



Department
for Education

Val Arbon
CEO, TEACH Trust
Via email

8 December 2016

Dear Val

Thank you for meeting me on 24 November when, with Kate Carter, we discussed recent educational outcomes secured across your MAT and your plans for Trust-wide development.

We explored some of your achievements over the past year, which included securing above national- and LA-average KS2 attainment results across the MAT. I was pleased to see the improvement that you have secured at Haymoor, from 5% below the national average in 2015 to 2% above in 2016, and hope to see this consolidated in 2017. I was also impressed by your approach to the Pupil Premium, and the evidence of your KS2 maths results for disadvantaged pupils suggests that your approach is effective, although I do note that KS1 outcomes for disadvantaged pupils were less strong and this is perhaps something to seek to address over the coming year.

We also discussed some of the challenges that you face, such as recruitment and retention, and the need for a period of consolidation following the MAT's significant restructuring. I note that you view the poor KS1 outcomes at Ad Astra as a blip and that you are taking measures to close the knowledge gaps for that cohort.

Before the meeting you assessed the Trust against the 9 characteristics of a successful MAT document. I agreed with your assessment of developing overall. We discussed the fact that your strategic plan is currently in development, and that there are processes to be ironed out regarding the accountability of newly-created central roles, and I hope to see progress in these areas over the coming months. We also discussed the line of accountability from Kate to yourself; you clearly have a strong and close working relationship, but I would encourage you to be very clear on where accountability lies and on the processes for providing challenge to your Executive Head if needed.

We concluded by discussing your future plans. Your immediate priority is consolidation and further developing your MAT structures. I think that this is the right approach.

We agreed the following actions:

- To recommend to the Harbourside Learning Partnership that they contact you to discuss approaches to improving outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.
- To provide you with further information on the Performance Plus programme. This is a centrally managed initiative that operates nation-wide. I am afraid it is not possible for MATs to put themselves forward for inclusion in this programme, but if helpful then I would be happy to put you in contact with MATs that have experience in taking schools from Good to Outstanding.
- To consider and provide a view on your proposed changes to your governance structure. DfE policy on best-practice regarding governance arrangements is in the process of being reviewed, so I am sorry that I have not yet been able to provide any feedback on this, but will do so as soon as we have sight of the latest guidance. If



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helpful, I would be very happy to arrange a call early in the New Year, when I hope to be able to provide you with an update on this.

Yours sincerely

P.P. 

Chris Carraro
Team Leader, Bournemouth Dorset and Poole