



AGORA
LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP

Agora Learning Partnership

01923 589418

info@agoralearning.co.uk

26th March 2021

Dear colleagues

I know that the recent one-year anniversary since the first national lockdown has caused everybody to reflect on events of the past year. I too have taken time to reflect and to think of those people who have lost loved ones or who have been significantly impacted by the pandemic – my heart goes out to them.

I have also thought a great deal about the work of schools during the last twelve months and continue to believe that what schools across the country have achieved in supporting children during the most challenging of times has been nothing short of astounding. This is certainly true of the Agora schools.

Since joining the Partnership, I have been extremely impressed by the hard work, dedication and motivation of staff to do the very best for the children whilst working to keep everybody as safe as possible. The commitment and drive during the last year, of everybody involved in the Partnership, has clearly resulted in the children benefitting from all that has been offered to them and I cannot express how much I appreciate everybody's hard work and dedication to helping children achieve the very best outcomes. Thank you to everybody! I am really proud to be part of such an amazing organisation – where the children and young people we serve remain consistently at the heart of everything we do and every decision that we make; this has been apparent in every meeting I have attended and every discussion I have had...with Trustees, the Executive Team, Chairs of Academy Governing Boards, Headteachers and other school staff.

I think the pandemic has reminded us how much we should value the people both in our personal and professional lives. With this in mind, we will be working to develop our communication with different groups of people across the Partnership in the coming weeks and months. As such, as a starting point, a video has been created for all staff and families and can be accessed via this link: [Message from the Chief Executive Officer at the Agora Learning Partnership](#)

Additionally, I am keen to glean the views of all Agora staff about the Partnership and, as a result, we are going to be gathering these through a questionnaire that will be shared after the Easter break. Headteachers across the Trust have been asked to offer all staff time to complete the questionnaire as it is vitally important that everybody is given the opportunity to participate...so the voice of all is heard. The results of the questionnaire will form the basis of some improvement strategies that will be written in order to help our Trust further develop – we want our Partnership to be the best it can be. I look forward to reading your responses in due course.

In the meantime, it is time for everybody to enjoy a well-earned rest and time with loved ones. I hope you have a fabulous Easter break but I look forward to spending time with you going forward and working with you in order that the children throughout the Partnership continue to receive the very best education.

Stay safe and well.

Kind regards

Rebecca Daulman
Chief Executive Officer



An exciting writing project at
The Grange Academy this term.
Focus text: *Winter's Child* by Angela McAllister

It is clear that successful recruitment of the best-quality staff is essential to ensure the children and young people across our Partnership are able to flourish and achieve the best possible outcomes. Therefore, to assist the recruitment process, the Agora Learning Partnership has teamed up with My New Term – a company that:

- Will work to assist the Agora schools attract an increased number of applicants
 - Makes the application process easier for potential candidates, especially as they can apply online from any device
 - Will help schools save on recruitment costs
- For further details about My New Term, visit their website (www.mynewterm.com); for details of Trust vacancies, please visit the school websites.



At the Agora Learning Partnership, we are keen to ensure staff and governors benefit from high quality training opportunities. As a result, all schools now have access to a broad range of first-rate, online training available through The National College. The training is designed to 'empower school leaders, teachers, staff and governors'. Any interested parties, who have not been able to access the training available on The National College learning portal thus far, should seek information about how to login from their Headteacher.

A huge thank you to Peter Martin, Carol Shutkever, Jamie Sinclair, Alec Thomas, Paul Sutton and Jenny Morley, who recently joined the Executive Team to form a working group. The role of the working group was to review the Partnership's Financial Scheme of Delegation – a core document that assists schools with regards to their delegated financial duties. After some productive meetings, where all parties worked collaboratively, the Scheme was updated...this was then presented to Trustees on 23rd March.



The National College®

The Agora Learning Partnership is currently working with the Chiltern Teaching School Alliance to provide middle leadership training to colleagues across the Trust. We are delighted that eighteen of our middle leaders are currently attending the training sessions, whilst carrying out a related school improvement project in their schools. Good luck to everybody who is attending; we look forward to hearing all about the impact of your projects in due course!

Over the past term, the Executive Team has worked closely with the Trust-wide catering company, Chartwells, in order that the children across the Partnership received good-quality food hampers during lock down. Work now continues to ensure the school meals in all of our schools are also of the best quality and that this is consistent from school to school. Well done to all of the catering teams who are working hard to achieve the high standards being set.

18



PARTNERSHIP NEWS





The children at Alban Wood Primary School and Nursery have had a fantastic return to school. They have thoroughly enjoyed 'creative curriculum' learning opportunities which have focussed on a core text – A Street Through Time. A great start back for all concerned!



A great start back for all concerned!



To welcome back the children at Bromet Primary School, one of the school's talented Teaching Partners painted a beautiful mural. What a lovely way to settle the children back into school!



The staff at Meryfield wanted to bring everybody together to enjoy a special event as they returned to school. As a result, a small delay to the planned World Book Day celebrations, meant that all children could participate and enjoy the 'dressing up' fun. Great fun was had by all!

Congratulations to Nicky Rogan at The Grange Academy for winning Chartwell's 'Most Improved Member of Staff' Award; what a huge achievement!



To welcome the children back on 8th March, the teachers at The Orchard Primary School planned and organised a creative week. All year groups took one of the Academy Passport Books and organised cross-curricular learning based on the text. There were fantastic pieces of writing, creative science experiments and engaging design and technology sessions. All the staff and pupils thoroughly enjoyed their return to school.



The staff team at Oxhey Wood Primary School should be commended for their efforts in increasing the engagement of the children learning remotely during the lock down period. Tracking records demonstrate the positive impact of the school's work and significant increases in children's engagement. Well done to all!



Warren Dell Primary School have had their flagship status renewed as part of their Inclusion Quality Mark review – this is fantastic recognition of the school's hard work in offering a fully inclusive education to every child who attends the school. Well done to all involved!



Over the last term, the staff team at Waterside Academy have been further developing their skills in the teaching of reading through the Reading Fluency Project. Children are benefitting from this engaging approach to the teaching of reading, which has been demonstrated in the progress made by the children involved. Great news!

The staff team at Wilbury Junior School received a great deal of positive feedback from families as a result of the rich learning and wide range of enrichment opportunities offered during the recent lock down; everybody has a great deal to be proud of – fantastic work!



SCHOOL NEWS