



October 2023

Hello Again!

Dear parents, carers, and families,

I hope your children have had a positive start to the year and that you are encouraged by the improvements being made.

Across the Trust, our updated Teaching and Learning policy has been shared with all staff, so that they understand how best to adapt their teaching to support autistic learners - and this complements the significant autism training that all staff access on joining.

Our students have been learning about Black History this month and I have been impressed by the knowledge they have shown in explaining to me what they have learned. Students have spent time debating serious issues and they have been considered and respectful in doing so.

During my monthly visits, I speak with children, observe lessons, and look at the work they produce. The children I met with this month were so proud of their work that they showed me multiple books from a range of subjects and their enthusiasm was infectious - they are a true credit to you.

Student Executive Leadership Team

I am really excited that after half term, our student executive leadership team will be appointed. It is so important that we listen to our students when considering the improvements needed in our schools.

With this in mind, I have asked all Principals to put forward two students from each school, who feel comfortable enough to meet with me and the rest of the executive team, on a termly basis, in order to feedback on how things are in their schools.

I want to know about the quality of teaching; how the environment supports their learning; and what key improvements they would like to see. These school representatives are an important part of the whole Trust community and their voices will enact change for good.

I have already met with all School Councils to explain the role and its purpose, so if your child is a School Council member, please do ask them about it, and I look forward to working with the nominated students over the course of the year ahead - and beyond.

Celebrating our Staff!

I am delighted to share that one of our wonderful Occupational Therapists at Thames Valley School, Anastasios, presented at the National Conference for Autism in Greece this month. I hope this shows my commitment to securing the very best specialists to support your children.

Christmas Books

I know it is all too soon to be talking about Christmas, but I would like to buy books for all of our students as a Christmas present again this year.

Last year, I struggled to get a few first choice books so I would like to get the order in a little earlier, so please do discuss with your children what two choices they are going to request, so that when schools ask, they can let me know promptly.

My Child at School

Just a final reminder that although you can access my videos on the website, the MCAS app is available to download on your smart phone - this is the quickest way of getting updates, so take a look, if you've not already done so.

With all best wishes for a restful half term,

Nic

Dr Nic Crossley, CEO, Liberty Academy Trust

