



3rd November 2020

Dear Parents,

What an amazing half term it has been. I have been very impressed with the way in which all our schools have managed the health and safety challenges of Covid-19. Arranging the day- to- day issues of providing a high-quality curriculum, along with managing break times, lunch times, whilst supporting children's mental health has been no mean feat for our staff. I have very much enjoyed my visits to each school and spending time with key members of staff looking at the children's books. I have been very impressed with the work produced so far, linked to the Autumn term topic of Saving the World. It has also been lovely to see that despite all the health and safety measures; the children have gained access to an exciting broad and balanced curriculum.

TEAM's vision statement is focused around the tag line '**Life, Love and Learning to the Full**'. As a Trust we endeavour to ensure that our schools build solid foundations so that the children we serve receive an excellent education and understand what it means to be loved and to love others within their local, national and global community. We build these strong foundations through the implementation of four drivers that are listed below:

Building Learning Power

Our Building Learning Power driver is focused on making sure that the children understand the key components of effective learning. We want them to develop their self-awareness as learners and gain an understanding of what it means to learn. We develop their learning skills through the use of a common language that is focused on four key foundations, resilience, thinking, curiosity and working well with others.

Building Community

Our Building Community driver is very much focused on ensuring our children develop a sense of pride in their locality and gain an understanding of its geographical and historical features. We also want them to know about local and national issues and where appropriate take an active part in working to solve them. As a Trust many of our schools have engaged in British Council work with schools in Europe and with countries such as India, Kenya and Uganda. We believe that it is through our partnership work that our children gain a better understanding of what it means to be a global citizen who works for the good of their community.



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Building Futures

As a Trust, we believe it is vital that we prepare our children for the future. We want to develop aspirations and ensure the children are equipped to solve problems, make excellent decisions and know how to keep themselves safe from harm. We want them to be able to become digitally literate and effectively use technology to build a brighter future. Our 'Big Event Curriculum' has been constructed to provide exciting opportunities that encourage the children to reflect on the future and consider the sorts of paths they might follow in life.

Build Self-esteem and Mental Wellbeing

We want all members of the Trust to feel valued, supported and loved. In order to live life to the full, we seek to ensure that we create a curriculum that develops self-esteem and mental wellbeing. In all our schools, there is an emphasis on respecting, serving, supporting and accepting each through the good times and the bad. We recognise the importance of the natural world and being able to grow spiritually.

At the weekend Boris Johnson announced new Covid-19 restrictions and a new national lockdown. To me this makes our drivers seem more relevant than ever. In our schools over the next half-term, we will be considering how we can continue to serve our local community to ensure that we support the most vulnerable. Our school leaders and staff will continue to put stringent measures in place to keep the children safe and provide an exciting curriculum that builds learning power and develops self-esteem.

We are working hard to ensure that there are plenty of collaborative activities on offer across the Trust. All of our schools now have G-Suite meaning that we can offer a remote curriculum should we need to do so. This also of course means that our children can now work on projects at the same time and can exchange their thoughts about their work. Three of our schools are currently starting work with three schools in the city of Mangalore, India. We are hoping that we will be able to use G-Suite so that our children can work together on agreed curriculum topics linked to the four drivers listed earlier. Pilton Bluecoat has also just been awarded a British Council Comenius project grant to work alongside schools in Croatia, Italy and Portugal.

Another project that incorporates all four of our drivers is the Voice to Tell Our Story initiative. Over the next three years our schools will be involved in a three-year research project with the University of South Wales and the Beaford Arts Centre. The project will focus on storytelling, photography, film making and visual art. Throughout the three-year period each of our schools will be visited by artists who will work with specific year groups. The work will then be shared through INSET for staff and exhibitions of work for parents (Covid permitting).



It is great to see that despite the challenges of Covid-19 staff across the Trust are showing real determination in ensuring that the children are well supported and being provided with a curriculum that is innovative and fun. Trying to keep things as normal as possible is a must in ensuring everyone feels safe and secure.

As a parent of three children, I fully understand the challenges and anxieties that come with them attending school. I am very aware of the advantages and disadvantages and more than ever I am having to trust the professionals who are taking care of them on a day-to-day basis. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the way in which you have continued to support and encourage the staff of TEAM Multi-Academy Trust. As I have visited each of our TEAM schools it is clear to see from the conversations I have had that your thoughts and positivity are very valued. As we head into another lockdown effective communication, patience and encouragement are going to continue to be vital in ensuring that our schools run effectively and more importantly that the children feel safe and secure.

At this moment in time, we are still awaiting further guidance from the government on how things will progress over the weeks to come. Rest assured that when the information arrives, we will do our very best to communicate any changes through our normal lines of communication.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Thomas'.

Ian Thomas
CEO
TEAM Multi-Academy Trust