



## Summer term newsletter

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to the end of the first year of your child's school's membership of Equals Trust. Was it really a year ago that we launched Equals Trust? It has been an extremely busy and successful year for all our schools - Tollerton, Crossdale, Keyworth, Heymann, Burton Joyce and Cropwell Bishop Primary Schools and Robert Miles Junior School. Over the year, we have tried to provide the best for the children in our care by ensuring that our staff have the best professional development opportunities and are provided with everything they need to achieve this. Our Speech and Language Therapist continues to be a great success, benefitting many children across the Trust.

We are constantly trying to improve our schools. In the forthcoming autumn term, we will be starting a few initiatives we have been planning over this year; for example a sports programme across our schools to promote health and fitness for all children, to extend the already good work our schools invest in. Our mathematics project with Southwell Minster Teaching School will also start next term. This will involve working with groups of schools and allow us to gain access to new methods of teaching and resources, particularly looking at the mastery of mathematics. A summer term e-safety newsletter about keeping yourself safe on the internet has been designed by children for their peers. We also held our first inter-trust school football competition for boys and girls at Keyworth Primary School. Crossdale became our inaugural girls' champions and Heymann won the boys. It was a fantastic day enjoyed by everyone. Our next competition is boccia!

Working with other schools is important across our Trust and we also work with the Rushcliffe Learning Alliance (a group consisting of the majority of primary schools in Rushcliffe). An example of this work has been the moderation of children's writing across the Trust's schools, which has enabled us to ensure our standards are accurate and expectations high. We will be working closely with the Local Authority next year in looking at school improvement and professional development for teachers. New schools may also join and add many ideas and experience to our Trust as part of our expansion strategy. We are committed to ensuring that any schools that join the Trust understand and share our ethos so that there are benefits both to the current Trust schools and to the schools joining us.

Our new Equals Trust website is up and running [www.equalstrust.org](http://www.equalstrust.org) and is linked to all our school websites. We hope this will give you easy access to any information you may need and a flavour of life in the Trust. An important part of the ethos of our Trust is that all our schools retain their local links and unique character and that essence that makes them your school, but that the collaborative actions of the Trust will improve all our schools further.

There are many reports of financial difficulties ahead for schools, so we have worked very hard with our Finance Officer Oliver Phillips to ensure we have best value for money for all our services. The political debates continue and we will ensure that we take the necessary steps to ensure we have the best possible

opportunities for our schools. We have had some excellent financial successes already. Many of you will have seen new roofs and drainage systems being installed in our schools. This was as a result of funding that the Trust applied for and won – in fact £1.35 million worth, which is a great achievement. We also have dedicated office space for our Trust staff in a converted classroom at Keyworth Primary School where we are now based.

There are many technical areas that we will continue to work on to ensure we achieve the best outcomes for all the children in our schools. These have been led by the leadership group of head teachers and members of the board of directors. We held a presentation evening for school governing bodies earlier this term where we reminded ourselves of what we stand for and celebrated all the achievements of our first year. We ended by looking at how we are going to improve further next year. The shared values and commitment to the ethos of the Trust of all the headteachers and their staff has helped us to end the year with a determination to continue to put the needs of your children first, to maintain the essence of all things good in our schools and to support improvement across all schools in the Trust.

We hope you have a great summer holiday and look forward to seeing you back in the new academic year.

Yours faithfully

**Peter Foale, Chair, Equals Trust**

**Phil Palmer Chief Executive Officer, Equals Trust**

