

THE  
**COMPASS**  
PARTNERSHIP OF SCHOOLS

*past, present, future*

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Dear parents and carers,

I hope you are well.

As you may already know, as of 1st July 2017 the Compass Partnership of Schools is an independent, non-profit making, charitable trust, with the purpose of providing the very best education for children, their families and communities. It has been a long and difficult journey, but one that was elongated by the Trustees' desire to ensure we did things carefully and diligently. We wanted to ensure we converted in a principled and informed manner, so that we could be in the strongest position possible to deliver the very best education for our communities.

Huge thanks go to Kate Jarrett, Trust Director of Operations and Partnerships, who managed the conversion project with great insight and skill - we certainly could not have done it without her. Thanks also go to the office teams, who managed endless tasks associated with the conversion and kept us on track with the most up to date information. I would like to thank every member of the school teams for their patience through the process and for supporting us throughout - we achieved this together. Lastly, I would like to thank our parents and carers for your contributions to this process; we have greatly appreciated your thoughtful questions and support.

So we begin a new chapter together. A new chapter that will bring opportunity and challenge in equal measure, and a chapter opened by the very best team I could possibly hope to be part of. I am genuinely humbled by every single person who works so passionately and diligently to create the most wonderful schools for our children to learn and thrive in. It is the sum total of everyone's efforts that makes Compass the collective force it is - no one person is more important than the other and no one person does more to contribute to our success than the other.

Becoming a Trust solidifies our identity and holds us together firmly so that we evolve in a mutually beneficial way. It provides us with routes and avenues for joint working that were difficult to exploit before, and gives us strength in number so that we can protect our values and build on our strengths. We have much to be proud of, not least the superb teaching in all our schools, which supports all children to thrive. We can be proud of the strong, child-centred ethos that underpins our approach, and the positive and creative atmosphere that pervades all our schools. The air of optimism, possibility and achievement evident across the Partnership is what drives our success - long may it continue.

Work will start in the holidays on significant improvements to our school buildings using the funding we were able to secure as a multi-academy trust, from the Condition Improvement Fund. This enables us to deal with significant issues that we have been unable to get addressed as maintained schools. We will be making further bids to this fund in the autumn term so that we can realise our vision for buildings fit for a 21st century education.

We have also been working closely with Apple to develop our digital learning strategy - this is an exciting piece of work and will enable us to expand our curriculum offer and develop digital intelligence. This work has been extensive and involved teachers from all our schools.

We will be establishing a Trust Parent Board in the coming academic year so that we can ensure we have a forum to fully engage parents in the evaluation of policy and practice across our schools,

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and to ensure parent perspectives have an impact on the way we develop and grow. More details will follow on this.

We still face the very major challenge of budget cuts - we are not free from these. We must re-double our efforts to spend wisely, reuse and recycle, as well as using each other's skills and resources. Money is tight, and we will face real term cuts to our budgets this year, as will all schools in England. We hope to cushion this as much as possible, but it will be a challenge.

Our immediate priorities will be:

- Continuing to do what we do best and supporting our schools to be the places they already are
- Building links between our Members, Trustees, schools and communities, so that we understand the needs of each other
- Establishing our key accountability teams that will ensure we have a Trust wide approach to continuing professional learning, SEND, and improving teaching and learning. These will have representation from all schools so that we develop a collaborative strategy for continued improvement
- Establishing a clear and focused strategy for ensuring our budgets work for our schools, and that we make savings in a fair and pragmatic manner - this will also involve a strategy for realising growth in our funds
- Ensuring we support everyone that works in our schools to realise their own ambitions and to grow and develop, so that they progress in their careers
- Building resilience across the organisation and continuing to enhance our premises, so that they are places fit for teaching and learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Building partnerships beyond our group so that we can develop strength and learn from others.

We will continue to strengthen our relationship with Greenwich Local Authority, and will work closely with them to provide support to our schools and to others who may need it. We remain firmly committed to Greenwich and the wider family of schools that we are part of.

Exciting times ahead! Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at all.

**"For last year's words belong to last year's language  
And next year's words await another voice.  
And to make an end is to make a beginning."**

**T. S. Eliot**

Very best wishes to you all,

John Camp

Senior Executive Headteacher  
The Compass Partnership of Schools  
[john.camp@compass-partnership.com](mailto:john.camp@compass-partnership.com)