

Dear All,

As we move into our Easter half term I write to share my grateful thanks and pride for our schools, staff and wonderful children. They continue to rise above the challenges of Covid with calm and purpose. Teaching and learning has been vibrant and rounded opening opportunities for our children both within and beyond the curriculum. Leaders have driven developments so that we are continuing to evaluate our strengths and targets for development and, significant strengths were seen across the Trust in our most recent reviews. Most notably, that our schools' culture and ethos embody our values of friendship, love and respect. Behaviour and relationships are superb, expectation are high and all staff strive to plan and deliver engaging, well thought out learning for all our children.



It has been wonderful to be able to attend some of our Mothering Sunday and Easter services across the Trust and a range of other events including children's productions. I was impressed with our children's confidence, clarity of delivery, beautiful singing, artwork shared and general presence - all of these opportunities which have been open to families and friends have been exceptional and Ralph and I have enjoyed them greatly. The Camerata was new to me and a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, the year 3/4 productions were so special and it's been lovely to get back into our churches. Please view the pictures and read about these events all in our school blogs and on twitter, @TSSMAT1 <https://twitter.com/TSSMAT1>

We are pleased to inform you that our team have worked hard to tighten the provision in some of our kitchens and stabilise our kitchens where necessary. Our cooks are passionate and excellent and we are so thrilled to launch our new menus! St Marys and The Howard begin the second week after this half term with tasting for families in week 1. Richard Crosse and Anson will begin after Whitsun half term. We think you will be impressed with the options and we are sure that your children will enjoy the variety. As we all know, what children eat and good nutrition can affect not only their academic success and physical health but also their mood and mental health too. During the launches we are offering a tasting menu, the details of which can be found in the attached flyer.



We continue to support children with their questions and anxieties about what is happening in the world and more specifically, Ukraine. Several schools have already conducted fundraising either as a school or as part of their communities'. We have offered signposting and resources for staff to deliver worship and learning and help to support for our children and families. We have kept abreast with the Government's information and prepare to receive children and families from Afghanistan and Ukraine. Across the Trust we look to engaging with Share a Pencil Day in May. The focus of this Day will be *children on the move* and how displaced children are struggling to get the education they deserve, and why that matters. We pray for displaced families across the world and, that we can find compassion for the communities suffering from disasters and struggling to recover and that children and families can soon feel secure again. We pray for disaster survivors to find refuge in You.

Ralph and I wish you a safe and happy, restful and reflective Easter and we look forward to seeing our children and families in a couple of weeks all ready for our Summer 1 term.

Thank You, **Charlene Gethin** (CEO).

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad" Psalm 118:24.

