

Welcome Back!

Dear parents, carers, and families,

I hope you all enjoyed a restful Summer and that all of your children are well settled into their school for the new academic year.

Welcome to those families who are new to our schools this year - we are delighted you are here.

I have already visited all schools, spent time with teachers and leaders, and met with a number of children, who have been enthusiastic and thoughtful in their discussions; all I have spoken to are positive about the year ahead.

You will no doubt have seen the news stories about RAAC and the impact this has had on schools across the country.

We did provide an update that none of our schools are affected but I just want to assure you again that all schools are in good repair and there are no risks to pupil safety.



Achievements from Last Year

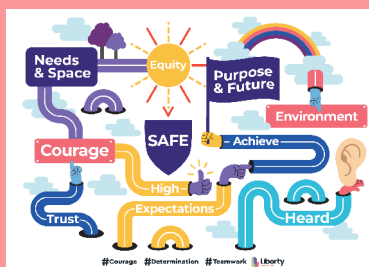
Our first year as Liberty Academy Trust was a busy one and I am pleased that we now have our own teams to provide support and challenge to our schools.

In doing so, I am proud we have been recognised as a **Disability Confident** employer.

We have also signed up to the **Race at Work Charter** and the **Mental Health at Work Standards** - both of which are an important part of our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy.

The geographical spread of our schools is always going to make collaboration challenging, but we are determined that every school and every family will learn to know the benefits of being part of the wider Liberty community.

Vanguard students in London, created a wonderful mural design, which is now on display in the reception area and is something that all schools will be developing this year.



Achievements from Last Year

Our Year 11 pupils achieved academic success, and across the Trust:

- **79%** of our students achieved 3 or more qualifications at GCSE level or equivalent
- **56%** of our students achieved qualifications in both English and Maths
- **50%** of our students achieved 5 or more qualifications
- **38%** of our students achieved 3 or more grade 4 or equivalent qualifications (or higher).

These qualifications are a recognition of the hard work of both students and teachers across our schools.

But there is still more to be done - our commitment is that every child who attends a Liberty school will leave with qualifications in both English and Maths, as a minimum - so that they are well-prepared for adulthood.



Plans for This Year

This year, we want to enhance our offer, so that the educational experience all children receive is of the highest quality - and we know that in some cases this has been lacking in the past.

We are developing our curriculum so that it is appropriately challenging for our pupils, but we are also developing a bespoke communication curriculum to support with social communication skills, as many of our children struggle in this area.

To support with this development, we have subscribed to First News, which is the largest student-friendly newspaper and which will encourage some great discussions, I am sure.

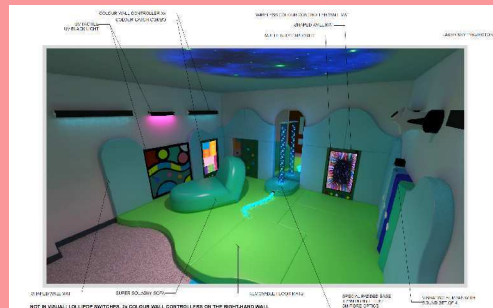


<https://schools.firstnews.co.uk/products/first-news-newspaper/>

Plans for this Year

Another improvement for this year will be in the sensory provision on offer; our children deserve the very best to support their sensory needs and so sensory provision across all schools is being upgraded this year.

The sensory room at Thames Valley School will be the first to complete by October half term and the picture below gives a rough idea of what it will look like:



All schools will see improvements though and I am sure your children will be pleased with the results.



Plans for this year

Finally for this newsletter, I want you to know how important it is that all our schools work in collaboration and partnership with all of our families.

I know that in the past, some of your experiences have been less than positive - and I am sorry about that.

But I am pleased to say that for this academic year parent partnership and improved communications is at the top of our priorities.

LEADING PARENT PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Develop positive relationships with parents

Supporting schools to deliver outstanding engagement with all groups of parents.

Each school is being partnered with a specialist adviser at the Leading Parent Partnership Award, with the aim to achieve the award within 18 months.

Take a look at their website below for a flavour of some of the work that will be undertaken:

<https://www.awardplace.co.uk/award/lppa>

I hope that you will be pleased with the work our schools are committed to.

With all best wishes

Nic

Dr Nic Crossley,
CEO, Liberty Academy Trust

