



Diverse  
Academies



Dear Yeoman Park and Redgate families,

It is hard to believe that another school year is over. It has been an incredibly tough year, but it has highlighted how well the whole community of Redgate Primary and Yeoman Park Academy, has pulled together. The staff have done amazingly well to continue to provide such a high standard of care, support and education to all children and young people. Governors have been heartened to hear how resilient and adaptable most students have been in the face of lockdowns, home schooling, and extra safety measures in school. We also know how hard parents and carers have worked to deliver home schooling and juggle busy lives. We are pleased to see the changes implemented at leadership level, following Pauline Corfield's retirement earlier in the year. These are now well-established, with innovative ideas being implemented and a great sense of purpose driving improvements.

Despite the pandemic, lots of great things have been happening in the academies during the year. There have been many exciting experiences for the children to enjoy - they have been turned into superheroes for Red Nose Day, participated in Easter egg hunts and fund-raised for Children in Need. Virtual assemblies, a virtual careers event and a virtual visit to a fire station have taken place. Students have travelled around the world (virtually!), as they have taken part in a variety of sensory experiences, learned about other parts of the world, and participated in ever-popular cooking activities. Teachers have even brought the seaside into the classrooms!

Governors have been kept up to date on the impact the covid 19 lockdowns have made with students and staff mental health. To support this, two 'Thrive' practitioners (a therapeutic approach that supports children with their social and emotional development) have been trained and are now qualified to lead the important work taking place in the academies to improve well-being. Children missed socialising and interacting with each other during the lockdowns, so new ideas had to be found to enable them to do so. The academy improvement plan focused strongly on improving communication skills, so this has been central to the curriculum. A welcome boost has been the fine weather in the summer term which has enabled students to socialise in their outdoor spaces and make full use of the forest school areas.

It was a great moment when nearly all students were back in school after the third lockdown. Due to the concerted effort made by the whole school community and a robust recovery curriculum, the impact of lost learning has been minimised. To mark one year of the pandemic children from both academies planted fruit trees as part of the NHS orchard project.

The news that Yeoman Park is one of the first 50 schools in England to benefit from a new 10 year transformative rebuilding programme is very exciting. We are waiting to hear what form the redevelopment will take but discussions with Nottinghamshire Education Authority are well underway. It will make a huge difference to the learning environment and enhance the facilities and opportunities for our children and young people.

Speaking personally, this has been the most difficult year I have ever known during the forty years I have been involved in education. Being a governor during the pandemic has been challenging, and we have implemented new ways of working. Governor training provided by



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the trust has been very successfully managed online, but I am not sure that we will ever really get used to virtual governors meetings!

On behalf of the governors, I would like to wish you all a good summer break. We wish all students and their families who are moving on at the end of term, well, and look forward to welcoming everyone else back to the academies in September.

Kind regards

**Lynn Weeks**  
**Chair of Academy Committee governors**