The Trust Governor Newsletter

**Autumn | October | 2018**

FIRST WHOLE TRUST PROFESSIONAL

DEVELOPMENT DAY

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Wednesday 5th September 2018 saw the first whole Trust Professional Development Day, held at Littleport and East Cambridgeshire Academy. 540 teaching colleagues from all 21 schools came together to hear Stephen Tierney, CEO of the Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Trust, and author of *Liminal Leadership*, deliver a Keynote entitled “Liminal Leadership: Building Bridges Across the Chaos.” Following this keynote, the schools had a break-out session to talk further about the themes and ideas, and how they could be implemented into their own schools and across the Trust. Lunch enabled colleagues to meet and chat with others from the Central Team and from schools both within their hubs, and from hubs across the Trust. Following lunch, colleagues came together again to listen to Andy Cope, author of “The Art of Being Brilliant”, deliver a motivating and entertaining keynote, which gave a fantastic buzz to the day. Colleagues also had the opportunity to view an impressive selection of art work created by pupils from across all schools in the Trust. The quality of the work on display showcased the range of talent in all our pupils across all phases.

# Health & Safety

Each school will take part in a Health & Safety Audit during the Autumn Term. Please ask your headteachers to share the findings with you. Governors retain the responsibility for ensuring that school are healthy and safe – so it is important that you are aware of any issues that the Audit may raise.

# Academy Improvement Group Meetings

The Trust School Improvement Programme, our initial Challenge programme for schools, identified three levels – Challenge One, Two and Three. All schools were placed into one of the categories.

The aims of the programme are to:

* raise standards and accelerate progress in the Early Years through high quality provision;
* raise standards and accelerate progress, so more children achieve the expected outcomes or beyond at the end of Key Stage 1/2 in English and mathematics;
* raise standards and accelerate progress so that year 7 pupils continue to make rapid progress towards KS4 and beyond;
* improve the leadership of learning across the school;
* build the capacity to sustain improvements;
* improve the quality of learning and teaching in English and Mathematics to ‘good’ or ‘better’.

There are four key themes within the strategy: to raise standards and accelerating progress; improve the quality of teaching and learning; improving the conditions for learning; and leading on learning – developing the school as a professional learning community.

As part of the on-going development of the school improvement model across the Trust, we will be extending the provision for AIG meetings to all schools. The AIG format has been used with high priority schools within the Trust for the last year and proved to be extremely effective in targeting resource, while challenging and supporting improvement and ensuring that schools are given the right amount of Trust guidance to continue on the journey of improvement.

Safeguarding in ALT Schools

In line with our commitment to safeguarding in all our ALT schools, two new systems are being installed across the Trust on a rolling programme to log safeguarding concerns and to register visitors

InVentry is an online registering system of visitors and is being installed in two phases in all schools. A swift and easy to use system, it issues all visitors with photographic identification to wear whilst in schools, whilst keeping an electronic log that is quick to print out in the event of an emergency evacuation. In addition, InVentry has many in school uses such as registering pupil lateness and school trip registers, and also complies with the new GDPR guidelines by keeping visitor information secure.

MyConcern is an online system that allows the recording of all child protection concerns to be undertaken swiftly and efficiently. This secure system allows any staff member to log a concern and for it to be flagged up for the attention of safeguarding leads in schools to deal with. It takes away the need for completing and delivering paper forms and ensures all safe guarding concerns are stored securely. The system also allows the safeguarding leads to properly check that all necessary follow up procedures have been observed.

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together with



Ambition School Leadership are an education charity dedicated to improving the quality of leadership in schools in challenging contexts. Through their high-quality leadership development programmes, we are working with ASL to build a network of exceptional school leaders at all levels to transform the lives of the children who need it most.

In 17/18 the assessment process of the Leading Active Learning programmes was strengthened to support alignment with Ambition School Leadership.  This is of benefit to participants for the following reasons:

* it introduces further quality assurance to our existing programmes and enhances its credibility
* it improves the currency of the programmes in that successful completion will not only be recognised by the Active Learning Trust (ALT) but also a highly regarded national provider – Ambition School Leadership (ASL) - the programmes will be jointly badged
* it opens out a clearly-defined leadership career pathway to all ALT staff that includes access to ASL programmes
* it further incentivises leadership roles within the Trust and its schools and helps retain our very best leaders
* it provides opportunities for successful colleagues to enhance the quality of our school to school support in the interests of achieving the best possible outcomes for all children and young people in all our schools.



Keep in touch:

@ActiveLearningT https://activelearningtrust.org/people/governance



Please remember to review and update your Declaration of Interest form. New forms can be obtained from the Clerks to your Governing Bodies.

In line with the national agenda, the Active Learning Trust is working alongside your school to promote good mental health and wellbeing across the Trust, in four key areas.

1. A working group with representatives from across the Trust has been set up and meets regularly, with the aim of promoting good mental health through Trust-wide initiatives and a strong curriculum.
2. Each school now has a designated mental health lead, who has received bespoke training on how to recognise and support pupils who may be experiencing difficulties.
3. All schools have taken part in an age-appropriate survey, and results can be analysed to see where our pupils feel most comfortable, but also most vulnerable. The results have been interesting, so please ask your heads to share this data with you, and how any issues raised are being addressed.
4. Every school has nominated senior leaders with line management responsibility who have completed training on mental health awareness for managers. This training will enable key personnel in schools to better recognise and support staff.

# Governor Training Sessions



This year, it has been decided to trial a different approach to governor sessions. Gary Peile, CEO, will be meeting with Chairs of governors in Hub groups in the Autumn term. This will allow chairs to hold discussions in an informal setting, with Gary in attendance to clarify any points, and enable chairs to work alongside other chairs in their Hub.

In the Spring term, all governors will be invited to attend a Trust governor session. This will be a more formal setting, with specialised training alongside discussion groups and an annual update on Trust activity. Once the date is advertised, please make every effort to attend – these sessions are only successful if the majority of governors commit.

Scheme of Delegation



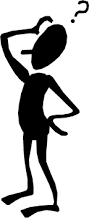
Following the Governance restructure across the Active Learning Trust, the Scheme of Delegation has been reviewed and revised to bring it in line with the Articles of Association.

All governors should be aware of items that are delegated to the local governing bodies, so please make yourself familiar with the Scheme, which is posted on the Trust website:

[www.activelearningtrust.org/about/documents](http://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/documents)

Are you in the dark about

Data Protection and GDPR?



* **Read the Trust’s Policies on the Information Governance page on the website;**
* **Refer to your school’s GDPR tool kit which is held on the school’s shared drive;**
* **Refer to the Trust’s new ICT Standards;**
* **Report any suspected or actual personal data breaches to your school’s Data Controller (Head teacher/Principal) immediately you are aware of such;**
* **Do not purchase new software or download free software which processes personal data before a data protection impact assessment is undertaken – the Trust’s Data Protection Officer will help with this.**

**Contact Caroline, the Trust’s Data Protection Officer**

**if you have any queries**

[**dataprotection@activelearningtrust.org**](mailto:dataprotection@activelearningtrust.org)

# Supporting Schools:

# Mental Health and Wellbeing