

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

As we draw towards the end of the academic year, I'd like to share some of the latest developments and successes from across the Great Learners Trust. It has been a year of ambition, reflection and a continued drive for improvement – and we're so grateful for the commitment and passion shown by our staff, children and families throughout.

**GLT Vision and Values**

This year, we launched and embedded our GLT vision and values. The vision was introduced through Trust-wide parent events and communications and has since been consistently reinforced through strategic planning, curriculum design and professional development. Each school has adapted the Trust values — to be bold, brave and ambitious — to reflect its own community, while remaining aligned with our collective purpose. These values now underpin daily practice, shape decision-making and are evident in the attitudes and achievements of our children and staff.

We introduced a new Trust-wide Improvement Plan, providing a cohesive foundation for each school's individual improvement journey. Aligned with our Awesome Schools Framework, the new format supports robust self-evaluation, risk management and strategic planning, ensuring consistency while remaining responsive to each school's needs.

**Parent Survey**

We're very grateful to the many parents and carers who took the time to contribute to the parent surveys this term. Your feedback is incredibly valuable and has helped us to identify key themes across the Trust that will shape our future priorities.

We have been working with Trustees, Headteachers and Local Governing Bodies to shape a new five-year strategy. This plan sets out our shared priorities and will guide the next phase of our growth and improvement, ensuring we remain true to our purpose while adapting to the evolving needs of our communities. We will share the finalised strategy with you in September.

Two areas that stood out from parent feedback were behaviour and SEND, both of which remain key priorities. In response, we will be delivering a Trust-wide INSET day in September for Learning Support Assistants, focused on inclusion, behaviour and effective strategies to support pupils. We are also launching a new two-year behaviour programme to strengthen whole-school approaches. Progress will be reviewed regularly in staff meetings to ensure the programme becomes embedded in daily school life.

We recognise the significant national challenges surrounding SEND, particularly around funding and access to support. This year, we provided funding for two specialist assessments in every school. Delays in securing Education, Health and Care Plans from the Local Authority continue to impact our children and families. To address this, we have instructed legal action to ensure the LA meets its statutory deadlines. This work is ongoing, and we hope to see resolutions in place by the Autumn term.

## Professional Development for Staff

Professional development has remained a central focus across all schools. We've hosted a Trust-wide INSET day aligned to our key priorities and supported schools to lead high-quality CPD tailored to their own contexts. Termly Headteacher Boards have strengthened leadership collaboration, provided challenge, and ensured alignment with our values. All Headteachers have also benefitted from leadership coaching, and next year, we plan to extend these Boards to wider senior leaders to deepen professional growth and succession planning.

Through our continued partnership with PiXL, a national school leadership network, we've supported schools in identifying learning gaps, targeting interventions, and improving outcomes for all pupils. PiXL is more than an assessment tool — it's a framework for school improvement and leadership development, and we look forward to deepening this work next year.

## The Importance of Play

We have placed a strong emphasis on play and wellbeing. Several of our schools, including Elmhurst, have adopted the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) programme, transforming playtimes into inclusive, purposeful and engaging experiences. Our goal is for all children to enjoy regular opportunities for creativity, physical activity, teamwork and safe risk-taking. Forest School provision has also expanded across our schools, supporting children's wellbeing, resilience, and confidence – and this will continue to grow next year.

## Digital Innovation

Our digital leads continue to drive innovation across the Trust. We were proud to be shortlisted for the 2025 MAT Excellence Award for Digital Innovation, and two of our schools were named EdTech 50 Schools, of which Elmhurst was one — an accolade recognising excellence in purposeful technology use. Programmes such as the School Bank are now well established in many schools, helping pupils to develop vital financial literacy skills. These achievements reflect our commitment to using technology to enhance collaboration, support teachers and inspire children through problem-solving and digital creativity.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue our collaboration with the Maths Hub to establish our own GLT Maths Hub. This will bring high-quality training to staff and engaging, tailored maths lessons to pupils, helping them to build strong foundations and retain key skills over time. As well as the exciting developments above, the year has not been without its challenges, and we acknowledge those and recognise the growth that has taken place within our trust and within our schools. We would like to thank everyone for being part of our journey this year - we look forward to even greater things ahead in the year to come.

## Elmhurst School

This year has been a hugely successful for Elmhurst. The school has been recognised nationally as an EdTech 50 School, highlighting the exceptional commitment of staff to go above and beyond in providing a rich, forward-thinking educational experience for all pupils. They have

adapted their uniform to an active one to support healthy lifestyles and were filmed by ITV for pioneering their approach. As part of our "What Makes an Awesome GLT School" framework, we previously outlined key areas of development we were supporting Elmhurst with. These included:

- The school continue to work hard to improve outcomes at KS2 for all learners.
- The curriculum is constantly being evaluated by the school to ensure children retain knowledge across all subject areas.

The school is fully committed to ensuring every child makes maximum progress and have reviewed their use of assessment and teaching and learning opportunities. They are always reflective of what can be done differently and prioritise every individual child's needs. As a Trust, we will continue to support them. Professional development has been arranged to ensure the wider curriculum is reviewed and any changes made enhance the provision. Thank you again to all the staff for their hard work and dedication.

We wish you and your family a restful and happy summer break.

Sarah Baber

CEO