

EQUALS TRUST

Summer term 2018

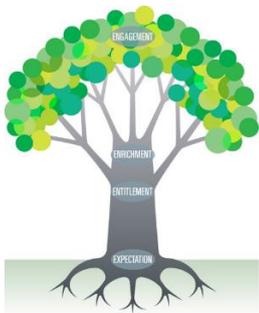
Member Primary Schools: Tollerton, Crossdale, Keyworth, Heymann, Burton Joyce, Cropwell Bishop, Willow Farm and Robert Miles Junior School. In the process of joining Flintham and Brookside Primary schools.

Dear parents/carers,

What an incredibly busy and productive summer term and indeed year it has been for our schools and Equals Trust. As we draw towards the end of the academic year and we get ready for the summer holidays, it is worth reflecting on our achievements together. An important part of the ethos of our Trust is that all our schools retain their local links, their unique character and that essence that makes them your school, but that the collaborative actions of the Trust will improve all our schools further. Schools are celebrating their year with sports days, productions, concerts and the departure of year 6 children who move onto the next stage of their educational life. Although it is a sad time, it is also the right time and due to the excellent provision of their primary schools they are ready to move on.

A major part of the Trust's work this year and indeed since its conception, has been around school improvement to support our schools in providing the best for the children in our care. There are several network groups who lead on curriculum and strategic areas in order to improve and share the good practice in our schools. After a staff INSET day on the curriculum last year, the Deputy Heads are leading a project to design a creative curriculum that all our schools can use which will still be based on the National Curriculum. The Leadership Group of Head Teachers are creating Equals Trust principles for Teaching and Learning and will support our schools in the development of good practice.

The curriculum and teaching and learning principles are elements of our 'Equals Trust Principles for Learning' which is a model for bringing all the good work together that members of our Trust have been working on. We have called these the 4 E's:



EQT Principles for Learning

- **Expectation** – the vision of the Trust
- **Entitlement** – Curriculum Design, Teaching and learning, Assessment for Learning
- **Enrichment** – Trust activities
- **Engagement** – CPD, School Improvement Strategy

For more information please visit our website (although these are in draft form and being continually updated).

This term we introduced a Boccia tournament for all schools and have plans to continue this next year alongside our girls and boys football tournament, storytelling project, singing festival and introduce a frisbee tournament! Yes, we have international players on our staff!

Looking to next year, our Equals Trust Improvement Plan includes an important section on the curriculum because, as we state in our vision, *teaching and learning is always at the centre of what we do*. Through the improvement plan we are able to work on teaching and learning initiatives we have identified as a group of Trust schools. This enables us to share great practice and ideas and work together on developing them. As I mentioned last year, we have been working on a mastery maths hub initiative with Southwell Minster Teaching School. It has been so successful that we have bought 'Maths No Problem' resources so we can continue and all the schools will work together on implementing this. We are also able to draw down on Trust finances to enable us to achieve this and the Leadership Group lead on how the direction of teaching and learning is supported by the finances. This has also led to other curriculum initiatives, for example a Speech and Language specialist, research and development into meaningful assessment for learning, moderation and gaining a greater understanding of complex educational issues across the Trust.

We continue to develop our partnerships to provide the best services we need for our schools, this includes the Local Authority, other Trusts and research organisations, for example Nottingham University and Apple Technologies, led by Marc Faulder a teacher at Burton Joyce Primary.

Despite the continued reduction in finances for schools, our Trust continues to thrive. We were again successful with CIF (Condition Improvement Fund) bids for 4 of our schools with kitchen redevelopment, cladding and roof work, totaling £1,057,000. We are also developing an estates plan so that we can prioritise building improvements for our schools as learning environments. Oliver Phillips, our Finance Manager works tirelessly to gain the best services at the best price.

Our vision helps us to continue with a determination 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 break and we look forward to seeing you back in the autumn term.

Yours faithfully

Peter Foale Chair, Equals Trust

Phil Palmer Chief Executive Officer, Equals Trust

