



July 2023

## Dear all

So much has happened this year and It is hard to believe that in just a few months we have successfully transitioned to Liberty Academy Trust – a family of schools with 100% commitment to educational excellence for autistic children and young people.

At a Trust level, we have brought in fresh expertise to the central team and strengthened our processes and governance, with a new Chair – David Tucker – appointed at Easter.

With new systems in place, I am delighted to confirm that we have made excellent progress against the Notice to Improve, meeting all conditions and exceeding some. Colleagues at the DfE are pleased with our progress and we were able to evidence the improvements when they visited Thames Valley School in June.

All our schools have been inspected by Ofsted, and the reports recognise the positive journey to improvement we are on.

We have become a National Living Wage Employer and have achieved accreditation as a Disability Confident Employer, highlighting our commitment as a responsible employer.

We have also introduced bespoke coaching for our Principals, DSLs and SENCOs and our arrangement with the National College gives all colleagues direct access to a wide range of training.

We now have Autism Lead Practitioners in all our schools who are driving effective teaching. And from the Autumn term, each school will see improvements in their sensory rooms.

All of this lays the foundations for us to achieve our ultimate goal - to support our students to aim high, achieve their best and be well-prepared for adulthood as rounded citizens of the future.

At **Church Lawton School** students have continued to make the most of their Adventure Learning programme, making their own butter and enjoying hands on activities with the animals at The Social Farm.

At **Vanguard School** students have been able to showcase their fantastic artwork at the Southbank Centre in London with some fabulous feedback that will no doubt give them the confidence to continue and develop further into next year.

At **Thames Valley School** students have been able to access a range of experiences which culminated in a superb enrichment week, with a climbing wall, games van and a family BBQ closing what was an enjoyable week for all.

Whatever the summer results bring, it will be wonderful to see our students move on to their next exciting stage alongside their peers. I am proud at all they have achieved this year.

With exam results in August, we will begin another school year before we know it! But until then, I hope you and your family can enjoy a wonderful summer.

Thank you from everybody at Liberty Academy Trust.

**Nic Crossley, CEO**

