

LEARNING ACADEMY PARTNERSHIP (South West) 'Together we Empower Excellence'



Learning Academy Partnership
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Dear Parents,

It is my pleasure, as Executive Headteacher, to welcome you back to the new school year and if you are a parent of a child new to Ilsham Church of England Academy, a very special and warm welcome to you. A special welcome also to our new teaching staff: Mr Grinsill and Miss Coombs and also to Mrs Crotty and Mrs Kelly new members of our support team.

I would like to share with you a number of exciting developments at Ilsham C of E Academy and also within the Learning Academy Partnership (LAP) overall.

Firstly, I would like to begin by looking back and acknowledging the outstanding, sustained success of Ilsham C of E Academy during 2014-2015. It is indeed testament to the quality of provision, outstanding teaching and the exceptional caring environment that nurtures happy children that Ilsham continues to excel. The National League tables are soon to be published and as you are aware for the past 7 years, Ilsham has been in the top 10% of all schools. This year saw our greatest achievement ever with exceptional performance and results across all Key Stages. A huge well done to Mrs Bone and Ilsham staff, but also to staff and leaders from across the Trust who played a crucial role and share in this success. Both Ilsham and Ellacombe are now heavily oversubscribed and are the schools of choice for many Torbay parents. We thank you for your continued support and the crucial role that you play in our shared success.

As a Partnership Trust we are able to do so much more, working together for the benefit of all children across our schools. As a small school within the Trust, the benefits to Ilsham are huge. Below are just some of the many benefits that Ilsham enjoy, which would not be possible in a small standalone school.

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These include:

- the recruitment and retention of high calibre staff who are drawn by the outstanding professional development opportunities that we uniquely offer all staff
- sharing of expert staff, ensuring that all children benefit from 'outstanding' teaching, therefore giving our children the additional benefits of accelerated progress and success
- the ability to organise our school, currently, into smaller class sizes of 25 pupils by creating an extra classroom. Traditionally KS2 class sizes were mixed age and in excess of 32/34 pupil
- highly skilled support staff and a wealth of 1:1 pupil support
- a stronger financial position and financial benefits with greater purchasing power
- a wider range of curriculum opportunities
- expertise in pastoral care
- a 'Rolls Royce' Special Educational Needs provision
- expert family support team
- wider range of after school activities
- a financially robust school refurbishment programme so that within the restricted space in which we operate, the learning environment 'sparkles'
- additional capacity expert teachers to challenge more able pupils so that all can fulfil their potential.
- Specialist Leaders of Education working across our schools for the benefit of all children

We are truly committed to '**Collectively Empowering Excellence**'.

Assistant Head

I am pleased to share with you that Mrs Bennett, an experienced member of the Senior Leadership Team, has been promoted to the interim post of **Assistant Academy Lead** of Ilsham C of E Academy for the academic year 2015-2016, pending the appointment of a substantive Assistant Head in 2016. This means that Mrs Bennett will assist Mrs Bone as Head of Academy, sharing the daily organisation and Mrs Bennett will be the senior member of staff and main point of contact when Mrs Bone is not on site.

The Learning Academy Partnership has grown

We thought that now would be a timely opportunity to share with you the aims and structure of the Trust.

The Learning Academy Partnership (South West) is a family of inclusive and aspirational schools, working together within a multi academy trust (MAT) with a Church of England Foundation. We are a fully inclusive MAT welcoming of both Church and community schools and those in all Ofsted categories. We work **collectively**, to **empower** everyone to achieve **excellence** . .

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The core purpose of The Learning Academy Partnership, rooted in school to school support, and in partnership with our families, church communities, the Diocese and wider communities, is to serve our children by enabling them to develop and flourish; emotionally, spiritually, socially, physically and to excel academically whilst developing and nurturing their God given talents. Only then, can we fully realise our vision for all children 'to live life to the full', thereby improving life chances for every child.

The Learning Academy Partnership's main purpose is therefore concerned with the flourishing of every child and adult within and across our communities. Through our work as a National Support School, Teaching School Alliance and through joint practice development, we know that schools can achieve so much more when they work together in School to School Support; interdependence and partnership. Our schools go beyond collaboration; we work in structural partnerships to be able to do the things that will bring or sustain outstanding provision for all our children. **'Excellence for All'**.

We are united through a shared moral purpose, aspiration, determination and commitment to each other to be the best that we can be.

Our successful track record, the sustained success of our academies as a Multi Academy Trust has been a catalyst for both Warberry C of E Primary and All Saints Marsh C of E Primary, choosing to join our Trust. I am delighted to confirm that the conversion process of both schools to become academies and to join the Learning Academy Partnership Trust took place during the summer holidays. This means that both Warberry and All Saints Marsh now have new legal status from September 1st as academies within the overarching Learning Academy Partnership Trust.

Our family of schools now include:

Ilsham C of E Academy,
Ellacombe Academy,
Little Stars Nursery,
Warberry C of E Academy,
All Saints Marsh C of E Academy
All Saints Teaching School Alliance.

Governance

The LAP Trust is governed by a single Board of Directors; as a director, I support the Board in the role of Chief Executive Officer. Directors have overall accountability for the success of our Trust and our family of schools. We are supported in that role, at a local level by heads of each academy.

As Executive Headteacher and CEO of the Trust it is my responsibility to lead, support and challenge the work of the Trust and each academy, ensuring that your child receives an outstanding education.

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Ellacombe Academy Change of Status

Over recent years, Directors at Ellacombe have considered a change of status at Ellacombe Academy to also become a Church of England Academy. As you are aware the Learning Academy Partnership is a Church School Trust with a Church of England foundation. All staff are employed by the LAP Trust and not individual academies and many work across more than one academy.

Ellacombe Academy, in its former life was originally a Church of England School and despite becoming maintained by the Local Authority as a community school prior to joining the LAP, has always had a special relationship with Ellacombe Church. The ethos across the LAP is already underpinned by Christian values. The Directors and staff now feel that the time is right to consult with parents and the wider community on your views as to whether or not Ellacombe should become a church school. We would welcome your views.

The new term is now well underway and I know that an exciting year lies ahead. Thank you, once again for your support. I look forward to seeing the children continue to develop and flourish over the coming year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Atkinson

Mrs L Atkinson
Executive Headteacher/CEO and National Leader of Education



Mrs L Atkinson

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Head of Academy Welcome

It has been wonderful to welcome you all back to the new academic year. The children have been sharing all of their summer adventures with us and we hope that you are all well rested and ready for the excitement and challenges of the new school year. The children have all settled into their new classes and are enjoying the responsibilities of their new year groups.

Over the summer we have learnt that we have been recognised for our work in a number of different areas:

- Achieving our Silver Games Mark Award.
- Our Model School status for RWInc has been renewed for another year.
- We have achieved our Basic Skills Award for excellence in the teaching of Reading, Writing and Maths. The school demonstrated convincingly that all criteria for the 10 Elements have been met, with significant elements of its work exemplary. High quality leadership, planning, teaching, extremely rigorous assessment and tracking systems and accountability underpin the excellence of provision and achievement.

As Mrs Atkinson has already mentioned, The Learning Academy Partnership has experienced the best results EVER, at both academies. This does not mean we sit back and relax! The teachers have already started ensuring that your child will achieve the best that they can through the setting of aspirational and challenging targets. These will be shared with you at the parent consultation meetings early in October. We will be ensuring that the outcomes for children continue to be the best ever!

We are delighted to welcome new members of staff to our LAP family and at Ilsham. I know that you will make them feel very welcome.



The growth of the LAP will continue to bring many benefits for all our children to excel.

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We are very grateful to our hard working PTFAs who had started the ball rolling with the aim of raising funds for a mini bus. The growth of our Trust has now made this achievable and so with funding from the Trust, the mini bus is already on order. Watch this space.

You will also have noticed the tree removal to the side of the playground. This is to clear an area to build a 'sustainable and sympathetic' dining and resource base area. Work is due to start soon and the play trail will be relocated. .

We look forward to continuing to build upon our sustained successes and working with all our partner schools; leading the Trust...**Collectively Empowering Excellence** for the benefit of all of our children and communities.

The children's learning is off to a flying start. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for attending the Meet the Teacher meetings this week; this provides an invaluable opportunity for us to share the expectations and overview for the year. Copies of the curriculum booklets will be available on our website shortly. Please remember that each child receives a weekly class newsletter so check this for more details of what your child will be learning. There are a whole host of events coming up in the first half of the Autumn term, please see the dates section so that you can make a note in your own diaries.

We do take the green approach to the production of our newsletters and therefore unless you have requested paper copies, you will only be able to view the newsletter electronically. If you do require a paper copy, please see Mrs May or Mrs Yeo in the office. Can I also remind you that children will only be issued with one letter and if it is lost or misplaced, you will be able to see copies on the website or in the folder in the main entrance.

Can I remind parents, particularly those who are new to the Learning Academy Partnership, that we value your feedback, support and contributions. Each day teachers are out on the playground before and after school and we hope that most enquiries can be addressed there. However, if you have something you would like to discuss in detail, please make an appointment, after school, to meet with your child's teacher.

Our website contains all of the information that you need to know. Please check it regularly as it contains updates. All copies of letters will also be available on the website. We also tweet daily on our twitter account so if you haven't already visited please follow us @ Ilsham LAP

It just leaves me say, welcome back and have a wonderful Autumn term!

Mrs E Bone Mrs E Bone Head of Academy