

Welcome back!

I hope that you all had a relaxing summer break and managed to enjoy some downtime despite the English weather throwing a bit of a spanner in the works! As I write this message the mercury is rising for the much anticipated heatwave – for the first time since we broke up in July the sun is shining and the temperature is sufficient enough to mean the evenings are filled with the smell of BBQs (and the garden plants need some water). Perhaps there will be a Summer yet!

It is always with a mixture of excitement and anticipation that staff and students, old and new alike, return for a fresh new academic year. We extend a very warm welcome to all of the new staff at the EMAT academies and the support team offices. I hope that you feel part of the team straight away. We hope to invite new staff to a welcome session in the coming weeks.

Last year was particularly challenging. However, despite this, you continued to provide a high-quality educational provision for the children and young people in your schools. We hope that this year is less chaotic and all of our children have a less disruptive year.

A number of our schools have new websites launching soon – we will share the links to these in the next newsletter. We are also hoping to increase our social media presence so please follow and share/retweet @EMAT\_Edu and other EMAT academy twitter and facebook posts and share your academy's good news stories. Let's showcase to our communities, families and followers all of the fantastic events, activities and opportunities you give to your students!

There has been lots of remedial and building work taking place over the summer in many of the Trust schools:

**KLA** – Central hub staffroom converted to two new classrooms. Art room floor repaired. New fitness suite and PE classrooms created and changing rooms refurbished.

**North Wootton** - Mobile removed and new one due to be open by mid-October. Repairs to canopy completed



**Norwich Road** – Making good at front of school completed and installation of new metered water supply

**Glade** - Internal works completed. AC units removed and mobile removed. Windows and doors to be completed in Oct half term

**Nelson** – New extension classroom built/completed and canopy relocated.

There is a significant estate upgrade programme planned across our academies over the next six months and I know that David Cousins and Russen & Turner will be discussing these with those academies in due course. This significant investment, well in excess of £1m, will ensure that our children and students attend an academy that is fit for purpose and somewhere to be proud of.

Take a look at some of the photos below of fresh new facilities to be enjoyed by our staff and students.

## **KESA Update**

As many of you will know, KESA had a monitoring inspection in June. During the inspection it became apparent to the team that there was overwhelming evidence to demonstrate that the academy had made significant improvement since its previous inspection and, as such, the inspection was turned into a full inspection. I am pleased to report that the academy received good for Leadership & Management, Personal Development, Behaviour and 6<sup>th</sup> form with Quality of Education receiving RI. Although the academy is judged RI overall, the report recognises the significant improvement that has been made by Sarah and her team and the academy is now well placed to continue its rapid improvement journey.

The transfer of KESA to Inspiration Trust was completed on the 1<sup>st</sup> September and we wish Sarah and our colleagues the very best for the future.

### **Associate Roles**

Don't forget that applications for Trust Associates are still open. The Associate roles are open to teachers, TA's and support staff who have skills and knowledge in key areas and are able to share this expertise across the trust so that we can learn from each other. The application should take less than 10 minutes to complete and can be found at <u>Trust Associate Application Form</u>.

## **Newsletter Contributors**

We are looking for contributions to our new newsletters that we will be launching later this year. If you are working on a project or subject development and have something to share across the trust, we would love to hear from you. Contributions would be up to 500 words (not a target!) and include photographs of the children. We would like to cover every academy over the course of the year to showcase the positive experiences that our children receive and to be able to share the great approaches that you are all developing to teaching and learning.

If you are interested in contributing to the next newsletter please contact Rebecca Schrooder (rebecca.schrooder@eastern-mat.co.uk).

### **Key Dates**

Principals Meeting: Tuesday  $14^{th}$  September 9.15am @ Trust Offices KLA Y5/6 open day tours: 27 Sept  $-1^{st}$  Oct (Open Evening  $30^{th}$  Sept)

Wishing you all a great start to the new term.

Paul Shanks Acting CEO, Eastern Multi-Academy Trust











Welcome back! It is hard to believe that the summer break has been and gone but it has been great to hear how well the return to school has gone. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new colleagues that have joined the trust in September. I hope that the start of term has gone well for you all and you are settling into your respective academies. I look forward to meeting you all in due course.

As a Board, we appreciate the many challenges that you all faced last year, but we could not fail to be impressed by the way in which you all rose to these and ensured that our children and students.

Julie Perry (Chair of the Board)

# **Support Team arrivals**

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Zoe Baxter, Rebecca Schrooder and Lucy Massingham who have all joined the Trust Support Team.



**Zoe Baxter** has taken up the role of Director of People & Culture and will be overseeing the People and Cultural development of the trust. Zoe will be making contact with all Principals in the coming weeks to arrange a time to meet.



**Rebecca Schrooder** has joined the team as Executive PA and Operations Manager for the trust. Rebecca has joined the team from KESA and will be leading on the development of communications and PR, as well as GDPR and Estates compliance.



**Lucy Massingham** has joined the finance team as the finance lead for Breckland. I know many of you have already met and have been working with Lucy who will now be your main point of contact.

I am sure that you will join me in welcoming all three to the team. We look forward to working with you all.

