

The Minerva Learning Trust

The Ridgeway,
Bridport,
DT6 3DT



18 July 2016

Dear Parents

This has been a very busy term for all those involved in setting up the Minerva Learning Trust. Most staff and students will have seen little difference but I thought I would update you on what we have been doing and our future plans.

Governance

At the Parents' consultation about our conversion to a Multi Academy Trust there was discussion about how the Governance would work. We are delighted that we have managed to recruit high quality Trustees and Members who have important skills to support the schools and who also share our vision and are strongly rooted in our own community. Our Multi Academy Trust is about local schools taking control of the education in the area for the benefit of our students. If you want to know more about our Trustees and Members and how the Governance works, there is a section on this on our new website www.minervalearningtrust.org.uk This has just been set up and we will be adding to this as we go forward and using it to celebrate the wonderful achievements of all within our Trust.

Our Schools

Our schools have been very successful this year. All of them have had to deal with considerable change to the curriculum and examinations. St Mary's School, who had a wonderful celebration for their 25th anniversary last week, were judged to be outstanding in their SIAMS inspection. Both Bridport Primary School and Burton Bradstock School are now judged to be Good schools by external consultants and Dorset County Council. The Sir John Colfox Academy was rated in the top 100 non-selective schools for their GCSE results of 2015.

There have been many highlights this year and we cannot mention them all but some which are particularly notable are:

Burton Bradstock School has achieved the Silver Schools Games Award for their commitment to sport and physical activity. They have also successfully launched a school newspaper, developed and led by students.

Bridport Primary School have been developing an "irresistible curriculum", which embraces outdoor learning, trips, exciting lessons to help students become "curious learners". They have also been very successful in extra-curricular activities, bringing home the Kenway Cup again and enjoying great results in swimming, netball, gymnastics, Tag Rugby and running throughout the year. They won the Junior Youth Speaks competition organised by the Rotary Club.

St Mary's was proud to achieve the Eco Award Green Flag this year. The hard work of pupils and staff to meet the stringent criteria was rewarded with exceptional praise from the assessor. They were asked to provide the art work for the Magna Carta events in Bridport. The children were very proud to see their work on display in town and now in the school hall.

The Sir John Colfox Academy has always had phenomenal success in sport and this continued this year in football, netball, rowing, cross-country and athletics. A particular success is that the U13 team has reached the National finals in Cricket which will be played at Edgbaston in September! The Edge programme has also

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The Registered office is at: The Minerva Learning Trust, The Ridgeway, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3DT

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Bridport Primary School



Burton Bradstock
CE Primary School



St. Marys CE Primary School



Sir John Colfox Academy

gone from strength to strength with Andy David appointed Edge Ambassador for the South West by Pixl and the Sir John Colfox Academy being asked to pilot their new Character Education programme.

Our Students

We are beginning to plan exciting opportunities for the students within our schools and I hope to write to you in September with further details of this. We are already getting involved in an Arts Project in the Autumn term to decorate the hoardings that will be used during the time the Literary and Scientific Institute on East Street is being renovated. We are also planning a Festival of Arts in February at Freshwater and as part of that we hope to set up a Minerva Learning Trust Choir and arrange joint musical and artistic workshops.

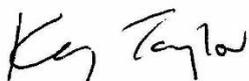
Those of you who have children at The Sir John Colfox Academy will be aware of The Edge. This is a programme which helps students to develop skills that are important for learning and later life. Our Primary Schools are lucky enough to have been chosen to take part in a pilot project which will extend The Edge to younger students. This is very exciting and I know that many students will benefit from this.

The whole point of the Minerva Learning Trust is to work together to improve the learning and life chances of young people in Bridport. We have so far used our new money to buy in significant extra time with the Education Psychologist, Jeremy Side, to support children with SEND in our schools. We are also targeting money on improving the ICT systems in the 4 schools and developing the use of ICT in the future. We believe that staff learn from each other and that working together is the best way to improve teaching and learning so we have, therefore, directed money to joint projects for staff. One priority is the transition between primary and secondary school so that students make good progress in both settings but we are also focusing on speech and language and writing skills as well as mastery in Mathematics.

It is early days yet for the Minerva Learning Trust but we are very excited about the opportunities which are opening up for us and we really believe that in working together we can make things even better for your children. Should you wish to contact me about any issue to do with the trust please do not hesitate to do so on my new email address k.taylor@minervalearningtrust.org.uk

I wish everyone a very enjoyable summer holiday and I look forward to giving you more details of our plans in the Autumn term.

Yours sincerely



Kay Taylor
Executive Principal

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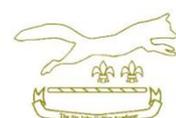
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