruitment and are fully staffed with high-quality teaching and support staff, with a good balance of skills and experience. The fact that we have strong relationships with teacher training institutions such as the two Nottingham universities, is very helpful, but we know that potential candidates are keen to work in our schools. This is as a result of a number of factors, including the schools' excellent reputation, our staff support and wellbeing packages, opportunities for professional development and career advancement, and the high standards of behaviour and positive pupil attitudes.

The financial pressures that face all schools, including our own, are very real. However, we have always taken a cautious and prudent approach to budgeting, which means that we are well-placed to cope with the immediate impact, and plan ahead for the long-term. The fact that we have come together as a group of schools in a Multi-Academy Trust is very helpful – it means that we can share costs and services, and negotiate better deals with suppliers. It also means that we have the financial reserves to manage short-term problems. I have mentioned before that as a result of the work of our central Trust team, we have been able to invest significantly in our school buildings, committing well over £5 million in the last two years alone.

We're not naïve about some of the challenges facing schools, and are planning our response carefully. However, the strength of our schools, the quality of leaders and staff, the support we have from parents, carers and the wider community, and not least the talent and positivity of the children and young people, keeps us optimistic and hopeful for the future.



Dr. Paul Heery
Chief Executive Officer



Vacancies

We currently have a number of vacancies across the Trust.

Please see our website's vacancies page at whptrust.org/vacancies for more information.



John Clifford School

Nether Street, Beeston, Nottinghamshire, NG9 2AT

Midday Supervisor

Closing Date: 9am, Monday 12th October 2022



Bramcote College

Moor Lane, Bramcote Nottinghamshire, NG9 3GA

Site Assistant

Closing Date: 10am, Monday 26th September 2022



Alderman White School

Chilwell Lane, Bramcote Nottinghamshire, NG9 3DU

Teaching Assistant (3 posts available)

Closing Date: 10am, Monday 26th September 2022

Lunchtime Supervisor

Closing Date: 10am, Wednesday 28th September 2022