



Mid-Trent
Multi Academy Trust
Learning together, growing together

CEO Letter December 2022

Dear Parents, Carers, Members of Staff, Governors and Directors,

As 2022 draws to an end, I would like to reflect upon the many volunteers who support our schools and nursery. My initial thoughts go out to the Clay family. Sadly and unexpectedly, David Clay, the Trust's Chair of Directors, died on Saturday 10th December 2022. David has devoted the past 6 years to chairing the Trust Board and will be missed greatly. David's association with Mid-Trent schools predates his chairmanship, as his daughter-in-law is Mrs Clay, the previous Headteacher at Colwich CE Primary. He also watched his grandchildren grow up there. Our condolences and prayers go out to the Clay family.

David was one of the many volunteers who govern Mid-Trent schools and nursery. Each school has capacity for 7 volunteer governors, the board of directors a further 6 and the MAT members board 4. That is a total of 31 volunteers giving up their time and expertise to set the vision, hold leaders to account and ensure all finances are correctly and efficiently spent. Each school's governors meet at least six times a year, as does the Trust board. I would like to say a heart-felt thanks to all involved with governance.

At a recent board meeting the Trust reviewed Mid-Trent's vision and motto. The motto for Mid-Trent MAT is ***Learning together, growing together***. This sums up what being a school or nursery in Mid-Trent MAT is about. The headteachers meet each other most weeks to develop policy, share good practice and discuss pedagogy. This year, there are five development teams made up of the teaching staff across the Trust. They, also, are working together developing pedagogy, policy and curriculum plans. Staff at all three Trust schools and nursery have a strong belief that working together benefits all of our children.

Talking of the children, it has been a delight to watch the children enjoying sporting events, residential visits, carol concerts, Christmas productions and the many things they did before covid. 2022 has been a transition year from lives governed by covid to some kind of normality. The next challenge we face is not a viral one but a financial one. The cost of heating our schools has soared, material costs have increased and staff costs continue to rise.

Each Trust school has a PTFA, another band of volunteers doing their utmost to enhance the lives of our children. They organise events and fund raise. I would like to thank the families who give up their time and energy for the children. More than ever, their support is needed.

And finally, each school has volunteers who work in school. I say "work" in school because like governors, directors, members and the PTFA that is what they do but unpaid. They listen to children read, assist with school visits, support children in class with their learning and so much more.

Colwich, St Peter's, St Andrew's and Flourish Early Education are blessed with so much support. I would like to finish with a quote I saw:

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart.

Happy Christmas and thank you.

Paul Hayward

CEO Mid-Trent Multi Academy Trust