

EDUKOS TIMES

Termly newsletter of Edukos Trust

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Welcome!!

I am pleased to welcome you to the second edition of our termly newsletter.

I wanted to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all staff and children in our trust schools. Since mid-March children have been back to attending school on a full-time basis. Life in school is still far from normal, with classes/year groups remaining in 'bubbles' to help prevent the spread of the virus. This continues to have huge implications on the day-to-day running of the school, however during my visits into schools, I have been immensely proud of how well everyone is coping and how well adjusted to this new routine they have become.

There's plenty to celebrate from the past few weeks and we hope that you enjoy reading about these and more in this edition.

Chris Huscroft
CEO

Trustee Pen Portrait

Chris Wilson
Certified Accountant



I was appointed to the Trust Board of Directors in 2019 from a Commercial Finance background when the board was looking to strengthen the Financial membership.

I am a qualified Certified Accountant and I have worked as a Management Accountant for Croda for the past 14 years. Prior to that, I worked in various Finance roles at Ideal Standard. I am currently serving as Chair of the Audit & Business Committee.

Within the trust, the Audit & Business committee covers a wide remit with some of the Committees responsibilities including, over-seeing Finance controls and procedures, appointment of auditors, review of audit reports, review of financial statements, review of risk register, Health and Safety policy & reports, review of whistle blowing policy including to ensure any allegations are investigated, manage strategic business development & marketing strategy, monitor ICT provision, oversee capital investment including – use of assets, maintenance policy, grant application and insuring of buildings.

As a parent with a child in year 4 at Swanland it enables me to see me how the Trust is operating from the perspective as both a Trustee and a Parent.

Since joining the board things have been far from normal due to Coronavrius but it has been an interesting time as we are working towards re-branding and expanding the Trust.

In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family, walking the dog, playing golf & badminton and watching Hull FC.

“Since joining the board things have been far from normal due to Coronavrius but it has been an interesting time as we are working towards re-branding and expanding the Trust.”

Chris Wilson | Trustee

Staff Pen Portrait

Hannah Stephenson

Head Teacher – Swanland Primary School

Hannah was born in East Yorkshire and attended school in Lockington and Beverley. After school she attended Bishop Grosseteste University College in Lincoln to do her teacher training qualification achieving a BSc Hons in Science with QTS for the Primary Age.

Upon graduating, she taught in an East Hull school for 6 years in Years 4–6 leading on Science and PE. She left to carry out a volunteer project in Malawi before travelling in Australia and New Zealand for 6 months. She began teaching at Swanland School on her return.

At Swanland School, Hannah taught for 6 years in Years 4 and 5 and was leader for PSHE and healthy schools.

She became a member of SLT and led the school council, Safeguarding, Child Protection and Behaviour and Safety.

Hannah was appointed as Head of School in 2016 and became head teacher in September 2020. She is currently the lead for writing in the school.



“She left to carry out a volunteer project in Malawi before travelling in Australia and New Zealand for 6 months”

Hannah Stephenson | Head Teacher



Return to school for all

On 8th March 2021, all children were able to return to school for the first time since breaking for the Christmas holidays.

With another National Lockdown, came the expectation that most children should stay at home to be educated until the rate of infection had fallen significantly enough for wider re-opening and lifting of restrictions.

I am pleased to report that during this period of lockdown, all staff were fantastic in their response to supporting children at home with their learning. All children were able to access a range of learning in the form of 'live' lessons, recorded lessons and work that had been set for them. This was coupled with teaching those who as the children of Key Workers were in school. In all schools across the Trust, this was around 50% of the school's total population. It was a real challenge for the staff and children, however, this was met in the usual positive Edukos Trust manner, with everyone rising to the challenge incredibly well. It was amazing to see how many of these people went above and beyond to support the children and families within our organisation.

It is incredibly gratifying to watch and see how well the children in Edukos Trust are supported by those people who work in our schools. It is also extremely rewarding, listening to the professional dialogue that takes place between these members of the schools' teaching community during the opportunities that they have to meet and discuss what is working well for them and their children.

I am sure that you will join me in saying a huge thank you to the staff for their support.

“It is incredibly gratifying to watch and see how well the children in Edukos Trust are supported by those people who work in our schools”

Trust Growth

Following the rebranding of our Trust in January 2021, the Board of Trustees have tasked the central team with pursuing the Growth Plan Strategy.

This has included working on activities like:

- developing a strong ‘online’ presence for Edukos Trust;
- strengthening our School Improvement offer;
- reviewing the Trust’s Scheme of Delegation;
- Submitting and application to become a Sponsor Trust.

These are all significant pieces of work and will enable the Trust to strengthen its position within the academy sector not only in East Riding of Yorkshire but also beyond.

Online presence

We’re aware that our online presence, be it website or social media, can play a strong part in telling ‘outsiders’ a lot about us. At the moment, we are working on a strategy to support staff in our schools in using these platforms to share the exceptional work that they do for their children. Listed are our social media accounts which we would welcome you following us:



Twitter: @edukosturst

LinkedIn: [Click Here](#)

We are hoping to broaden our platforms in the near future, so please look out for more information.

School Improvement (SI)

Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) have for some time been seen as the best way to support school improvement. This is through a self-sustaining school-to-school model. Taking the best examples of teaching and leadership practice allows us to support others on their SI journey. We are currently formulating an offer that we will be able to offer schools currently within the Trust, whilst also being open and transparent about what schools joining the Trust in the near the future will be able to access.

Scheme of Delegation (SoD)

MAT structures mean that there is one responsible body for all schools within the organisation. The Board of Trustees (BoT) are

this responsible body. It is therefore necessary to have a **Scheme of Delegation** which clearly sets out who a task or role is designated to, ensuring that responsibility is fulfilled. At present the Trust’s SoD is being reviewed to ensure that the correct level of designation is attributed to the correct person or group in our organisation. This will be presented, for approval, at the final BoT’s meeting, to be implemented in September 2021.

Sponsor Trust Status

As previously stated, MATs have for some time been seen as the best way to support SI. When a school is judged to need support (usually following an inspection that places them in Requires Improvement or Special Measure) the Regional School Commissioner (RSC) will place an Academy Order on the school. This means the school has to select a Sponsor MAT with whom they would like to work with, to support their improvement journey.

As a strong MAT, the BoT decided to make an application for Sponsor Trust status; to share the exceptional work that we do and also to support the Trust’s growth. This application will go to the RSC’s Head Teacher Board in June, at which point we should find out their decision.

“MATs have for some time been seen as the best way to support school improvement.”

Secretary of State's announcement.

On 28th April 2021, Gavin Williamson stated that:

An education at a Good or Outstanding school that is part of a strong multi-academy trust was hailed by the Education Secretary as a key part in building back better from the pandemic.

In his speech to the Confederation of School Trusts annual conference, he said "the government's vision is for the school system to continue to move decisively towards a single model built on strong multi-academy trusts as its foundation, bringing the current pick-and-mix system of local authority maintained and standalone academy schools to an end."

All schools have gone above and beyond through the pandemic, with all teachers and staff playing a vital role in the country's frontline response. But the pandemic has brought to the fore the benefits of strong multi-academy trusts in providing outstanding support for both children and staff, through their collaborative approach and

"the pandemic has brought to the fore the benefits of strong multi-academy trusts in providing outstanding support for both children and staff"



Department
for Education

being able to pool resources and knowledge.

Try before you buy

The Education Secretary went on to state that:

"All schools will now have the option to 'try the academy experience before they buy' – associating with multi-academy trusts for a defined period to experience the benefits for themselves and their students, with no commitment."

This news was of course welcomed by all at the Trust and we are excited and looking forward to the opportunities that this might bring. If anyone connected with Edukos Trust, knows of another school that might be interested in joining a MAT, please do mention that Edukos Trust would be delighted to talk with them.

Welcome to New Governors:

We are pleased to welcome Jenny Hamilton and Sue Hird (Trust Governors) who were appointed to the Airmyn LGB along with Rebecca Lewis and Chris Green (Parent Governors) elected onto Swanland LGB this term.

Important Dates

Summer Term 2021:

Swanland LGB: 17 May 2021 at 6.00pm.

Airmyn LGB: 18 May 2021 at 4.30pm.

Hook LGB: 25 May 2021 at 6.30pm.

Dunswell LGB: 26 May 2021 at 6.30pm.

Half Term Break: Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2021.

Trust-Wide Training with an Ofsted focus 15 June 2021 at 6.00pm–7.00pm.

School Improvement Committee: 23 June 2021 at 9.30am.

Business and Audit Committee: 2 July 2021 at 9.30am.

Finance Committee: 12 July 2021 at 9.30am.

Board of Trustees: 19 July 2021 at 9.30am.

Dates for the academic year 2021/22 will be published in the autumn term edition, following approval by Governors/Trustees at their meetings this term.