

## **ALT Autumn Conference**

### **Gary Peile CEO, Welcome Speech**

Good morning and a very warm welcome to this, our first whole Trust professional development day for teachers. Can I particularly welcome all the new colleagues to your school and the Trust and hope the year ahead is a great one for you and for your school. Can I also welcome our two keynote speakers, Stephen and Andy, who I know are going to spark debate and provide a real impetus to us as we look forward to the year ahead across the Active Learning Trust.

This event marks another key step in the development of the Trust. For the first time we have been able to bring together teachers from across the Trust in one place and I hope this will give you time to meet and engage with colleagues from schools who you might otherwise not have the chance to meet. Everybody here is one of your colleagues, working for the same purpose with the same vision. Use today to have conversations or introduce yourself to people from other schools, other Hubs or colleagues from the central team.

At the heart of today's event is an opportunity to build upon the work of individual schools and indeed of individual hubs of schools to ensure that the very best provision we have is shared across the Trust. We are building on what is going on within our schools, sharing that expertise from classrooms across the Trust to ensure that the impact of what you all do has a greater reach and leads to improvements in pupil's life chances. Today is very much about how best we can ensure we maximise the power in this room for the good of our young people.

During the day you will have a chance to work with colleagues in your own and other schools to consider what Stephen and Andy have said in their keynotes and, I hope, also have time to meet other colleagues and start to build links between schools to continue our improvement journey.

Today is about thinking about your role as a teacher and leader of learning both within your school, your hub and also across a Trust of 21 schools.

A hallmark of our Trust is to build upon the strengths we find in each school and to that end we are developing as well as our central support work the 'school to school' support within and across the Trust.

This means being aware of what has worked well and establishing how that work can be introduced to the benefit of all schools.

This is about your role both as a leader of learning but also a leader of improvement within a group of schools.

This will build upon and inform our professional development programmes which now stretch from those for our newly qualified teachers through the leading active learning programmes which has been successfully completed by over 200 colleagues and

increasingly through partnership working to support subject leadership, curriculum development and pedagogical understanding.

One of our key tasks as a Trust is to ensure the learning from our programmes feeds into the work of all schools. I and all the senior leadership of the Trust remain committed to providing access to these programmes and to seek out opportunities for working with others who share our vision and values to aid progress in all schools. It is essential that we ensure that you not only have opportunities to work with colleagues in your own school and indeed those schools in your hub, but we also ensure that what we know works well in one school is shared right across the Trust. Indeed, it was that determination that led to this, our first Trust wide professional development day.

It is now over five years since the first school, Neale Wade, joined the Trust and since then we have grown to 21 schools responsible for the education of over 8500 pupils. This is an immense responsibility. I try during every year to visit every school to hear and indeed see first-hand the wonderful work that takes place with pupils and students aged from 2 to 19. During those years I have seen the determination of you all to establish places of learning which enables those pupils and students to flourish. In particular I wanted to highlight the great work you all do to raise the aspiration of your communities.

Everything has to start with the pupils, the learning, the curriculum and the opportunities offer we give them when they join our learning community – they are the reason we are here today.

Of course, there are many challenges which seek to impede our progress but time and again you have shown a determination to succeed, in whatever measure that is chosen to judge our success from outside.

You have proudly developed broad and balanced curriculum, even when faced with external challenges around core subject success – you understand that the whole child matters, leading to the successes we celebrate as a Trust.

I am proud to lead a Trust where access to the arts, to PE and the wide range of subjects sit alongside the determination to raise standards in English, Mathematics and the sciences to ensure that those pupils and students have the very best chance to progress in their lives once they leave their school. I am also delighted that we have as part of our community two special schools whose leadership and expertise is reaching out to all of our schools – a real example of how the Trust is developing.

Thank you for sharing some of the artwork that the pupils in your school have produced. These are mainly displayed in the LECA dining hall so do please find a few minutes to visit this area.

I want to end this introduction to thank you for your support for each and every student in your school. I am not going through the individual school Ofsted outcomes or test and exam results as, whilst they are a valuable part of our judgement of how well schools are delivering and improving, they are not the only way we know that our provision is making a difference.

Whatever we feel about progress measures, the past year has shown our schools are helping to deliver some real improvements locally. I also want to point to the views of parents and pupils themselves who speak so warmly of what you all do, and it is great to be able to start this year with a thank you for your work. I very much hope you enjoy your day today and that the year ahead is a great one for you personally, for your school and for each and every pupil and students in an Active Learning Trust school.

So, make sure you introduce yourself to somebody new, chat to the central team and presenters today and ask, share and discuss anything you would like with each other and us.