



THE LIONHEART ACADEMIES TRUST: A FORWARD THINKING COMMUNITY WITH A SHARED PLEDGE OF 5 PS.

Imagine being a Head Teacher, in her first year, 7 months into her new role, in a new school, with a new team – and then a global pandemic strikes. That was the exact position that I found myself in last academic year and I have repeatedly found myself thanking my lucky stars that I am a leader in the **Lionheart Academies Trust**. The LAT has a pledge of the 5 Ps which were an integral part of our success over the last year:

- Pupil centred
- Positivity
- Passionate
- Professionalism
- Practice

If you look on the LAT website you'll see we're described as a renowned family of schools. That word 'family' has really shone through over the past year and permeated every decision made. Throughout my time in this role, I have felt supported, reassured and valued. From the minute the pandemic started, we were assisted to make decisions in the best interests of our own unique schools, our children, our staff and the communities we serve. We were provided with detailed risk assessments, re-integration guidance and professionally produced signage. Teams of people, from the Estates Team to the Operations Team, were on our school sites to advise us, provide boxes upon boxes of PPE and additional cleaning materials. Being a Head teacher can be a lonely job, but that hasn't been my experience.

The Lionheart Academies Trust is a forward thinking community, aiming to break the barriers between its pupils and their success. Every child is championed, offered equal opportunities and all decisions are **pupil-centred**. This was

evident in the Trust's unequivocal commitment to providing every vulnerable pupil with a Chromebook across all eleven schools, promising that no child will be left behind. Furthermore, they have shown unwavering commitment to ensuring our families get the food vouchers that they were entitled to. It is thanks to the LAT that I have been able to ensure that every child accesses food and a full and varied education, regardless of a national lockdown.

Thanks to the IT team, we have been able to use Microsoft Teams to deliver 'live' and recorded lessons to all of our children, hold vital meetings and connect with **professionals** outside of our school. In addition, the Trust provided every teacher with the tools they needed to do what they are most **passionate** about – teach. Every teacher was given a visualiser that could also be taken home, to ensure that remote lessons could include demonstrations, shared documents and live editing. Designated Safeguarding Leaders were provided with LAT mobile phones so that they could safely and securely reach out to families who needed our help. In addition, members of the Lionheart Trust worked tirelessly to create our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), a platform that enabled our children to download tasks, upload work and receive daily messages and guidance from their teachers. Our Primary VLE was shared across the Trust which reduced workload, improved cross-school connections and had a positive impact if staff were affected by the virus.



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To ensure **best practice** throughout the national lockdowns we have worked as a collaborative community. There has been weekly leadership meetings, SEND Co-ordinator consultations, cross-trust wellbeing reviews and Safeguarding summits (all held virtually). We have also held regular primary-based meetings at all levels from the Heads, to the Assistant Heads, the teachers and the admin teams. Though we're working with distance between us, the pandemic has certainly brought us closer together!

Continual Professional Development for the staff of the Lionheart Academies Trust has continued to be at the forefront, to ensure we remain reflective and retain academic excellence. We had virtual training events with guest speakers such as Sean Dellentay and David Didau. We've received internal training for new systems and practises. We've also continued with accreditations, funded by the LAT, such as the NPQs for leadership.

The Covid19 Pandemic is not over yet but together we remain positive and united.

We are rising strong.

#WeAreLionheart

**Hannah Drury,
Head Teacher,
Highcliffe Primary School**

