

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term the Trust has continued to make progress towards its goals of building a strong and cohesive framework to support learning through PiXL, technology, and collaborative practices. By focusing on these areas, the Trust is positioning itself to better support each child's educational journey and ensure they have many exciting learning opportunities that allow them to love school and make accelerated progress from their starting points.

The consistent use of PiXL (our assessment tool) is a key development priority for us. The Headteachers came together earlier in the term to share best practices on how they are using PiXL, demonstrating their commitment to creating a unified strategy across the schools. This collaborative approach ensures that the needs of each individual pupil are always at the forefront of decisions and the efforts to advance their learning are extensive and well-coordinated. This term we also provided training to governors. By helping them understand PiXL and its impact, the Trust has ensured that the vision extends beyond the classrooms and into governance. This helps to reinforce the importance of these systems and drive cohesive decision-making that prioritises our children.

The integration of technology into teaching and learning has continued to grow. The use of Microsoft Teams for assignments and group work not only helps with academic progress but also fosters key skills like resilience and creativity. The adoption of tools such as podcasts and iPads have made learning more engaging and accessible to all, ensuring we create inclusive learning environments. Moreover, schools have collaborated in clusters to focus on writing assessment which has been a great success. Writing moderation is a way of maintaining consistency and sharing expertise, which in turn helps schools ensure that their approach to evaluating writing is both fair and effective. This sharing of good practice can inspire new ideas, make learning experiences richer and more exciting for pupils, whilst also giving teachers the confidence to explore and implement new methods.

Our school banks have been launched in some schools this term and have been hugely popular with the children. Each school is setting up their bank slightly differently, with some linking to attendance and others to their behaviour policy. In all cases, the children are developing their financial understanding and it is giving them real life skills that will support them in adult life. We have had delays with the bank software for some of our schools, so we hope this will be rectified and they will be up and running in every school by the spring term.

As the year comes to a close, I would like to thank you as parents for your ongoing support and partnership. Your involvement makes our school community truly special. This term marks the end of my first official year as CEO of the Great Learners Trust and we have already been on an incredible journey. I would like to thank all the staff in the schools and the Trust for their hard work and we look forward to sharing more awesome successes in the coming year.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a very happy new year.

Warm regards,  
Sarah Baber