

Corvus Learning Trust

The Consultation

How we got here.....

- Judged as 'outstanding' 2009
- Discussions with Governors regarding academisation
- No compelling argument to convert
- Good relationships with Local Authority
- Easier funding climate

..... However things change.....

- Political climate
- Financial restraints and reduction in services
- A growing momentum to convert within our area

So why are we going?

- To continue to offer our children in this area the best education
 - To ensure transition between each phase is effective
 - Every opportunity to reach their full potential
 - To offer support across all key stages for students and families
- To support the leadership in each school and work more closely together
- To share resources across all schools and eventually benefit from economies of scale

How will our young people benefit?

- This partnership will focus on improving outcomes for the benefit of **all** our children.
- The transition for our children from primary to secondary school will be even smoother as the schools will work more and more closely as we get to know each other better.
- Children will benefit from being schools that are judged as good or better, and which share an ethos of care and achievement for all our young people.
- The strong reputation of the Trust and its schools will attract good, committed, hardworking staff.
- By forming our own MAT, the schools take control of our own destiny, and can make decisions that will benefit **our** children now and in the future.
- Continued strong central leadership will underpin the financial security of all our schools, allowing increased efficiency and the best deployment of resources to support our children.

The Trust schools will benefit from being part of a bigger family of like minded schools that intend to..

- Commit to an inclusive education and believe all individuals should be enabled to do their best
- Collaborate, support, share good practice and learn from each other
- Promote the individual characteristics, values and success of each school
- Secure the future success of each school by being part of a more robust and sustainable organisation
- Support and engage staff and students offering improved recruitment and development

The Vision - draft

The Corvus Learning Trust is a family of similar schools, initially from the local area, which have shared values and a common ethos and vision for education. We will work together in collaboration whilst retaining our individuality, to give every young person in our care the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Setting up The Corvus Learning Trust

- 4 Schools – Edgbarrow, Oaklands Infants, Oaklands Juniors and Hatch Ride
- Executive Working Party – approx. 16 members working with the Headteachers

Members

- Peter Floyd, Julian Thomas, Marian Dickens, Jeff Dawkins and Sandra Symms

Trustees

- Steve James, Suki Carr, Graham Oakley, Jason Welch, Iain Henderson, David Whitfield, Sara Young, Joanna Nightingale, Bob Elsey

The Members

- **Peter Floyd** – Edgbarrow School Governor and retired senior manager with S.C. Johnson
- **Jeff Dawkins** – Retired Secondary Headteacher from Windsor Boys School and currently national Director PiXL Leadership Programmes
- **Julian Thomas** – Master of Wellington College
- **Marian Dickens** - Retired solicitor who had a practice in Crowthorne
- **Sandra Symms** – Retired Primary Headteacher from Finchampstead C of E

The Trustees

- **Mr Bob Elsey** will be one of the Trustees as CEO.
- **Steve James (Strategic Leadership)** – Retired Head of International Relations for UK Air Navigation Service Provider NATS
- **Sukina Carr (Finance)** – Finance Manager with Fujitsu and Governor at Oaklands Infants School
- **Graham Oakley (Business)** – Senior Branch Manager at Waitrose and Chair of Governors at Edgbarrow School
- **Sara Young (HR)** – HR Business Partner at The John Lewis Partnership and current parent of two Edgbarrow students

The Trustees

- **Jason Welch (Strategic Leadership)** – North Europe Service Director for General Electric and Chair of Governors at Hatch Ride Primary
- **David Whitfield (Asset Management)** – Retired from a 40 year career in engineering, project management and IT services management and Governor at Oaklands Junior School
- **Iain Henderson (Secondary Education)** – Deputy Headteacher – Wellington College
- **Joanna Nightingale (Primary Education)** – Retired Headteacher - Whitehall Junior School

The Trust Team

Appointments

- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Mr Bob Elsey
- Chief Business and Finance Officer (CBFO) – Mrs Carolyn Pyke

Future appointments

- Admin support
- Clerk to Members and Trustees

MEMBERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Finance
Committee

Strategy
Committee

Education
Committee

CEO

Governing Body
Edgbarrow

Governing Body
Oaklands Infants

Governing Body
Oaklands Juniors

Governing Body
Hatch Ride

HEADTEACHERS

Setting up the Corvus Learning Trust

The Process

- Application Form accepted 19th July 2017
- Consultation Period– Friday 22nd September – Friday 20th October
- Trust Conversion Date – 1st December
- Setting up a Trust Team

Setting up The Corvus Learning Trust

- Communication with parents – the letter home
- Using the website
 - Copy of letter home
 - Frequently Asked Questions
- Regular meetings with staff
- Open Day
- Evening Meetings
- Consultation@edgbarrowschool.co.uk

FAQ - Why are we moving away from the Local Authority?

- The schools have always enjoyed a very good working relationship with the Local Authority and will continue to do so
- However the Education system is changing. Three quarters of Secondary Schools and a quarter of Primary schools are already academies
- This means the scale of support from LAs has been reduced.
- Academies are able to source services from the best and most cost effective suppliers, which may include the LA

FAQ - What are the Financial Implications

- We anticipate the move to be financially neutral
- A small percentage will be taken from the school's budget and given to the MAT to provide services
- This will be broadly in line with the amount that is top sliced currently by the LA or paid to the LA for services

FAQ - Have the schools completed due diligence?

- **Yes**
- The schools have shared their financial information in the executive committee; none of the founding schools is carrying a deficit or has any significant financial or non-financial outstanding liabilities
- Site surveys are being carried out and shared
- All schools are rated as Good or better by Ofsted
- The schools already work very closely with each other and know each other well.

FAQ - Changes

- None of the four schools will change their **uniform**
- There are **no plans to change the term dates**
- There are **no plans to change the names** of the individual schools
- All the founding schools are keen to maintain their **own ethos and identity**
- Students, staff and parents will see **very little change**

FAQs - Admission Arrangements

- There are currently **no plans** to change the catchment areas or admission arrangements for any of the schools
- In the future, if the Members of The Corvus Learning Trust want to consider changing the admission arrangements a consultation would be required
- This consultation period would be at least 18 months before any changes were implemented

FAQs - Admission Arrangements

My child goes to one of the Trust primary schools. Does this mean they will automatically get a place at Edgbarrow?

- No. As explained above, there are no plans to change either the designated area or the admissions policy of any of the Trust schools. This means that children who live in the designated area for Edgbarrow will continue to take priority over children who live outside the area regardless of which primary school they attend.

Will other schools join?

- Yes – hopefully in time other schools would be interested in joining our trust
- To be a viable MAT the government suggests a number of approximately 5,000 students
- The Founding schools will have a total of just over 2,000
- The Trust will therefore need to grow over the next few years but we are in no hurry and will only take on schools providing this is not to the detriment of existing schools within the Trust