



# The Cornovii Trust

## NEWSLETTER



### Dear Parents / Carers, Colleagues and Students

On behalf of everyone at The Cornovii Trust, I would like to pass on our love, best wishes, thoughts and prayers to Mary Stanway's family, friends and everyone at Brine Leas, following the tragic event of last week. Such a devastating loss is impossible to comprehend but I do know the school is doing all it can to support everyone through this very difficult time.

This second term newsletter seems insignificant in comparison but I did promise to keep everyone regularly updated on the workings and activities within our trust of 5 schools. Please remember, you can find more details on our website [www.thecornoviitrust.org](http://www.thecornoviitrust.org) You can also follow us on social media, which will keep you regularly updated with our news and our work.

We have continued to develop our collaborative approach to raising standards. Our leaders, governors and staff are working together really effectively to make our schools even better for the benefit of our young people. The trust commissioned a full external review of SEN provision across all five schools. This was a very positive experience, with many areas of

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Collaboration update
- External reviews
- Attendance





fantastic practice identified and praised by the reviewer but it also identified some areas for possible improvement. Following this review, all SENCOs are now working together in a network to share good practice, support each other, look at standardising some elements of their work, all for the benefit of our young people. We have established a similar network for the safeguarding leads in all our schools. The trust also commissioned an external modern foreign language review at both secondary schools. Which again identified some excellent practice but also gave some areas for improvement. Language teachers at both schools are now working closely together and plan to do some shared teaching next year.

At our primary schools, there has been some fantastic collaborative working on the teaching of phonics, writing, senior and subject leadership – all of which have used the expertise we have within our trust to share good practice, pool resources and raise standards for all. All these activities will continue and be built upon next year.

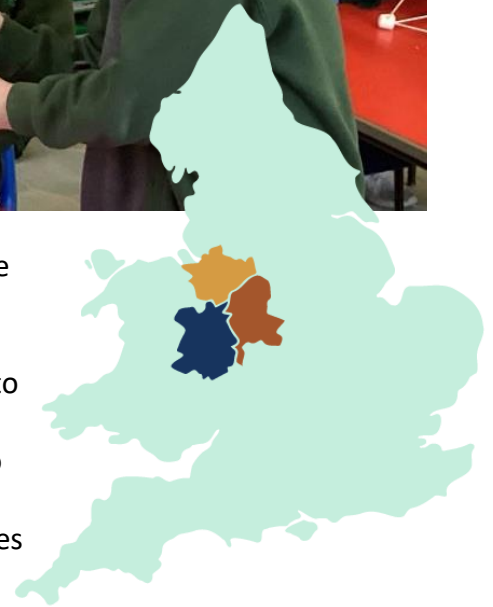


Looking ahead to next year, we have already agreed to use the fantastic Forest Schools resources and staff we have at one school to be shared with others. This means the curriculum at all our schools can be widened and personalised to meet the needs of all young people. This would not be possible if we were all standalone organisations.

We really do see collaboration as the key driver for school improvement. However, this is only possible thanks to the outward facing and supportive approach of all our headteachers and staff. We are very fortunate to have such fantastic school leaders in place and such a talented and professional team of staff working within our schools.

Due to working as a trust and in effect one organization, we have also been able to make some significant savings and work more efficiently financially. This would not be possible if we were operating as separate, individual schools. Examples include sharing staff when possible, developing a shared services team (eg. Finance and HR) who can fulfill roles for all schools, rather than each school employing their own individual staff. When it comes to entering into contracts with external providers and companies, as a trust, we can secure much more competitive prices through our economies of scale. Through ensuring better value for money across the trust, it means more funds can be spent on our pupils in each school.





I remain really excited about the future for our young people and can see The Cornovii Trust going from strength to strength. Our intention is still 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.

I would also like to urge all parents / carers to work with their child's school when it comes to attendance. You will have seen in the press that school attendance figures are much lower than pre-pandemic levels across the country and our schools are no exception. I understand that each case of absence is different and needs to be treated on an individual basis. However, we all know that for young people to succeed, be happy and help with friendships, achieve their best, be better prepared for life and the world of work after school, it is through being in school and attending as regularly as possible. Can all parents and carers please encourage and push your child to attend school as much as possible, even if they are feeling a little under the weather, they really do need to be in school.

Finally, as we approach the summer term, I would like to wish all our young people taking external test and exams; SATs, GCSEs, BTECs and A levels all the very best. Please remember your teachers and school are there to support you as best they can.

Many thanks for your continued support. I wish you and your families a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break.

Richard Middlebrook  
CEO The Cornovii Trust

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