



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

December 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a very busy term for the 23 schools that are part of the Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership Trust. Once again, it has been a privilege to see so many, staff and children working so positively as I visit schools. I don't think I can recall seeing any classes that were not engaged in their learning this term. I'm sure parents will also be impressed to hear that in all major DFE measures, the Trust as a whole is above national averages in every metric at both primary and secondary – a stunning achievement given our mixed nature. As further confirmation of our impressive work across schools, I would like to congratulate Welton Primary who have retained their 'good' judgement following an Ofsted visit at the end of last term. Well done also to Shoscombe C. of E. Primary, who were also graded 'good' in a recent SIAMS inspection.

Many of you will have seen the building work taking place for the new 630 place Norton Hill Primary School. There will be some disruption for Norton Hill as the new footpath connecting Charlton Park and the new school is constructed across the back of the Norton Hill playing fields. However, we expect this project to be completed by the end of this academic year. There will only be one form of entry next year and therefore the additional space will be utilised by the MAT central team – school improvement, finance, estates, HR and catering. We hope that by bringing teams together, we will further improve communication and therefore the effectiveness of the services we provide to schools. The site will also be available for training events and as an area for staff and pupils to use as required. The first open evening took place in early December and was well-attended by local prospective parents.

The Mendip Studio School was re-launched recently and the open evening was very busy with well over 100 families represented. This unique provision is the perfect fit for those children that need a slightly different approach to learning from Year 10 onwards. The exciting courses available at GCSE and Post 16, offer something a little different from the norm and there was a great deal of interest in the full time BTEC qualifications offered in new subjects at Sixth Form level. If you have an opportunity to look around the school, it is well worth a visit.

At Writhlington there has been a marked improvement in the behaviour and attitudes of children. All staff and pupils have worked incredibly hard on this and it is so good to see the school finding its feet after a difficult time last year. I know pupils have commented on the improvement and are developing a new sense of loyalty to the school which is fantastic to witness. Well done to all in securing these positive changes and I hope more parents will again choose to send their children to the school, particularly given its state-of-the-art facilities.

In other news, I can confirm that we have been successful in our bid to change the status of Leigh-on-Mendip First School which from September 2020 will cover the full primary age range. This is fantastic news and something the community has wanted for many years. At Critchill School in Frome, staff and pupils have successfully raised £75,000 toward a community playground. The MAT has agreed to contribute £50,000 to the project from its capital grants to help ensure the development is transformational for the pupils of the school and the immediate community.

I hope you all enjoy a restful break over the Christmas period and thank you as always for your support for our schools.

Best wishes



Alun Williams
CEO

