



Wednesday 29th March 2023

Dear parent/carers

It has been a busy term for us at Share Multi Academy Trust, with OFSTED inspections of three of our schools, making it four in total for the academic year. The reports will be published in the next few weeks and headteachers are very much looking forward to sharing them with you. Many of you will have submitted questionnaire responses to the inspection teams and I want to thank you for the many positive comments we received. We try our hardest to make our schools welcoming, safe spaces for children and young people and we try to offer all our pupils a broad and exciting curriculum. The reports will confirm we are getting this right more often than not. I do not want to dwell too long on OFSTED in this letter, particularly given recent controversies about the inspectorate. However, I will finish by saying a huge thank-you to staff and pupils in our schools, whose hard work will be recognised in the reports.

The last few months have been tough ones for many families. Few of those difficulties will go away in the coming months but the start of the summer term is usually an optimistic time. The warmer weather and lighter nights seem to boost everybody. One of the best things about my role is the chance to meet lots of children and teenagers. Their enthusiasm and optimism for the future can be humbling. I will encourage staff to build on this optimism over the coming months. It is, perhaps, more important than ever that our young people see the chances life can give them and the choices they gain if they work hard at school. We remain determined to help everyone of our pupils to achieve the best they possibly can.

We will be making changes to our secondary school structures after the Easter break, which will help us deliver this goal of helping every pupil achieve their best. Mrs Carr and Mr Wadsworth will step up to Executive Principal roles, to support colleagues across the trust. They will still be based at Royds Hall and Shelley College respectively but will undertake some projects in other trust schools each week. Although they will work across the trust, Mrs Carr will focus on Royds Hall and Whitcliffe Mount, whilst Mr Wadsworth will spend more time focused on Shelley College and Thornhill Community Academy. To support them, we have appointed Miss Devane (Royds Hall) and Mr Wyatt (Shelley College) as Associate Principals. Miss Devane and Mr Wyatt will effectively be the headteacher of their respective schools, supported by their executive leader. Mr Burton and Mrs Hesmondhalgh remain unchanged as headteachers of Thornhill Community Academy and Whitcliffe Mount.



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You may recall that Mrs McCaffrey, the headteacher of Millbridge, is also now working across the trust as Assistant Director of Primary Academies. She will be working alongside Mrs Lee, to support each of our primary headteachers and you may well see her in your child's school over the coming weeks.

I appreciate the changes may not affect you directly but I hope it reassures you to know that we believe our very existence as a trust is to keep on improving our schools. We believe we can achieve more together, by sharing our best practice and our expertise. School performance measures cannot give the full picture, particularly given the disruption we have all experienced over the last few years. However, the evidence we do have is positive, as seen in the government's published trust performance measures: [SHARE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST - Find school and college performance data in England - GOV.UK \(find-school-performance-data.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/find-school-performance-data). The measures place us as one of the highest performing trusts in the country.

Our attention will turn to Key Stage 2 tests, GCSE, A' level and vocational qualifications after Easter. I wish all our pupils and students studying for these examinations the very best of luck. My advice, as always, is to get organised sooner rather than later. Regular, shorter revision sessions are much more effective than last-minute cramming. Our staff will do all they can to support your child and many are running extra revision sessions after school or during the breaks.

Out of all the data we collect and compare, both nationally and as a trust, one of the best indicators of academic success is attendance at school. Across the country, there is widespread concern that pupils are not attending as well as they did before the pandemic. Our attendance figures overall are much better than current national averages but are still some way below where they were in 2019. There may be many reasons for this, including greater caution when we have the symptoms of a virus. I can only say that pupils have a better chance of success if they attend school regularly and ask for your support in helping us achieve this goal.

Thank-you, once again, for your support, particularly over the last few months. For our many families observing Ramadan – 'Ramadan Mubarak'. I wish you all of you a very happy Easter break.

Your sincerely

John McNally
CEO Share Multi Academy Trust