

17/09/21

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer.

It was fantastic to welcome all the pupils back to school at the beginning of September. After a turbulent 18 months it has been reassuring to hear feedback from Head Teachers that the start of term has gone smoothly and routines are more normal for the children. I can assure you though that we will remain vigilant and subtle measures remain in place in school such as enhanced cleaning and regular Covid testing for staff. We are ready to act quickly should cases rise in any of our Academies.

Trust Local Advisory Committees

Trust Local Advisory Committees (TLACs) have now been established across the Trust. This is an excellent way for parents/carers to have an opportunity to contribute to how the Trust develops. We still have a small number of Vacancies so if you are interested in joining a TLAC then please pop into your child's school for an Expression of Interest Form.

Some highlights of Improvements to our Academies over the Summer

Here are some images of some of our Building Improvements over the Summer.

**INFORMATION HUB AT
ALBERT BRADBEE**



**EDGAR STAMMERS NEW
TOILETS**



FAIRWAY NEW RECEPTION OUTSIDE AREA AND TOILETS





**SMESTOW
ACADEMY
ENTRANCE
AREA**

New Starters

We have a lot of new children start in our Academies in September. I would like to welcome them and their families to our Trust and wish them every future success. We now have nearly 5000 pupils and over 650 staff working across the University of Wolverhampton Multi Academy Trust.

Meet the Central Team

As part of our monthly newsletter we will be introducing some of our Central Team so that you are familiar with all the UWMAT family. This month we meet Clair Jenkins – Our Training and Development Director.



My Golden Thread –

As a teacher, I think September is a very emotional time of year. It's a time when I reflect on where pupils I have taught are now, if they are happy, if they are doing their best ... but it is also the time when I look ahead and think about what the next academic year might hold and what I would like to have achieved by the following July.

As a long serving and qualified teacher I have been very fortunate to have had a range of experience and have worked locally, regionally and internationally. I have had the opportunity to extend my skills through my work as a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and as an Advanced Skills Teacher. I have also worked as an adviser supporting teachers to deliver the curriculum and more recently have worked at the University of Wolverhampton training trainee and serving teachers as well as developing resources with the DFE and engaging in educational research.

As the Director of Training and Development I remain absolutely focussed on our pupils across the Trust, the purpose of my role being to make sure that all members of staff at UWMAT are supported and able to access a structured professional development programme. This role is relatively new to the Trust but with the support of Senior Leaders and Leading Practitioners, it is beginning to grow. As a team we are now supporting those at the very start of their career such as Early Career Teachers, Apprentices and those on the Kickstart Scheme as well as developing teaching and learning and leadership in education. So, what is the golden thread running throughout my career? It is simple really, it is all about the children and making sure that they have the very best educational experience they can through quality first teaching and learning - something that can only be achieved through working together.

Best wishes

Michelle Shaw

Professor Michelle Shaw

Director of Education

CEO University of Wolverhampton Multi Academy Trust