

Acorn Connected



“Preparing young people for their world in their time”



December 2018

Welcome to the last addition of Acorn Connected for 2018.

Term dates

At the moment the school calendar and term dates are set by the Academy Council in consultation with the Headteacher and leadership team. There are no plans to change this but do let me know if this is an issue for you.

All schools should have reviewed their admissions policy by now. Again, any issues please let me know.

Key Acorn Education Trust data :

- 3, 483 children/students (excluding 0-4 year olds, taken from census).
- 561 employees (239 are teachers)
- £18 million turnover

Current school numbers are :

School	All pupils	FSM	SEND	LAC
Dilton Marsh	201	20	26	1
Heytesbury	54	5	11	0
Great Wishford	108	20	10	0
Keevil	111	6	16	0
New Close	86	11	19	0
St. John's	122	14	26	0
The Avenue	323	37	68	0
West Ashton	74	8	7	0
Clarendon	927	143	152	10
Kingdown	1545	198	283	13

- *Active and visible leadership*
- *Care, support and challenge*
- *Opportunities for all*
- *Respect, recognition and resilience*
- *Needs of all are paramount.*

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Governor Services

- All Academy Council Governors are able to access training from Governor Services. This is being funded centrally, which is saving each school £1000.

Catering

- Acorn catering is a highly successful and rapidly growing business. We supply meals to the following schools: Kingdown, Heytesbury, The Avenue, St. John's New Close, West Ashton, Sutton Veny and Horningsham. Once Acorn is providing the meals, take up has increased by approximately 37%

Link 2

- This new provision has started very well and is already seen as an invaluable resource by schools. Well done to Sue Fulbrook, Sarah Stather and Julie Braddell for creating a centre which is supporting some of our most challenging students very effectively. The team are working with 5 students – 3 from primary schools and 2 from year 7.

Curriculum

- Many of you will be aware that the curriculum is now an important focus with Ofsted. James Evans attended an Ofsted course on our behalf and I attach his notes for you to read. Every school needs to review their curriculum to ensure it is meeting the needs of their children. I know some schools have started discussions and also shared some excellent ideas at Headteacher meetings. While it is important for every school to develop their own unique version, it is crucial we use the expertise in Acorn and across all educational phases to develop the Acorn curriculum, which will link to every school curriculum.

To that end, in January, the Heads of all schools and centres will meet to discuss the guiding principles and values of the Acorn Curriculum from 3 months to 19 years. Later on in the year, we will arrange cross phase subject groups, to discuss for example – what an Acorn English or Maths or History curriculum should look like. This is a very exciting time for all schools in Acorn and I hope many teaching staff will want to be involved.

Welcome to:

- Shannon Davis – PE Specialist working across the Trust.
- Joanna Grant new receptionist at The Avenue

Thank you for all your hard work this year. I hope the rest of the term goes well and you have a wonderful and peaceful Christmas.

