



CEO Report

The Gryphon Multi-Academy Trust

Alan O'Sullivan | 18th July 2019

Update

Our bid to have the ROSLA building updated was not successful but Ian Walker has put together an appeal and submitted it and we are now awaiting that result. We have been doing quite a bit of remedial work including repairing broken pathways, cabling, pipework and we will be relaying outside the reception area. This is being paid for out of the retention money that we have following Dawnus' demise. The lift, for which there is a separate budget, will be installed in the summer break. The Eaglewood building is nearly finished and will be handed over at the end of the month with the ground works finishing at the end of August. We will have an official opening in September.

Support Services

The facilities team have been really stretched with illness and holidays, even to the point where Ian was on his own for a week and Peter Windebank filled in with extra hours. We have one member back on reduced hours and another still signed off until the end of the month. A couple of adverts in the A&T for an extra member has not been successful so far and we have now put it in the JobCentre. We hope to take on an agency member which if successful we will take on permanently.

Visits

I was invited to go and see the Connie Rothman Learning Trust with a view of them joining our trust. Nigel Himmel and I went and visited this school which is working out of a shop front in Southbourne. They work mainly on a one to one basis with children who need to transition back to mainstream school. They are an illegal school, which is not Ofsted inspected, that needs to either become an independent school or join a trust. Their environment was not conducive for staff or pupils and would need a new premise to work from. They had no educational structure or plans but worked with individuals. My recommendation and Nigel's is that they would first need a new premise and a management structure put in place and a SIP and a review of the staff structure which in practicality is not easily achievable and our suggestion is that we do not pursue this any further.

Nigel Pressnell and I visited New Milton Junior school and had an exchange of views. There is no desire to join a trust as they feel they are getting a good service through HCC. But they are open to us working in closer collaboration to enable a smoother transition when students come

into year seven. They are already working with our schools and sharing expertise of curriculum and teaching methods.

Business Manager

We interviewed for the above post last Thursday. We had three replies and invited all three with only two applicants being able to attend. As well as the interview panel they were interviewed by the SLT and tasked with an activity. Following the interviews it was decided neither candidate fitted our criteria to appoint. Following going to print we will have interviewed the third candidate on Tuesday. If unsuccessful we will be re-advertising for the post again late summer.

Misc.

I visited the Academies Show in London which enabled me to not only hear updates on the latest thinking from the DfE and the RSC but also to make contact with a few software suppliers with a view to maybe updating ours once the new business manager has settled in.

There had been a request by some support staff as to what the policy was with regards to the trust purchasing glasses. There is a Display Screen Equipment policy which I have updated and am presenting for ratification at this meeting. The glasses must be specifically for work only to be able to claim up to £70, they are also entitled to an eye test with up to £25 refunded.

We have again been invited to London by the Regional School Commissioner to review our trust on 24th October. This would be myself, Chair of Directors and this time we can take an educationalist which I suggest should be Mr Pressnell.