

22 April 2025

Welcome letter to parents and carers from the Chair of Trustees

Dear Parents and Carers

On behalf of the Trustees and Executive team, I would like to give a warm welcome to you and your young person(s), to Ascendancy Partnership Trust (APT), which is a SEND focused Multi Academy Trust (MAT).

As you will be aware your School recently went through an academisation process and is one of the three founding partners of APT.

The three founding partner schools are all in different local authority areas and so academisation moved at slightly different paces and took longer than we had originally planned. We wanted to welcome everyone to the Trust in one go, as all three schools have equally contributed to the creation of the Trust.

Now that we are all in APT, we are working to be Stronger and Better Together, for the benefit of all our pupils.

As you might imagine, there is a lot of work to do behind the scenes in aligning systems, developing communication channels etc and this work is underway. Any savings from increased purchasing power or reduced overheads, will be reinvested back into education. It was our aim from the start that each of our schools will keep its own identify, feel and ethos.

Another of our key focuses in the early days of the Trust are ensuring that all schools meet the highest standards of Health and Safety (H&S). It's our expectation that they will not only meet H&S standards but aim to exceed them in all areas for the benefit of our pupils, staff and visitors. As a result, you will see some site and premises work has been undertaken already to ensure our schools are safer places for the education of our children and young people. Further work is being undertaken as quickly as reasonably possible, to meet that expectation.

On the academic side, a lack of therapies is an area of concern in all SEND schools. One of our drivers for joining together was to create an outstanding Therapies Hub and therefore have a strong focus on ensuring that the limited resources the NHS can provide for therapies are supplemented with a base offering from the Trust. This will benefit all pupils, by ensuring all staff have training in delivering integrated therapies in the classroom.

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Stronger and Better Together

Ascendancy Partnership Trust

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These initiatives don't happen overnight, but work is underway and if you are a Speech & Language Therapist or an Occupational Therapist or know one, please keep your eye on the local jobs section in the coming months.

As part of each school keeping its own identity, we wanted to assure you that your School still has a local governing body (you can see the governance structure of the whole Trust at the end of this letter). We believe that local representation is vital, as your Governors are the closest to your school and yourselves, so are best placed to guide the School. So, please feel free to reach out to your School Governors, in particular your Parent Governors are there to be approached and will happily act as your first point of contact.

Please also, consider joining your local governing body as a Parent Governor, as they often need more volunteers. The same is true for friends or colleagues who may be interested in supporting your school or one of the other schools.

Below is a chart showing the structure of the Trust Governance from top to bottom, all Members, Trustees and Governors are volunteers, and I hope you will join me in thanking them for their hard work and dedication to improving education for young people with SEND.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your School Governors or you can contact me directly via the Trust email: office@aptmat.co.uk

Your Schools will continue to communicate regularly, however, from time to time we will reach out to you with further updates. In the meantime, I hope you all enjoy the summer and the longer evenings this brings. I also hope to see some of you at school events over the year, and as commitments allow, I will try to get to as many as possible.

Kind regards



Mark Trepte
Chair of Trustees
Ascendancy Partnership Trust

Enclosure: Our Governance Structure

