



The  
Prospect  
Trust

## Update from Simon Jarvis, CEO

September 2021



Welcome back! I sincerely hope you have enjoyed a much-needed summer break after the demands of an extraordinary two years in the world of education. Undoubtedly, the year ahead will hold many challenges but the evidence is strong that together we will face them with ingenuity, resilience and determination to ensure that the children in our care do not suffer. So much has been achieved this year in spite of the seemingly intractable difficulties: the 'can do' approach taken by so many Trust staff puts me in mind of that wonderful quote from Nelson Mandela: 'it always seems impossible until it's done'.

May I also offer my congratulations to all the teachers and subject leaders who have negotiated the choppy waters of assessment and grading this summer. A huge task but we can take pride in a job well done. Results achieved by Trust learners are hugely impressive with GCSE students achieving grades which have put their combined value added within the top 10 % of institutions nationally. Likewise BTEC and A level results are also in the top 10% - a real testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff at Tomlinscote and the College. The fact that there has been relatively few appeals against the grades awarded this summer is also a reflection of the professionalism and rigour of the TAG processes followed.

A key purpose of this bulletin is to update you on the work of the Trust in 2020-21 and to outline where we are going over the next year or so. This is really important because with everyone so busily engaged in their individual School or College roles, it's very easy to lose sight of the fact that we all work for one organisation – TPT. It's always been our intention to produce regular updates for Trust staff but, as you are well aware, there have been mitigating factors in the past 18 months which have created more pressing priorities!

But enough excuses – let's start with what has been achieved in the past remarkable year, beginning with our newest partner Academy.

### Frimley Church of England Junior School

After some years of planning and discussion, a complex negotiation involving many stakeholders, Frimley joined TPT on 1 April 2021. This excellent move represents a significant step towards achievement of a key strategic objective: establishing a Trust to serve the local community, providing high quality education for 5 to 19 year old learners.



(From left to right: Alex Tear, TPT Trustee; Clare Wright, Frimley Junior Head; Andrew Needham, TPT Chair; Simon Jarvis, TPT CEO; Tony Ryles, Frimley AQC Chair)

Frimley staff have been deeply engaged in working fruitfully with Vince Scannella, the TPT Director of Education, and many staff across the Trust to embed our approach to teaching and learning into the School.

Since April, we've undertaken a number of improvements, including:

- upgraded ICT infrastructure including better connectivity and access, new server, wifi hardware and software alongside new filtering and firewall systems to improve safeguarding
- refurbishing the Discovery Zone to support the literacy agenda for primary education
- provision of iPads for all teaching staff
- new equipment for the on-site swimming pool

### **Tomlinscote School**

The major improvement project at Tomlinscote in 20-21 has, of course, been to build the superb floodlit 3G pitch on site; an excellent facility, with ample adjacent car parking provision, enjoyed by the learners and also by hundreds of regular community users.

This led in turn to the creation of a new School reception, administration offices, meeting and drama rooms in the repurposed and revamped 'vocational building'. Significant inroads have been made into our plan to remove all hatted accommodation on site which has, as a consequence, allowed the expansion of the School playground. The water and heating systems in A Block and Sports Centre have also been upgraded.



**The Prospect Trust**  
Apple Regional Training Centre

Another significant development is the successful re-accreditation of the School as an Apple Regional Training Centre – a rare accolade granted to only around 400 schools worldwide - and the creation of The Prospect Trust Regional Training Centre.

Work is also on-going in terms of improving safeguarding and security with improving CCTV and better web filtering and firewall protection.

### **The Sixth Form College, Farnborough**

The Trust continues to invest in the College campus. On-going improvements to the site include the creation of more counselling rooms, vital to supporting our well-being provision. We are also converting old changing rooms into two brand new classrooms, which will be opening shortly. The Trust continues to renovate the Ranson building and is improving ventilation across the campus. New air pumps have been installed in a number of classrooms and Sports Hall One has had an improved ventilation unit installed. As in previous years, investments in ICT continue and a number of iPads and Chromebooks were bought and issued to staff.

All of these developments across the Trust academies are a reflection of the dedication and hard work of all the teaching and support staff working together in different teams at different times of the year, while at the same time planning for and responding to the unprecedented Covid challenge to make our campuses as safe as practically possible.

## Core services

Perhaps less visible but nonetheless important, has been the close attention paid to the way in which TPT operates. This year, we have restructured the management of the Trust to provide a more effective spine, creating the Trust Executive Board, the Trust Curriculum Board and the Trust Operations Board. A great deal of work has also been invested into strengthening the governance of TPT, particularly the role and operation of the Academy Quality Councils (AQC).

This year, we established The Prospect Trust Careers Service which now delivers high quality CEIAG provision not only across the Trust but also for 4 College partner schools and work experience for a further 6 local schools.

The Trust Executive team has been restructured, resulting in clearer roles and responsibilities: Vince's changed role emerged from this Board-led review; Paul Edwards was confirmed as Chief Operating Officer. Kate Thomlinson has become the Trust Governance Advisor, responsible for aspects of policy development and oversight of all AQCs.

## TPT in 2021-22

Over the next few months, we will continue to improve the overall Trust estate in our family of Academies. Here is a flavour of the projects either planned or already underway:

### Frimley

- renew the electrical infrastructure
- implement a rolling programme of classroom and toilet improvements
- continue roll-out of Trust policy framework

### Tomlinscote

- roof improvements
- upgrade the wifi
- refurbish the main ground floor area for specialist learner support

### SFCF

- improved ventilation systems in Sport Hall 2
- refurbishment of Ransom lecture theatre
- renew fire management systems
- new wifi and wired infrastructure to support the 'bring your own device' initiative

## Core services

- rolling out mastery training for all teaching staff
- appointment of Mastery Champions (at Tomlinscote and SFCF) to facilitate routine incorporation of this highly effective approach into all teaching and learning practice - a key target for the Trust
- complete major review of Trust wide ICT strategy
- implementation of Windows 365 for Trust operations
- review of budget processes
- explore greater use of self service for payroll and HR
- introduce electronic H&S management system
- improve telephony systems across all campuses
- improve vehicle provision (mini-bus, tractor)
- develop the commercial arm (business development) of the Trust
- refined Trust wide procurement processes
- review of location for Trust offices

I will continue to update all Trust staff on the progress of these and other initiatives during the course of the coming term. The Board will be reviewing Trust strategy before half-term, the outcome of which will provide the basis of discussion with all senior leadership teams and my next report to you.

For those of you who are taking up new positions within Trust Academies, it's great to have you on board! I'm sure that your time working within the Trust is rewarding and enjoyable. The following will help you, I hope, put the work of the Trust into a wider context:



**Vision**

**The Prospect Trust is**

a dynamic family of local academies driving academic excellence in our community



**Mission**

**Our aim is**

to provide outstanding education within a family of local academies, focusing clearly on excellent, innovative teaching, learning and pastoral care for all learners.

The Trust **core values** are these:

- **Partnership** working together we can deliver better, and more effectively, than working alone
- **Restlessness** the current state is never good enough
- **Trust** open and transparent in everything we do
- **Quality** aspire to be the best in everything we do

Meanwhile, I hope that this summary provides insight into what's happening in the Trust. May I wish you all the very best for the year ahead.

**Simon Jarvis**

Chief Executive Officer