



The Cornovii Trust

NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents / Carers, Colleagues and Students

As we approach the end of our first term as a larger, merged multi academy trust of five schools, I thought it would be a good time to reflect on our achievements, update you on our plans for the future and make a direct plea to all parents / carers.

As you know, The Cornovii Trust came into existence on 1st September 2022 when Alsager, Alsager Highfields Primary, Audlem St James Church of England Primary, Brine Leas and Weston Primary schools merged to form one organisation. You can find more details on our website www.thecornoviitrust.org and you can follow us on social media, which will keep you updated on our work.



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We have achieved a huge amount in this first term, one of our key values and principles you will see on our website is collaboration. We see collaboration as the key driver for school improvement. Already this term our schools are working together to make themselves even better and for the benefit of our young people and staff. We have staff working across sites to support curriculum planning and lesson delivery; subject and senior leaders are working together to share good practice; moderation of pupil's work has taken place across schools (with more to follow next term); the schools have agreed to various external reviews next term to help us improve our practice and we are working far more efficiently financially, ensuring better value for money which means more funds can be spent on our young people. There is still much more to do and we have great plans going forward. Our intention is to make all our great schools even better.

I am really excited about the future for our young people and can see The Cornovii Trust going from strength to strength. We also intend to grow, with more schools joining us over the coming years. However, our intention is to always remain in the Cheshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire areas, hence the name 'Cornovii' (the ancient name given to the people of these areas). We will always remain a local trust, working hard to support schools, young people, families and staff in the local area.



A FINAL NOTE

Finally, I would also like to urge all parents / carers to work with their child's school, headteacher and staff. We all know that young people succeed, make the most progress, are happier and achieve their best, when school and home work together in partnership. It means that young people are being given a consistent and clear message from all sides. I'm afraid there is a growing minority of situations when parents / carers are not supporting their child's school and challenging every decision that is made by staff, including the headteacher. There are some parents / carers who are openly criticizing the school, staff, headteachers in front of their child. Similarly, please remember, in every case or 'incident', the school will have all the facts and the big picture, your child may well only be giving you their version of events.



Every school and human will make mistakes, we all do and I am not saying we are perfect. However, there is a 'right way' to question a school's or a member of staff's decision. It needs to be done politely, privately and in a manner which sets a good example to our young people.

As a parent myself, the school my daughters attend make decisions that I might not always agree with, however, I support the school and the staff. I do not openly criticise the school and I am very conscious of the example I am setting to my children.

The behaviour and example of this small, but growing number of parents / carers, is making the job of schools and staff very difficult indeed. It is also having a negative effect on how some children are behaving in school, they are questioning and challenging decisions or often the simplest instructions from staff. Given everything we have been through as a nation, as we recover from the pandemic, it is more important than ever that we work together for the benefit of our young people. We all share the common goal of wanting the best for every child, we are all in this together, so let's please work as one.

Many thanks for your continued support. I wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2023.

Richard Middlebrook
CEO The Cornovii Trust

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