

8 April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing my final letter to you as I retire from my post as CEO of the University of Chichester Multi-Academy Trust to spend more time with my own family.

I have worked in Education for over 50 years and the last seven years as the CEO of the University of Chichester Academy Trust has been the highlight of my career. It has been an absolute privilege and pleasure to work with your school and your children as part of our growing education family.

Our amazing headteachers and dedicated staff have led our schools both in 'normal times' and through the pandemic with determination, care and fortitude and a passion to provide the very best for the children they serve. I have been immensely proud of what they have achieved.

We all know life over the past two years has been challenging. We have all been tested to the limits and expected to change our lives at very short notice in order to follow the governments guidelines. I am so grateful to you as parents and carers for supporting your school in managing the constant changes. You have enabled your children to access education from home during the lockdown periods, you have kept them at home when they have the virus to keep the other children safe and you have supported them to return to the classroom well and happy. Thank you.

Seeing the children back in the classroom and so happy to be there, has been a real joy and to observe the progress they are making in their learning has been a privilege. We know that COVID-19 has not gone away but hope that we can contain it now within a more normal environment.

I had the great honour to discuss our experiences with Prince William, Duke of Cambridge when I was awarded my MBE in November. He too shared his experience as a parent during lockdown and his children's excitement to be back in school and once again learning with their friends.

I attach the Trust Report for 2021 which celebrates our achievements and provides examples of children learning from home as well as from school. The relationships between parents and schools has been mutually supportive during this time and I am sure these experiences will enhance this partnership in the future.

I have spent much time over the last month with Jennese Alozie the new CEO for the Academy Trust and I believe that the Trustees have made an excellent appointment and that she will take the Trust to new and exciting places.

I would like to finish by wishing you and your children a very happy Easter break and a bright and exciting future.

With very best wishes to you all.



Sue Samson
Chief Executive Officer, University of Chichester Academy Trust