

July 2017

Hello,

RE: A year to be proud of across the Lion Academy Trust

I write to share an overview of how our schools have performed over this academic year and to share with you our end of year outcomes. Our performance as a group of schools has led to a series of further visits from a range of people to validate how we work so well, but also to share our practice nationally.

Every school in the Trust has been inspected by OFSTED in the last 18 months. I am delighted that all of our schools are now rated as either good or outstanding - with three of our schools having outstanding leadership. This is an incredible achievement considering all the schools we have sponsored were in an OFSTED category and in difficulty. Our schools are still working hard on their journey to becoming outstanding or to continue to be outstanding, and we welcome the challenge of ensuring your child experiences a good or better education in every setting, every day.

All primary schools participate annually in national tests to assess how children are progressing, such as:

- National Phonics Screening in Year 1 (or in certain circumstances, Year 2);
- National Spelling and Grammar standardised test; and
- National Reading, Writing and Mathematics standardised tests – all in Year 6.

This year, our results across the Trust are very strong indeed:

Key Stage	Comparison with National Averages	Significance
Early Years Foundation Stage	+2%	We set challenging but informed targets every year for each school to work to achieve and measure how they perform across a range of areas – looking at how we meet the needs of the whole child. Every child is supported to make progress throughout their time in one of our schools – and we see the final impact of this in the Year 6 SATs. The impact of the same high standards from nursery and reception through to Year 6 is key to this and we are delighted to show across our settings, we are consistently out-performing the national benchmarks.
Year 1 Phonics	+3%	
KS1: Reading	+8%	
KS1: Writing	+9%	
KS1: Maths	+10%	
KS2 Reading	+5%	
KS2: Writing	+7%	
KS2: Maths	+5%	
KS2 SATS (Combined)	+8%	

Our approach to teaching and learning, governance and the running of schools is widely recognised as being to the highest standard and we were delighted to be viewed as a leading Trust by:

- welcoming Lord Nash, Minister for Schools, to Barclay Primary School to see our model in action and to discuss how we can support the national school improvement agenda;
- our Chair of the Board of Trustees and Chief Executive Officer being invited to join national policy groups with the Department of Education and the National Schools Commissioner;
- our early years setting at Barclay (Reception) being reviewed for a national publication for excellent practice by the senior, lead inspector from Ofsted (HMI) as part of a study on how we cater for all children's needs; and

- hosting the regional schools commissioner and his team at their away day and welcoming them to sit-in on our board meeting as an exemplar of outstanding corporate governance.

For a Trust of our size to be consistently working on a national scale in terms of outcomes, policy setting and being held as a measure of high performance is further recognition of the hard work and effort applied by every member of staff across our schools.

Lastly, during the last two years, every Trust School has been externally invigilated or moderated across all our key stages including three visits by the Standards and Testing Agency - at Barclay Primary School in June, Sybourn Primary School and Thomas Gamuel in May 2016. These visits are unannounced and are designed to ensure that any school selected is meeting the very high standards required around how tests are administered or how well schools are assessing their own progress during the year.

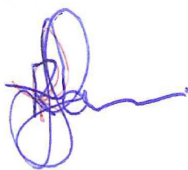
I am very proud to announce that on all occasions and in every aspect, the integrity of our staff and the professionalism they demonstrate has been assessed as exemplary in all instances. This means that you as parents and carers can be 100% confident that when you receive your child's report at the end of the year or receive an update on how your child is performing during the year, you can be assured that the assessment scores and data presented to you is an accurate, externally validated record of how your child is doing.

We welcome the various agencies, regulators and key stakeholders visiting and reviewing any of our processes at any of our schools. It is critical that all parents, children and staff know that our values as an organisation – of accepting no short-cuts, excuses or artificial outcomes – are strongly embedded in every school and in every setting.

We strive every day to ensure that we make our schools outstanding centres of learning – safe, engaging and above all else, consistently well run to get the most out of the time your child has with us as a primary aged learner.

It really has been a year to remember – and I am very proud to share these successes with you. We will continue to make the improvements needed so that all our children get the education they deserve.

Yours sincerely



Justin James
CEO, Lion Academy Trust