



The Cornovii Trust

NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents / Carers, Colleagues and Students

On behalf of everyone at The Cornovii Trust, I would like to pass on our love, best wishes, thoughts and prayers to Rafe Lawton's family, friends and everyone at Alsager School. This is the second newsletter in a row that I have had to begin with such awful news. The loss of such a young life is so difficult to comprehend but I do know the school is doing all it can to support everyone through this very difficult time.

This final trust newsletter of the year seems insignificant in comparison, but I do want to keep everyone updated on the workings and activities within our trust of 5 schools. Please remember, you can find more details on our website www.thecornovii.org You can also follow us on social media, which will keep you regularly updated with our news and our work.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Condolences
- The Cornovii Cup
- Reviews
- Teamwork





Our collaborative approach to raising standards through sharing good practice, resources and skills continues at a pace. Our leaders, governors and staff continue to work together to make our schools even better for the benefit of our young people. The moderation of standards in our primary schools and our shared approach to teaching phonics have produced some fantastic outcomes. More and more staff are working together across the trust and the plan is for this to develop further, so everyone can see the benefit of being in our group of schools. The addition of The Cornovii Cup (see above, our website and social media for more details) is an exciting addition for next year. As you know, we see collaboration as the key driver for school improvement. However, this is only possible thanks to the outward facing and supportive approach of all our headteachers, leaders and staff. We are very fortunate to have such fantastic school leaders in place and such a talented and professional team of staff working within our schools. We also hope that our trust will be increasing in size during next year, this will give us even more capacity and resources with which to work and improve our schools even more.



REVIEWS & TEAMWORK

Over the course of the year the trust has had two government led external reviews, one relating to governance and the other based on financial efficiencies. Both have been very positive and have really praised our work, identified our excellent practice and helped us work more efficiently financially. They have also given us some areas to consider which may well improve our work.

In addition, three of our schools have had Ofsted inspections during the course of this year. Again, all reports highlighted some excellent practice and gave us areas to work on. I must single out Alsager Highfields Primary School, whose report was especially pleasing and where huge improvements have been made since the school joined our trust in September 2020.

However, I remain really concerned about our profession and the future of our school system. It relies upon recruiting and retaining high quality and skilled staff. People who care about young people, want to help them achieve their best and support them both academically and pastorally. I became a teacher because I wanted to make a difference, to help give all children the best possible start in life and create a more equal society. However, this is becoming increasingly difficult for a whole host of factors, some of which are outside our control but others we can do something about. Now more than ever, we need school and home to work together and ensure our young people are receiving a consistent message when it comes to topics such as the importance of attendance and being punctual, following school policies, how to resolve differences calmly and maturely etc.



What is making our work in schools so much more difficult and which is driving people away from the profession, is when there is not a consistent approach between home and school. When school is not supported, when staff are continually and inappropriately challenged, when parents are not prepared to listen or accept that there might be more to a situation than their child has told them. Please work with us to help your child and the vast majority of our parents / carers do so. I know we will make mistakes in our schools and staff will get things wrong at times but we really are trying our best.

As we come to the end of our first year of working together as five schools, we should be very proud of all we have achieved in a very short space of time. It has been quite remarkable, however, I know there is still much to do. We have great plans for the future, which will benefit all our young people and staff.

There have been some fantastic opportunities, trips and events which have taken place across our schools over this summer term. Our young people have been all over the world, have experienced things they will never forget and for many it is the start of a new chapter in life. I would like to congratulate all our primary schools and the year 2 and year 6 cohorts on their recent achievements in their SATs and pass on my best wishes for all those young people collecting GCSE, BTEC and A level results in August.

Many thanks for your continued support. I wish you and your families a relaxing summer break, a chance to recharge the batteries ready to embrace 2023/24.

Richard Middlebrook
CEO The Cornovii Trust

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