



End of year message from the CEO of Mid-Trent Multi Academy Trust – Summer 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Colleagues, Governors and Directors,

I could not let the school year end without saying a few words. I am old enough to remember the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. I seem to remember receiving a coin to commemorate the occasion. I remember the coal miners' strikes in 1984 and 1985. The strikes had a direct impact on my family. I know exactly where I was when the 9/11 attacks took place in 2001. I think we can all recall the devastating tsunami of 2004. This is not meant to be an exercise in showing my age but recognition that significant events take place from time to time in world history. That said; not one of these events has come near to the scale and impact of the pandemic we find ourselves living in today.

Over the past year, the three Mid-Trent schools have tried their best to offer an exceptional education to our children. Our school leaders have shown commitment, resilience and a total dedication to the wellbeing of the children and their staff. I would like to congratulate Miss De Ste Croix (Headteacher at Colwich) and Mrs Pilkington (Headteacher at St Peter's) for completing their first whole school year as headteachers. To accomplish this ordinarily is an achievement but during a pandemic is exceptional. I would like to thank the teachers and support staff in the three Trust schools who have potentially faced exposure to covid daily but have remained steadfast in their delivery of the curriculum, whether at home, school or a blended approach.

The office team (Mrs Palmer, Mrs Hughes, Mrs Rowe, Mrs Hughes and Mrs Haenelt), led by Mr Nield, Mid-Trent's business manager and Chief Financial Officer, has done an amazing job. It would take too long to describe their roles in our schools but I liken them to the oil in a machine: they help make our schools run smoothly.

Other support staff, especially cleaners and site managers have done a brilliant job keeping our schools clean and covid-free. Lunchtime supervisors have stepped up to the mark, maintaining bubbles, caring for the children and keeping them safe.

Sitting behind the scenes are our Directors (Chair – David Clay) and Governors (Chairs of LACs - Chris, Grainger, Mary Evans and Jenny Calvert). They have continued to meet regularly throughout the year, keeping an eye on the safety, wellbeing and the education of our children, ensuring each Trust school remains financially viable. The decision to reduce St Andrew's and Colwich primaries to six classes each, in the forthcoming September, was mainly a financial one. It is important that the three Trust schools have funds to spend on the children. I would like to thank the families who have supported each school's decision to reduce class numbers. I must mention the additional time and effort our directors have put in this year. They are accountable for the 450+ children in our schools, the 70+ staff who teach and care for the children and the approximately £2 million in public funding we receive to run our schools each year. Their remit covers finance, health and safety, safeguarding, curriculum, Christian distinctiveness and human resources, to name a few. They have met many more times than the published meeting dates. People do not realise that governors and directors are volunteers and do not get paid. They are amazingly generous people, giving their time and expertise freely.

Mid-Trent MAT consists of three church schools. This is important to us. Reverends Mike Cadwallader, Vivienne Starkie and Mark Davys each sit on a Trust school Local Academy Committee. Father Jason Phillips has recently been appointed a MAT director. I believe this gives us a fantastic platform on which to develop Christian distinctiveness within our schools further.

One thing I have noticed over the past year is how much closer parents and carers are to their children's class teachers. Class Dojo and Microsoft Teams have opened up avenues of communication that were not there before. During lockdown, particularly, we relied on parents and carers to help us educate the children. Parents and carers, you did a fantastic job. We all appreciate the time and energy you put into supporting your children's learning, even though, for many of you, this was a challenge because you were having to work yourselves.

Some of you may be aware that Hixon Pre-School is now known as Flourish Early Education. This Mid-Trent nursery provision will be based at St Peter's and will offer places to children from 2 years old. I would like to warmly welcome the Hixon Pre-School Nursery team into the Mid-Trent family. It is great to have them on board. Flourish Early Education, to be managed by the team at St Peter's, is offered to all Mid-Trent families and families in the surrounding areas. It is an exciting expansion of the Trust and it will provide a teacher-led experience for the children, which is new for the area. The team at St Peter's is working hard and on track to get everything set up in time for September.

I have named a tiny fraction of the people who deserve thanks for their efforts this year but my thanks, and the thanks of the board of directors, goes to every person who has supported, guided, helped, taught, fed, listened to, spoke to or any of the other thousands of interactions we enjoy with our children over the last year. Thank you.

Many people are asking, "What does the future hold?" This is something few people can predict. But, what I do know is that everyone at Mid-Trent is devoted to ensure the children receive an exceptional education; enabling them to flourish and develop the knowledge and attributes to be successful, life-long learners.

I would like to finish by wishing all of our Year 6 leavers every happiness and success as they step up to the next phase in their education. They are the sum of our combined efforts and we are incredibly proud of them.

*May you walk with God this summer,
In whatever you do, wherever you go.
Walking with God means...
Walking with honesty,
And with courage,
Walking with love,
And respect,
And concern for the feelings of others.
May you talk to God his summer,
Every day and in every situation. Amen.*

I wish you all a happy and safe summer break.



Paul Hayward