

July 2019



Dear Parent/Carer

As we move into the last half-term of the academic year, I wanted to bring you up to date with some of the successes of the Trust schools this year.

Both Park Lane Primary and Nursery School and Sir Harry Smith Community College hosted Ofsted this year and we were delighted with the positive outcomes for both schools. Both inspection teams praised the accuracy of the schools' self-evaluation and recognised the high quality education provided for our students and pupils. What you may not know is that New Road Primary School also had a visit from Ofsted to pilot the new Inspection Framework. The school volunteered for the visit and again, we were delighted with the feedback that the school received. Even though no formal inspection report was written, we feel that the school has made very good progress since the last inspection visit in December 2017 and we are very well prepared for the next scheduled Ofsted visit some time in the next academic year.

If you have a child in Year 6, 11 or 13, you are very well aware of the SATs, GCSEs and A-Levels that they have been sitting this summer so far. The SATs went very well and both primary schools are looking for an excellent set of results. As I write, the secondary school exams have just finished and I know how hard both the students and the staff have worked to ensure that they get the results they deserve. Being in school for the exam results in August is always such a pleasure and I look forward to seeing the students with joy on their faces when they open their results envelopes.

As many of you would have seen, the expansion project at New Road School is progressing extremely well. The programme is on schedule and the children were delighted to use their new Multi-Use Games Area when they came back after half-term. We recognise it will be quite tight on the field this term, but we all see the longer-term benefits for the school. Many parents have commented on how large the new building looks; it will contain eight classrooms, admin offices, reception, a large hall, offices and break-out spaces, a new library as well as purpose built pre-school classrooms. The total cost is over £6 million and we are very excited about opening next Easter. Over this summer work will start on refurbishing the existing school, so parents and children will have much to see when they come back in September.

If you are ever interested in hiring out some of the fantastic facilities we have at the College, and in the primary schools, please contact the reception at each school for further information.

The Trust has managed to secure funding to replace all of the fire doors at Park Lane School and even though we hoped to start this work over the summer holidays, it now seems that this will take place in the autumn. The work will be carried out after school and into the evenings to minimise disruption to the pupils and to the staff. At the College work will start in July on a major project, replacing the roofs on the sports hall, art rooms and link corridor. We hope to get all this work completed by the end of September.

It is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Park Lane Primary and Nursery School this year and to go with the special school photograph taken earlier this year, an evening of music and celebration will take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> July. We are looking forward to celebrating the last fifty years and are very excited about the next fifty. We feel that the school has a fantastic future ahead.

Park Lane and Sir Harry Smith Community College Local Governing Bodies have both welcomed new governors to their numbers this year. We also have a new Trustee who has joined the board who travels over an hour and half just to be with us. We are still looking for dedicated local people who feel that they have something to offer the students and the staff at the schools. We are looking for people who will be comfortable supporting the school with its strategy and to hold the Principal/Headteacher to account for a school's performance. If you are interested in becoming a governor, please contact John King by email for further information: [john.king@sirharrysmith.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:john.king@sirharrysmith.cambs.sch.uk)

We are delighted to report that the reception classes at Park Lane School are full and that we are expecting our highest number of new children into New Road School this September. At the same time, we are over-subscribed at Sir Harry Smith Community College in Year 7 and have over 100 applications for students to join our Sixth Form. Whilst it is great that many parents choose to send their children to the College from further afield, we know it is important that we are still the local school for Whittlesey, Eastrea and Coates children.

I would very much like to thank all of our parents for their support and it really does benefit our pupils and students when we work closely together for their best interests. I would also like to pay tribute to all of our staff: teachers and TAs in the classrooms, support and administrative staff who work behind the scenes and our governors and trustees for all their hard work to make all three schools the very special places that they are.

The 2018 to 2019 school year has been a most successful one, but I know that we are all ambitious to make 2019 to 2020 even more successful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Digby', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jonathan Digby  
CEO  
Aspire Learning Trust