

CEO LCT: Dr Gill Eatough  
Chair of the Trust: Mr Mike Briscoe

*Advancing Schools, Inspiring Learners, Transforming Communities*



Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well. In my last letter I said I would write again with further information about the Learning Community Trust (**LCT**). Normally, when we are in the process of bringing a new school into our Trust we would invite parents into school for an information session where they have the opportunity to hear about LCT, meet with me and ask lots of questions. Under the Covid restrictions currently in place we are unable to do this and it is very unlikely we will be able to do this in January. Therefore, I thought it might be helpful if in this letter I tell you a little bit about the Trust and some information which I hope you will find useful.

We have a single clear vision for our Trust which is “**To provide an outstanding education for all of our children and young people that prepares them to be successful in all they do both now and in the future**”. We keep our aims at the forefront of all we do, they represent our values as well as our intentions:

- To focus, across our schools, on **excellence** by achieving the best possible educational outcomes for our children and students by engaging and inspiring them, building their resilience and preparing them for work and adult life.
- To drive a **collaborative culture** across our schools which drives and supports improvement and develops all our staff as leading professionals
- To provide the highest levels of **care and support** for our children so they can succeed, including those that are the most disadvantaged, vulnerable or with special needs in our community
- To ensure our schools are at the heart of the community they serve and are truly **inclusive** organisations with equality for all across our community
- To engage positively with our families and wider **community**, building partnerships and programmes that develop opportunities beyond the school sector

After 2 years of careful planning, LCT was established in June 2017 and our first schools joined the Trust in March 2018, we have grown steadily over the last three years and currently we have three secondary academies (Hadley Learning Community Secondary Phase, Charlton Secondary School and Ercall Wood Academy) which have between 900-1200 students on roll, three primary schools (Hadley Learning Community Primary Phase, Wrekin View Primary and Crudgington Primary) which vary in size from 600 to 150 children. Finally, we have Queensway which is our Special School which operates on two sites, Queensway North for young people aged from Y6 – Y11 with a significant diagnosis of autism and Queensway South for young people from Y5 – Y11 with a diagnosis of SEMH. We are really proud that we have children from Nursery to Y11 in our schools and that we have schools from across the range of education. This makes us quite a unique Trust but is seen by the Department of Education as a truly inclusive Trust with capacity. We are also an academy sponsor and sponsor two of our schools.

Currently we have over 4,000 children in our schools and employ over 600 staff with an annual turnover of about £28 million. We believe strongly that the majority of our funding stays with our



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schools and therefore operate a small central team who run the Trust with me. We have a fantastic Board of Trustees, many from the world of education and school improvement as well as from local businesses and the community. Each academy has a Local Governing Body (LGB) as we are committed to local governance so they can support and challenge the Headteacher and Leadership Team hence we will be setting up a LGB at Severndale as the school transfers.

Our absolute focus is on our children and young people, we want them to benefit from attending one of our schools because it is a good school and is the first choice for parents because it meets the needs of their children. Currently, all our schools are full and often oversubscribed. Alongside great teaching and pastoral care we have a commitment to:

- Raising the aspirations of all young people in our Trust to be the very best they can be
- Making our schools welcoming, inclusive and enjoyable for our children and students every day
- Providing world class opportunities for our learners that extends their learning and experiences within and beyond their community
- Giving, encouraging and acting upon the voice of our learners, so they play a significant role in our Academies and Trust
- Promoting student leadership in our Academies and across our Trust so they are part of our vision and values
- Engaging learners in their own learning so they know how to succeed
- Developing confidence, resilience and determination in our young people, whatever their age
- Ensuring a safe, supportive and caring environment in our Academies so students are treated with kindness, respect and live safely in our community

We are delighted Severndale are joining us and we will be working really closely with the academy as the legal transfer takes place, hopefully as early as 1st February 2021.

I am very conscious that I have only given you a brief snapshot of our Trust, please visit the website <https://LearningCommunityTrust.org.uk> for further information. I do intend to hold some parent sessions as soon as we are allowed to do so. Attached to this letter I have added some Frequently Asked Questions from parent sessions from our other schools which you may find helpful. I will also be sending out an email address for you to send in questions, which I will respond to, from the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 as we move through this process.

I wish you and your family a lovely Christmas and let us all hope for a far better 2021.

Kind Regards,



Dr. Gill Eatough, CEO LCT

## **FAQs**

1. **Will the name of our school change?** There is no plan to do this but we may just simplify the name to Severndale Academy
2. **Will the uniform change?** No and there would be full consultation with parents if this was to happen at any point in the future.
3. **Will our teachers and support staff change or work in other schools?** No , Severndale staff will continue to work at Severndale but we would expect staff to start collaborating with staff in our other academies and joining our staff training programmes.
4. **Will the school day change?** No, there are no plans to make changes, if this did arise at any point it would be part of a full consultation with parents.
5. **Will there be any change to admissions or school places?** No, we will continue to work with Shropshire Council on the allocation of school places and the linked funding.
6. **Will school transport continue to operate in the same way?** Yes, Shropshire Council will still have a responsibility to provide transport.
7. **Will term dates change?** No, These will remain as published until summer 2021.
8. **Will the curriculum change?** We will be reviewing the curriculum with school leaders as part of our of work with the school over the first few months following transfer.