FMATCONNECT

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Welcome to the final edition of our FMATConnect for this academic year.

This has been a year like no other in the education sector and I know that everyone who reads this will have been impacted in different ways. For me, it is key that we continue to work collaboratively as a single large team of staff to support each other for the benefit of all. It's at times like this that empathy, tolerance and respect come to the forefront and whilst we are all busy, it's

essential that we remember to consider these aspects in all that we do and in all of our interactions with students, parents and staff.

Many readers will already be aware that our Trust serves some significantly disadvantaged communities; in fact, approximately 50% of our students are considered to come from disadvantaged backgrounds. This represents around 2.5 times the national average and it is why many of us choose to work where we do. We must always remember that students from disadvantaged backgrounds can achieve very well and it is our collective responsibility to help overcome any barriers that our students may face, so that they can be successful in whatever they choose to do.

This edition is absolutely full of activities that build strong links with the wider community, for example academic institutions, employers, charities, sporting organisations, creative projects and life outside of the school environment. I hope that this inspires our students to realise the true breadth of the wider curriculum that is offered and delivered to them and I also hope that this is a sign that our collective ability to engage more "normally" with wider experiences is about to restart.

Many staff and students will have seen the substantial investments and improvements across our estates. This work has included building projects, classroom refurbishments, redecoration, investment in resources and AV, signage, security, electronic sign in systems etc. All of this work is designed to improve the safety and positive learning experiences of all of our students. Thank you to the many staff who have been involved in the planning and delivery of these wide ranging projects.

Finally, I would like to remind staff to get some rest at some point during the summer. Schools never actually "shut down" over the summer and there are many projects, summer activities, transition events, results days etc. still to occur, but I would urge everyone to stay safe and get some rest, so that we can return fully refreshed in September.

Thank you for your work and dedication this year.

MR SIMON JONES | CEO

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CONNECTING WITH DIRECTORS

AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR

As the 2020/21 year draws to a close, it is timely to remember just what the Trust and its academies has achieved through the talent and professionalism of all our staff led by a strong and coordinated leadership.

Covid has been with us for about 18 months now and we have proved that our schools can overcome the many challenges the pandemic has posed. We:

- Quickly developed and delivered online learning to all our students, maintaining the vision and aspirations of our curriculum through is new medium. This was achieved through giant steps in staff skills development and outstanding staff/student relationships.
- Calmly and expertly dealt with student safeguarding issues amplified by remoteness to school and some instances of poor community influence. Our DSL's and wider safeguarding teams were extra-ordinary.
- Undertook huge amounts of testing and constantly managed infected bubbles, whilst staff capacity was stretched by illness and isolation.
- Looked out for each other and were considerate of each other's needs as staff and student wellbeing issues mushroomed.
- Met the professional and logistical challenge of TAGs through clear thinking leadership and diligent hard work by staff with high personal integrity.

But beyond Covid FMAT has:

- Embedded financial rigour that sees our schools operating balanced budgets, allowing investment in our staff through increased CPD and our students through new initiatives and better facilities, such as the new Diamond Suite at Fairfax.
- Improved PX and FTE data and reduced alternative provision costs across our schools, reflecting a huge effort and proactive engagement between staff and students.

For the first time this year it feels like FMAT has come to life as an inclusive and single entity. More often now we hear people talking about "Our Trust" or "the FMAT way". There seems to be a real sense that we are building a team that supports and is willing to help beyond individual schools. The formal and informal networks are showing impact by raising our provision overall and in terms of creating capacity through economies of scale. We should mention here the efforts of our central teams including finance, estates, Health and Safety and human resources: they have made large strides this year and, although there are still things to do, they have helped to make us a very professional and well organised Trust.



CONNECTING WITH DIRECTORS

At last, we feel FMAT has started to establish an identity. Our image in the wider community is improving and beginning to catch the eye of other professionals. Our schools have increased Y7 applications, with 3 of the 4 have waiting lists, and there has been a marked upturn in the number of applications we are seeing for staff vacancies. As an example, at a recent pan-Birmingham Trust meeting, the work Bournville has been doing around raising boys' literacy skills was held up as best practice by the meeting co-ordinator.

We know that the challenges will not reduce for our schools in 2021/22 but we have confidence our team can meet and overcome them. But beyond the challenges we need to set our own agenda to:

- Deliver higher standards and outstanding progress in all our schools through a refocusing on Challenge, Support and Intervention programme;
- Support our students to improve their lives through the reintroduction of our enrichment activities and tuning our curriculum further towards their future careers;
- Recognise and develop our staff through tailored CPD, career development and a more rounded health and wellbeing approach, and
- Engage and mobilise our communities to work with us and support our efforts for their children.

2020/21 has been a year like no other and the staff and students of FMAT have been outstanding. The Trust Directors recognise all your efforts and thank you for all you do. Have a sunny and restful summer.



SIMON SMALL FMAT TRUST CHAIRMAN



ANDY BEST FMAT TRUST VICE-CHAIRMAN



CONNECTING WITH BOURNVILLE HEAD OF ACADEMY UPDATE

It's coming home. No sorry that is a totally different story. Nevertheless, we are digging deep and pushing on, finding space and drawing on the deep reserves of energy that we know we have in order to reach the final whistle. Our opposition? Rising case numbers, TAG process and rain in July. FMAT schools and Bournville in particular serve exceptionally disadvantaged communities and making sure that every student finds their talents and fulfils their potential is absolutely our raison d'etre. This is what we play for, every lesson, every day.

In the spirit of inspiring, motivating and challenging our students, we are trying something new at Bournville or maybe just old and revisited. Our most vulnerable students in year 9 and 10 have been placed in an intensive training camp. The mission, to set their world in motion, is to achieve either a sport or childcare GCSE (examined in January 2022) by close of play on Friday 16th July 2021. I am aware that this is not something new and when Mr Jones jogged my memory about the real reason why early entry qualifications were powerful, I was reminded of Michaela a former student, who said to me "Miss Green we need to do the revision and the coursework on the same day because I don't know what is going to happen at home each night, so if it is bad, I might forget everything that I have done". However heart breaking, Michaela achieved a full suite of GCSE qualifications because we adapted her curriculum and met her needs.

So, reminded of why we do this, leaders are on the ball and have acted swiftly. 49 students are engaged in intense learning with specialist teachers which we are determined will result in a level 2 qualification, raised aspiration, a sense of achievement and a renewed determination to crack on and achieve a full suite of excellent results in year 11.

Nine days out from the end of the academic year, there is a tremendous sense of joy and positivity in the school, a sense of hope that we are doing this all together now, we are working for a shared goal and students are focused and happy.

In yet another success story from back home at Bournville, some of our students who have attended alternative provision have returned to us and noted how calm and welcoming the school feels and they are minded to stay and achieve their qualifications with us by the end of year 11.

As we wait for the result on Sunday I am taking this as another win for Team Bournville!

MISS M GREEN | HEAD OF ACADEMY



CONNECTING WITH BOURNVILLE

HEAD OF ACADEMY UPDATE | BOURNVILLE BUZZ



The sound of children singing, excitement building in anticipation of performing on stage, your heart pounding before drilling-home that last minute winner. These are all of the feelings or experiences that we want our students to feel at Bournville. After a tough 15 months, it has been an absolute priority for us to give our students something exciting to look forward to, whilst giving them the opportunity to showcase their talent. This informed the idea of 'Bournville Buzz', where we have collapsed the timetable on a Friday afternoon for all students to take part in a structured activity. These activities include a Year 7 choir, competitive sporting fixtures, science experiments, art and drama. The work that students produce in these activities will be captured and shared with parents and the local community. Projects like this are so important for us as a school, where we are striving to become the school of choice in the local area. In order to raise the profile of our school, we will continue running projects like the Bournville Buzz to share our students' talent with the local community.





CONNECTING WITH ERDINGTON HEAD OF ACADEMY UPDATE | ENRICHING LIVES

Although I would have expected our focus this last term to be finalising the assessments for our Year 11 students, to enable the start of the 'Centre Assessed Grade' (CAG) process; we have also been reviewing our current provision and planning for an exciting future!

Teaching & Learning CPD has looked very different during this Academic year, and this is not just down to Covid – we have really focused on specific staff needs and voice, to drive forward a bespoke Teaching and Learning programme.

During the last term, our NQTs have been doing some mini research led projects with their own chosen foci and the impact of these has been phenomenal! The development in teaching has been clearly visible across the school where the NQTS have been sharing their projects. A special mention must be made to Justin Gapara whose project has inspired many others. We have more of a revolving door, than open door policy in some of his lessons where staff want to drop in and see the excellent work that has been happening.

Whole school Teaching and Learning CPD has become more streamlined, with staff being split into different groups which has enabled us to tailor the CPD to meet their needs. Moving forward the groups will stay more or less the same, but with a greater focus on research due to the success of the aforementioned NQT projects.

Throughout the year Simone Mabbett (AHT – T&L) and the Lead Practitioners: Lisa Millward, Chrissie Roberts and Kameka Taylor-Bloise have been working closely with the AAHTs to complete a 'Faculty Focus'. This is a three-week period where we attend as many lessons as possible, focusing on Teaching & Learning and giving instant feedback. Staff are appreciative of the feedback and it was clear to see the impact in such a short space of time; it gave lots of opportunities to share good practice. This was so successful that it has been timetabled in for Thursday staff briefings to share whole school during the next Academic year. It has also given leaders some food for thought about driving teaching forward!

Teaching and earning, with a specific literacy focus is one of the key areas of the Area Improvement Plan. This will be driven by leaders within the English faculty and supported by rest of the Faculty, the Lead Practitioners and the newly appointed Trust Leads. Our areas of foci are: **Planning:** Delivery of Assessment for Learning; **Performance:** Passion, enthusiasm and use of independent learning strategies; and **Practice:** Reading fluency, Vocabulary use and extended writing in Deliberate practice - we'll certainly be magpieing some of the fantastic things we've seen happening at Bournville!

Lockdown has had an impact on all students but this is most profound for our most vulnerable students. Previous strategies that target our most vulnerable students will not be good enough for the unique context we face. We have to think differently. The attainment gap from all the current wider studies are highlighting that where the attainment gap between PP and non-PP had closed, it is now as wide as it was 10 years ago. Our reaction is that we have to maximise opportunities with less time. We can't close those gaps by throwing more content at students without equipping them and motivating them; we need to ensure they're not cognitively overloaded and have the resilience to keep right on.

As an Achievement Team at Erdington Academy, comprising of Carissa Bulman, Dave Read, Rhea Pearson, Louise Green and Jenny Hunt, we have been trialling a metacognitive and self-regulated mentoring programme, while discussing weekly the literature around metacognitive and self-regulated learning. We know from the EEF research this approach can yield great results by empowering students to do more with less time and making them harness their cognitive abilities. We've planned for speakers to come in and show how they've harnessed their abilities, shown resilience and reveal their sacrifice to achievement. We're connecting with the Commonwealth Games which is on our doorstep to build that intrinsic motivation. We're focusing on removing the lack of equipment as a barrier with before schools equipment shops on site and after-school study rooms so that students can self-regulate and take responsibility. Woven through this will be a strong focus on careers and inspiring students.

We can't buy back time, but we can ensure that every second of their time in their lessons is maximised by working on their mindsets.

SIMON MALLETT | HEAD OF ERDINGTON ACADEMY

CONNECTING WITH ERDINGTON

THE BOOKER SQUAD

You may have heard of the Booker Prize; every year the best writers in the world compete to win the Booker Prize for fiction. The Booker Squad is a new programme run by the National Literacy Trust, in which Booker Champions from the University of Birmingham run six sessions for Birmingham pupils, aiming to further engage them in reading.

Through the Booker Squad project, 30 pupils have received two new books courtesy of the National Literacy Trust, including titles such as Punching The Air and One of Us is Lying. The sessions have required students to consider elements of book-to-film production, such as casting, storyboarding and composing; this has built on pupil confidence in recognising and developing characters. Students have also written in a variety of forms throughout the project, such as constructing closing arguments as barristers. This has led to more students more fluently expressing ideas in Language lessons, furthermore becoming more comfortable with identifying and addressing 'big ideas' in Literature texts. As a result of the programme, students have a renewed passion for reading; many pupils have requested sequels or similar reads of the texts studied from the library.

A real highlight of this programme was a session based around 'patchwork poetry', in which students had to borrow a lyric or line they loved, and create their own poem around it. The calibre of what the Year 9 students created in less than 25 minutes was nothing short of wonderful. From this activity, and others similar, the pupils have an enhanced perception of English as a subject and what it can be. Erdington Academy are looking to continue the sessions next year with the National Literacy Trust, hopefully on a wider scale. Miss Johnson will also be working with Booker Squad 'graduates', to build on the skills and confidence they have acquired.





CONNECTING WITH ERDINGTON

YEAR 10 BLENDED WORK EXPERIENCE

Covid 19 may have put a stop to our students physically going out to do work experience this academic year, so we have brought work experience into school. We are passionate about supporting students to prepare effectively for their next steps. Working in conjunction with Learn to Work Ltd, all students in year 10 took part in six employability workshops, a 20-minute mock interview with an outside employer and received written feedback. They also attended an aspirational goal setting workshop with author and motivational speaker Errol Lawson.



In addition, students had the opportunity to attend up to 13 virtual or live workshops throughout the week: RAF, NHS Nursing, BMET – Games Design, Early Years, Construction or Engineering, Higher Education workshops. The Army, Personal Finance, Royal Navy – STEM, Ask Apprenticeships., UCB – Catering and Health and Social Care workshops.

Students who showed the five trust values throughout the week were rewarded with a signed copy of one of Errol Lawson's books, Amazon vouchers and an ice cream from an ice cream van at the end of the school day.

LISA MILLWARD | CAREERS LEAD

Stakeholder Feedback

"Students have been personable and courteous; well presented. Their good character and resilience has not been hindered, maybe even enhanced by pandemic related events."

"Overall an excellent day."

"I learnt to believe in myself and that everything is possible" "The most important thing I learnt this week are questions that I may be asked during an interview and how to answer them." "The most important thing I learnt this week was to step out of my comfort zone."

"I loved the motivational talk as it has definitely motivated me to try harder."

STUDENT FEEDBACK

"The best moment for me was Unifrog online careers platform, it is really useful for me for the future." "I can always be better and achieve anything I want."

> "The best moment for me was the interview - I needed to be confident, keep eye contact and be myself."

CONNECTING WITH FAIRFAX HEAD OF ACADEMY UPDATE | KINDNESS COUNTS

Kindness counts week 05-09 JULY



If you know that somebody always displays our value of **Kindness**, post their name in the student support post box!



At Fairfax we focus on our students displaying our four key habits of ambition, respect, kindness and safety. This year has been a challenging one for both staff and students in education, but we believe that promoting these core values will give our students the best start to young adulthood, and equip them for being successful citizens when they leave school.

This week we have focussed on a campaign called 'Kindness Counts' in order to encourage our students and colleagues to think about how they can make a difference to their peers.

We focussed our campaign on the Maya Angelou quote:

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

The campaign began with an assembly for students and the week has included a variety of activities including:

- Daily acts of kindness
- Daily quotes for reflection •
- Student kindness nominations •
- Staff kindness colleague nominations

At Fairfax we believe being kind means:

- Accepting people for who they are, regardless of their differences
- Thinking of others' feelings and being considerate of others' points of view
- Going above and beyond to help and support others, especially those in need
- Thinking about the impact your words will have, before speaking
- Remembering that if you would not say it face to face, you should not say it online

At the end of an unusual period globally, it has been lovely to hear our students discussing their acts of kindness and we hope they will continue this habit into their futures.

#wearefairfax #bekind #befairfax

DEBORAH BUNN | HEAD OF FAIRFAX ACADEMY

CONNECTING WITH FAIRFAX HEAD OF ACADEMY UPDATE | DIVERSITY WEEK

Tying in with our kindness value of 'accepting people for who they are, regardless of their differences', we have enjoyed celebrating diversity and the LGBTQ+ members of our community. The Academy used resources from 'Just Like Us' an organisation that aims to empower LGBTQ+ young people.

As part of this week, students learned about identity through a series of lessons in all curriculum areas. This included song writing in Music, representation in Art, modern families in Languages and poetry in Drama to name just a few.

We are also delighted to have introduced our 'just like us' pride group for students that are part of the LGBTQ+ community, or LGBTQ+ allies. It has been great to hear our students speak so positively about the addition of the group

Tolerance and respect are key British values for our students, and we are committed to provide opportunities for our students to explore these values throughout their time at the Academy.

DEBORAH BUNN HEAD OF FAIRFAX ACADEMY





SOCIAL MEDIA

In order to improve our communication links and promote our Academies and the Trust as a whole, we would like to encourage all of our employees, Directors, Associates and parents to follow our social media sites. Links to social media can be found on our websites.

FAIRFAX
FAIRFAX SINCERITAS LABORIS
BOURNVILLE SCHOOL
SCHOOL Primary
ERDINGTON ACADEMY
SMITH'S WOOD

www.fmat.co.uk/ www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk www.bournvilleschool.org/ www.bournvilleprimaryprovision.org/ www.erdingtonacademy.bham.sch.uk www.smithswood.co.uk

CONNECTING WITH SMITH'S WOOD

HEAD OF ACADEMY UPDATE | RICHARD CORNELL

In the 6 weeks I have had the privilege to be the Acting Head of Smith's Wood Academy I have made it my business to get into lessons to see some of the incredible things our students are capable of.

YEAR 7 FLANIMALS PROJECT

I am forever in awe of any student who can be creative and the work our year 7 art students have done in their 'Flanimals' project is nothing short of superb and I am delighted to share them with you. As I am sure you know, 'Flanimals' is a book and a book series written by comedian Ricky Gervais. The book, illustrated by Rob Steen, depicts a list of seemingly useless or inadequate fictional animals, and their behaviour. What is clear is that our students were inspired by the opportunity to be creative and this reflects the importance we place on having 'Creativity' in our curriculum. Creativity is a skill demanded by universities and employers and prepares our students for life in working Britain.



STEP INTO SPORT – INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP COURSE

At Smith's Wood Academy preparing students for life in working Britain is at the core of what we do. Many of these skills are developed outside of the academic curriculum and this is particularly true of the key skill of leadership. We believe that having the confidence to lead people by clear communication based on the FMAT Values of excellence, dedication, ambition, integrity and tradition will help our students to secure university places and ultimately employment in their future lives.

We are delighted to announce that 15 of our year 8 students recently completed the highly prestigious 'Step into Sport – inclusive leadership course' run by the Youth Sport Trust. The course consisted of a day of intensive sport-based leadership activities which culminated in them organising sports events for their fellow students. We look forward to them organising the Academy Sports Day next year!



CONGRATULATIONS

Huge congratulations goes to:

Jahmelia Arnold-Moors Molly Clarke Levi Davies Carly Donnelly Daina Donnelly Cole Horton Morgan Hyett Connor Jordan Meredith Maddock Connor Passco Charlee-Jay Simons Alfie Stanford Kaycee Stanley-Davies Taegan Thomas Prada-Jay Tracey-Dequezney Liam Woodford

CONNECTING WITH SMITH'S WOOD

HEAD OF ACADEMY UPDATE | YEAR 11 GRADUATION

On the 25th June we welcomed our fantastic year 11s back into the Academy for our famous graduation ceremony. In what has been an incredibly difficult time for year 11s across the country we were so proud of the way they conducted themselves throughout their examinations and generally throughout the whole of Covid-19 Pandemic. The ceremony consisted of a full graduation ceremony (with gowns!) and a series of presentations to mark their achievements. The event takes a huge amount of organisation and special thanks must go to the year 11 team (Mr Rose and Mrs Cronin and Mrs O'Donnell), Mrs Downing and of course our wonderful MC, Mr Heeley. The event culminated in a rather special BBQ and a visit from an ice-cream van! Thank you, year 11, we miss you already.

The last 6 weeks have been a whirlwind of celebrating success, keeping students safe and managing the ever-changing Covid-19 situation. The students of Smith's Wood Academy are capable of more than they ever know and I can't wait to be with them on their journey.

A Chal with our Mentors



CONNECTING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

MARTYN JOBLING | DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

At this time of year in education we usually have two main foci. Firstly, we look back and reflect on the events of the past academic cycle. This year is no different and everyone should be proud of the achievements of the MAT, individual schools, children, and staff.

The 2020/21 academic year has been exceptional, it has been without doubt the most challenging of my 20+ years working in education (which is an achievement in itself given what happened in 2019/2020!) and as a team we have all worked hard to ensure that the children have been at the centre of all our activities and that despite the disrupted flow to the year we have worked hard to provide them with the best quality of education possible.

I have been humbled when I have visited academies and observed first-hand as well as speaking to leaders, members of staff and children about their experiences of this year. We must remember that as an organisation we serve some of the most disadvantaged children in the city and collectively the whole team has worked to ensure that they have been supported academically and pastorally at this time.

The other foci on academies and Trusts at this time of year is the forward planning for next year. I am excited by this as it will see the start of my first full academic year with the trust and I know from the plan's academy leaders have been developing there will be some great work taking place and all our academies will move forwards in terms of the quality of the offer they provide for the children they serve.

In the background we have been developing academy improvement plans, Strategic Development and Team Network Group systems and protocols alongside a new framework for supporting senior leaders with the ongoing challenge of school improvement. All these things will come together in September to support the children with them in school and wider experiences and staff with professional learning opportunities.

Next year will be an exciting year to be part of the FMAT family and wider community, but for now, the focus should be on rest and recuperation. As I said at the start, it has been a rewarding year, albeit long and challenging at times. We have all earnt the time over the summer break to rest and recharge the batteries and I wish you and your families a restful and safe break and I look forward to seeing you all again in September.

MARTYN JOBLING | DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION



CONNECTING WITH THE COO

JOHN FITZGERALD | CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER



Firstly, I would like to thank the teams I work with for their hard work, dedication, and support in delivering the business objectives we set ourselves this academic year.

Covid has tested our resilience and ability to adapt plans to meet reprioritised needs, however it has also demonstrated what can be achieved through an aligned vision and working collaboratively to achieve our objectives.

COO - UPDATE

Our MAT has continued to develop our business operations through centralisation and improving practices. These actions created opportunities for academy leaders to work with the central teams to invest in school improvement projects this term and over the summer for the benefit of our students and staff.

Some of the projects to celebrate that have or will be delivered this year are:

- Creation of the Diamond Suite at Fairfax
- Science laboratory refurbishments at Bournville, Erdington and Fairfax
- Enhancement to site security at all sites with improvements to external site access and CCTV solutions
- Successful implementation of a new 'Electronic Sign In' system at all academies
- Audio Visual refresh across our academies to improve the delivery of teaching and learning
- Completion of ESFA CIF projects 2020 boiler replacement at Erdington and legionella works at Fairfax
- Continued programme of works to refurbish classrooms at all sites, including fixtures and fittings, furniture, carpeting and equipment

3-YEAR BUDGET FORECAST 2021/22 - 2023/24

Working with MAT leaders I am very happy to report the 3-year budget forecast approved by the Board presents balanced budgets at all academies with any identified surpluses allocated to academy investment plans. The forecast demonstrates the continued financial stability of our MAT and provides leaders the opportunity to further invest in school improvement activities and make a positive impact to our students.

ESFA CONDITIONAL IMPROVEMENT FUND PROJECTS – SUCCESSFUL BIDS 2021

The MAT has been successful in the 2021/22 Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) application for each eligible academy.

This is a fantastic outcome and will provide £1m of investment to improve the estates infrastructure of the Bournville, Erdington and Fairfax estates.

Please see below details of the successful applications:

- Bournville roofing works
- Erdington roofing works
- Fairfax curtain wall replacement

Barker Associates will project manage the works and have already completed a tender for the works to enable the projects to start as soon as possible.

GRAPHIC DESIGN - BRANDING

Our graphic designer has been working on new branding for the MAT which will be used on all Trust Central Office materials including websites, prospectus, recruitment materials and reports/presentations. New colours are used to give the Trust a more friendly, approachable look and feel, with the style built around the existing logo.

A strong brand not only gives the Trust a professional image, but when used consistently increases brand recognition and helps the organisation compete for talented new staff.

Whilst the branding won't be changing for our academies, new report covers will be introduced in line with the new format to be used for internal reports submitted or presented to Board of Directors, Executive Team and Trust Leadership groups.



CONNECTING WITH THE TRUST PASTORAL LEAD

KAREN CORNELL | TRUST PASTORAL LEAD

As the summer break approaches I am sure, given how hard I have seen everyone in our academies working, we will all be looking forward to a well-earned rest. Commuters will be looking forward to the quieter roads; teenagers will be looking forward to long lie-ins; a lot of us will finally be able to enjoy catching up with friends and some of us may even be lucky enough to get away to sunnier climes.

However, while the majority of families enjoy a well-deserved break, it can be particularly distressing for some children coming out of the structured, safe and secure school environment we provide for them. The school holidays often put a lot of stress on families – especially those experiencing food poverty, childcare problems or financial issues. Indeed, it is a sad fact that 3 million children will experience food insecurity, hunger and malnourishment during the summer holidays.

Thankfully I am comforted by the hard work that I know all of our staff, and particularly our safeguarding teams, are undertaking to ensure all our children are safe this summer. This ranges from the activities I have seen in lessons, supporting children how to safeguard themselves while not in school, to the food parcels that are already being distributed by our pastoral teams, to the extensive range of summer activities that our academies have planned to ensure our children still maintain a crucial link with us over the break.

It is this forethought, planning and care that continues to make me proud to be a member of the FMAT community! So, on that note I wish every member of our community a restful and safe summer break.

KAREN CORNELL | TRUST PASTORAL LEAD



CONNECTING WITH STAFF REWARDS

PERKBOX - THE STAFF REWARDS PROGRAMME

As an employee of Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust, we offer you a staff rewards system called Perkbox.

Perkbox features discounts on goods and services, monthly free prize draws, wellbeing services, and either a free cup of coffee from Cafe Nero, or a free sausage roll from Greggs each month!

Perkbox is an on line platform, accessible here, but you can download the app if you have a smart phone. If you do not have an account yet, just click the below.

Perkbox offers instant savings, such as 10% off Apple products, 6% off Argos, 8% off ASOS, and that's just the A's.

You can buy digital vouchers to spend in supermarkets, such as Asda, Tesco, Marks & Spencer, and the digital vouchers are great for big ticket purchases, such as 7.5% off PC World.

Finally, you can link your credit/debit card to get instant savings in some restaurants, which may be useful once they open back up.

I want to sign up to Perkbox!

Just click **here** to complete a form, to request an account

EXCELLENCE. DEDICATION. AMBITION. INTEGRITY. TRADITION.

