

11 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome you, our families, back to school this year. It has been so lovely to see children back in school and excited for the start of term and to hear all about what they've been up to over the summer holiday. I hope you have all had a lovely summer and managed to enjoy some time with family and friends.

Many of you will have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. I am pleased to confirm we were able to fully open all of our all schools at the start of this term as normal. We currently do not have RAAC confirmed within any Trust settings and are continuing to follow all DfE guidelines. The safety of all children and staff is of paramount importance.

I am so proud of every student across our family of schools who collected results this summer and their amazing achievements. Their results which exceeded national and regional averages reflect the hard work, dedication and ambition they show every day. We cannot wait to hear about all of the amazing things our 2023 cohort go on to achieve and look forward to watching them change the world and live a life of opportunity. I am also incredibly grateful for the support from you, our parents and carers, as alongside our inspirational staff, you play a vital role in supporting our students to flourish.

I am excited for the year ahead, and in particular for the celebrations we have planned to mark 10 years of our Trust of schools. Later this term, we will be celebrating the achievements of our students, staff, governors and volunteers at our first ever Ted Wragg Awards. It will be an opportunity to reflect on the value of working collaboratively together, and see the many ways our communities are inspiring each other and making the world a better place.

The education landscape has changed a lot in the last 10 years and as a family of schools we know we are stronger together. In the last year, working together we have:

- introduced a Speech and Language Therapy team within the Trust allowing all schools to regularly access support from qualified Speech and Language Therapists and Speech and Language Therapy Assistants. As part of our Trust SEND strategy, in the last year, the team have ensured all Reception and Year 7 students undertook a speech and language assessment on entry and appropriate interventions, support and CPD put in place to address any speech and language needs.
- appointed a Director of SEND for the Trust to support school-based teams and oversee the implementation of our SEND strategy. She has a vast experience of working as a Senior Leader in three primary schools in Plymouth and is a qualified and experienced SENCo and Pupil Premium Leader. This additional capacity will allow us to continue to explore different strategies and interventions to support our children across the Trust, whilst having access to a wide range of additional specialist professionals.
- invested £4m in our capital programme which includes, but not limited to, full condition surveys of our estate to prioritise works, energy saving schemes, a new 3G pitch at Marine

We are an [ambitious](#) and [inclusive](#) Trust of schools [strengthening communities](#) through [excellent education](#).

Academy Plymouth, a sports hall at All Saints Academy and improvements to Exwick Heights' balcony.

- run our Trust wide Innovation Competition for the second time with children from Year 3 to Year 11 from across our schools coming together to share their big ideas to tackle some important societal issues, practice their presentation skills and learn about entrepreneurship.
- Year 5 children from across the Trust attended a lecture at one of our Trust schools, Marine Academy Primary in Plymouth, from one of our Trustees, Professor Lee Elliot-Major, the country's first professor in social mobility.
- welcomed Sidmouth College and Honiton Community College, and last week welcomed our first Year 7 cohort into our new free school Matford Brook Academy.

We are also looking forward to hearing from you, our parents, through our parent survey later this term so please do look out for this from your schools and take time to complete it. We want to ensure that our children love coming to school and that you as parents are proud to be a part of our Ted Wragg family, so please do share your thoughts and suggestions for improvement. Both our school leaders and the Trust Executive will be carefully reviewing all feedback.

We know from last year's survey that whilst 70% of parents would recommend our schools to other parents, many of you did not feel fully informed about school life. As a result, communication has been an ongoing focus for our schools and for us as a Trust, and we are determined to improve the ways we let you know what's happening at school.

I was also so pleased we have been able to launch a Trust-wide development cohort focussed on building parental relationships during the summer term last year. The programme supported by Reach Academy Feltham, brings together people in a variety of parent-facing roles from across our schools, to share best practice and to improve our current approaches to ensure that you as parents and carers feel engaged, informed and proud to be a part of your school communities. I know first-hand both as a parent and an educator how important the relationship between home and school is to ensure our children are safe, successful and connected. Whilst the programme will run throughout this academic year, I know schools already have lots planned and I hope you will feel the difference in the coming months.

I wish you and your families all the very best for the school year ahead.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Moira Marder'.

Moira Marder
CEO, Ted Wragg Trust