

9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer,

We start this welcome letter with great sadness as we learn of the death of our beloved Queen, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Our thoughts are with her family and her successor, King Charles III, at what is a momentous time in the history of our country. All the schools in Futura Learning Partnership will be marking The Queen's death and celebrating the life and service of this remarkable lady. On behalf of our trust community, our Chair, Malcolm Broad, and I will be writing to our new King to express our condolences. We will share our gratitude for the life and legacy of his mother, our Queen, and will offer him our very best wishes as he becomes our Sovereign.

Our schools are very aware that the death of The Queen may be very upsetting for some pupils and staff, particularly those who have experienced the recent loss of a loved one themselves. This situation will be dealt with very sensitively but please do let your child's school know if they may need some additional support.

On behalf of Futura Learning Partnership, I am pleased to welcome you back to the start of the new school year, 2022-23. I hope you and your family enjoyed the summer break. It is always a pleasure at this time of year to see everyone back in school and a particular welcome to those families who are joining a Futura Learning Partnership school for the first time. We look forward to working with you and to developing a positive and mutually supportive relationship.

We are very proud to welcome Bridge Farm Primary School in South Bristol to our trust family and are very much looking forward to working with the school and community it serves. Bridge Farm brings a wealth of expertise and excellent practice to our trust and we are delighted they have chosen to join us.

Several of our schools are welcoming a new headteacher or principal and we wish them all the best as they take up this crucial role:

School	New head/principal	Previous post
Bedminster Down School	Louise Davies	Principal, Berkeley Green UTC
Chandag Junior School	Adam Smith (1 year secondment)	Headteacher, Wansdyke Primary School
St. John's CoE Primary School	Wendy Carver	Interim head of Two Rivers CoE Primary School
Two Rivers CoE Primary School	Claire Graham	Headteacher, St John's CoE Primary School
Wansdyke Primary School	Emily Harris (1 year acting role)	Deputy Head, Wansdyke Primary School

Congratulations to all our students who worked so hard to achieve excellent GCSE, A Level and vocational results over the summer. The results across Futura schools were significantly higher than the 2019 results - the last time students sat formal examinations.

At GCSE, an impressive 72% of Futura students achieved 5 GCSE equivalents including a pass in both English and Maths. At A level, well over 50% of all grades were A\* - B and we were delighted to see so many students accepted by their first choice destination.

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on our plans to merge with Clevedon Learning Trust (CLT) that we announced in May 2022. We are working closely with our colleagues in CLT and have set up a joint steering group of trustees and officers that meets weekly to progress plans. We are also meeting regularly with officials from the Department of Education (DfE) who are supporting us with this. Through this work we are developing a strong partnership and it is clear we are like-minded trusts that share similar values. We submitted our formal application to the DfE in August, which will be considered by the Regional Director's Advisory Board in mid-September. Once approval has been given, we will undertake a due diligence exercise to ensure that the rationale we have outlined holds up to further scrutiny.

Our strong belief is that the new trust will be a strong family of schools with significant additional capacity to help ensure all our schools are strong and successful. In building our new trust we will be looking to bring together the best from both organisations, alongside new approaches that the additional capacity will enable us to introduce.

So 2022-23 promises to be a very exciting year as we develop our plans for the merger. We are anticipating that this will happen during term 3 or 4 but there is much to be done before then. In the transitional period, from September until the merger is achieved, we will be providing CLT with leadership support, with Gary Schlick (Director of Education) taking on the role of transitional CEO supported by myself and Tim Howes (COO). Gary will continue as our Director of Education and we have enhanced the capacity of our school improvement team to enable him to do this.

After careful consideration, trustees have decided to adopt the name Futura Learning Partnership for our new trust. This makes sense as the name itself is new, having only just been launched in September 2021. Futura was formerly called Wellsway Multi Academy Trust, named after the founding school (Wellsway School in Keynsham) in the same way that CLT was named after Clevedon School. It is important that our new Trust has a name that is not linked to an individual school or place to emphasize that every school within our family is of equal value. Our new trust will adopt the CLT values of Children, Choice and Collaboration, which will become the strap line for the trust. This animation will be used on websites and in presentations etc. to communicate this important message ([CLT/Futura Merger animation](#)).

We will keep you informed of emerging plans and update you again when we have received the decision from the DfE. In summary, we are very confident that this evolution will provide a platform for delivering a wonderful environment and learning platform for our pupils, a greater opportunity for our staff to learn and grow, whilst maintaining and developing the close connections we have with our communities. In short, a strong, resilient and committed Multi Academy Trust that will take us on the next stage of our journey.

We will be holding two information sessions to share the rationale and merger plans with you. These will be informal, drop-in sessions where trustees and members of the executive will be available to talk to. The sessions will be held as follows:

Session 1	Mendip Hall in Wellsway School	20/9/22	4pm - 6pm
Session 2	Main hall in Cheddar Grove Primary School	22/9/22	4pm – 6pm

Please do join us if you would like to find out more. If you have any questions at this stage you can also email them to [proposedmerger@futuralearning.co.uk](mailto:proposedmerger@futuralearning.co.uk)

On behalf of Futura Learning Partnership, I would like to wish you and your family all the very best for the new school year 2022-23. I hope your children have a really successful year and make the most of the opportunities they will be given. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support. The partnership our schools have with parents and carers is absolutely critical and we all need to work really hard to make sure it is strong and mutually supportive.

With best wishes and thanks for your on-going support,



Andrea Arlidge  
Chief Executive