

## Message from Sara Edwards, CEO

As I sat in Donna's office on Tuesday listening to the Ofsted call (and Donna's brilliant responses), I read a quote from a poster opposite me "it always seems impossible until it's done" by Nelson Mandela.

The quote not only reflected the immediacy of the challenge at St. John's but also the challenges faced by you all since term began, and yet again, the resilience and perseverance you continue to show in dealing with them. Thank you!

The pandemic has really highlighted the position of the school at the heart of the community and this was clearly seen at Great Wishford Primary School last week. At a delightful ceremony to bless the opening of the new nursery, local neighbours, parents, Academy Council Governors, members of the clergy, the pupils and staff, and Acorn staff, gathered together as one. It was clear from all the conversations I had, that everyone there wants the best for this wonderful school, is prepared to support in anyway they can and appreciates the challenges the school is overcoming.

Even if they have never heard the Mandela quote, our IT team live it! They tackle the legacy of poor IT leadership and management and turn a school round. The next major infrastructure change will be at Rowde and will hopefully begin in late October. The second quote on Donna's wall is from Anne Frank "how wonderful is it that nobody need to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world".

I know that everyone working in Acorn uses every single minute of the working day to improve the life chances for our children and young people.

Thank you...

Take care

Sara



**Acorn**  
Education Trust

- Active & Visible Leadership
- Care, Support & Challenge
- Opportunities For All
- Respect, Recognition & Resilience
- Needs Of All Are Paramount



Morrisons supermarket have generously supported students within Acorn Education Trust by donating free stationary packs, breakfast club items and other supplies.

These items are invaluable in supporting students and ensuring they feel included and cared for within our school communities.

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## Early Career Framework

The new Early Career Framework (ECF) – an induction and support package for new entrants to the profession – began on 1st September. It marks quite a departure from the previous incarnation of new teacher induction, in several ways:

- We no longer refer to Newly Qualified Teachers as NQTs, rather, they are Early Career Teachers (ECTs)
- The induction period now takes place over two years, rather than just one.
- The 10% reduction in timetabled contact in Year 1 of induction remains, but is joined by a new 5% reduction in Year 2 of induction. A mentor is assigned to work with each ECT across the two years of induction.
- The ECF provides a training and entitlement framework for our ECTs, which is based on up to date educational research. This will ensure new entrants to the profession continue to be exposed to the best in professional learning, building on learning from their PGCE or training year.

There has been unanimous agreement about the quality of the new approach, and the significant step forward it will provide in support of new teachers.

Acorn Education Trust are the delivery partner for the Swindon and Wiltshire Teaching Hub at Secondary level for West Wiltshire. This includes the provision of training for ECTs and mentors in schools, and the Quality Assurance of programme delivery by mentors. A series of initial conferences and briefings were completed in Term 1, the focus across Terms 2 and 3 shifts to the support and training of mentors to deliver materials via 'Instructional Coaching' – what you may know of as Incremental Coaching – a technique proven to rapidly drive improvements to teacher practice.

As a delivery partner for West Wiltshire, we are working with the following schools this academic year:

Avon Valley College, Clarendon Academy, Downland School, Fairfield Farm College, John of Gaunt School, Kingdown School, Lavington School, St Augustine's Catholic College

with a total of 20 Early Career Teachers across the eight schools.

Dave Locke

ECF Visiting Fellow for Acorn Education Trust



## Retirement for Karen

Karen is leaving us to retire and to spend more time with her family and especially her beautiful grandchildren. Karen has been at Kingdown for 21 years and has been an integral part of the catering team. She started working in the Kingdown kitchen when it was based in the small hall many years ago. In 2013 she took on catering within the "Snack Shack" where she thrived; all students loved going to the shack to see Karen and to chat with her. She has been a joy to work with over the years and we will miss her positive attitude.

Karen will be sorely missed but we wish her well for her retirement.

Thank you for all of your hard work, dedication and commitment.

## Estates

Many projects have taken place across the Trust schools during the summer holidays to improve learning environments, welfare facilities and security within our schools. A big thank you to the site teams at both Kingdown and Clarendon for their work and coordination of this.

Listed below are the works that have been completed along with some photos.

**Avenue** – A new resource centre has been started

**Clarendon** – A new EPDM roof to the art block, refurbishment of two science labs and a set of toilets, and a new wireless fire alarm system.

**Dilton Marsh** – Relocation and refurbishment of offices and the building of a new classroom.

**Great Wishford** – New windows and repointing to the front of the grade 1 listed area of the school.

**Heytesbury** - Security fence installed to seal the school off from their field which is accessible by the community during the school day.

**Kingdown** – Refurbishment of a science lab and four history classrooms

**New Close** – Improved car parking and access for pupils and parents at the start and end of the day.

**St Johns** – Decoration of their school hall.

**Wansdyke** – Improved security fencing to the front of the school.

**West Ashton** – Improved learning environment to the outdoor EYFS area.

