

The Wensum Trust Newsletter

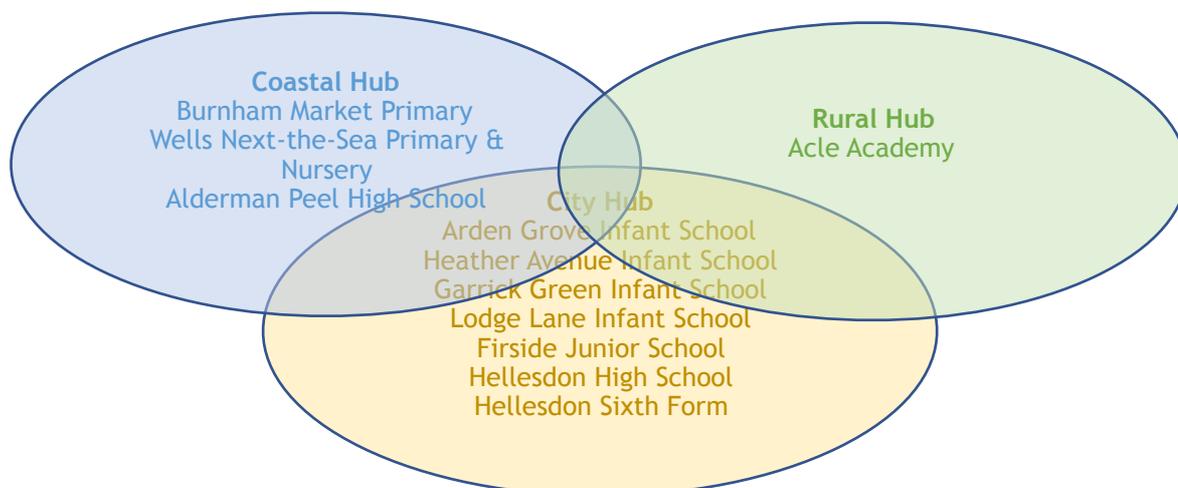
Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter of The Wensum Trust. I thought it was a suitable time to update you about the current position of the Trust in terms of academies and how they are arranged. All the academies are listed below with their date of joining:

Our Academies

Academy Name	Joining Date
Hellesdon High School inc Sixth Form	16 February 2016
Firside Junior School	1 September 2016
Acle Academy (High)	1 October 2016
Arden Grove Infant and Nursery School	1 October 2016
Garrick Green Infant School	1 October 2016
Lodge Lane Infant School	1 February 2017
Heather Avenue Infant School	1 April 2017
Burnham Market Primary School	1 July 2017
Wells-next-the-Sea Primary and Nursery School	1 September 2017
Alderman Peel High School	1 November 2017

Before I do so, I would like to celebrate the achievement this summer of the first seven academies in the Trust. In every case, they have either exceeded, matched or been close to national expectations. This is thoroughly deserved by the children, students and staff who have worked tirelessly and with great skill and enthusiasm to secure these results, which very firmly places The Wensum Trust among the best in the region. Well done to all concerned. I did not include our academies in the Coastal Hub as they joined after the tests and examinations were taken and have not yet experienced the full range of benefits

So, is this a completely random set of academies, which we have just taken because we want to have a large number of academies in our Trust? No, The Wensum Trust is committed to delivering seamless Nursery to 16/18 education. We will not take schools where we cannot offer a coherent package of excellent teaching supported by the highest standard of care and guidance at all ages. The schematic below shows how our schools are arranged to support this commitment.



Each is rich in culture and opportunities and we want the children in these Hubs to realise fully the benefits of their local area. However, we also want our children to enjoy the enrichment opportunities created by visiting academies in other Hubs. Why shouldn't a child from the Coastal Hub come and experience life in a global company sitting right in the middle of Norwich, Aviva? Why shouldn't every child from the City hub jump into a wave, explore rock pools, and eventually

became a marine engineer through the Coastal Hub? Why shouldn't children from City and Coastal Hubs appreciate the importance of agriculture, farming, conservation and land management? The list is endless. These are the opportunities we want for all our children and what's more, it is happening now and we mean to ensure that it happens for every child.

The Learning Environment

Being an academy and part of the Trust allows access to funding that improves the buildings and environment of the academies. It enables the academies to access Condition Improvement Fund and the Trust to access School Condition Allocation funding. This means that we can firstly keep the building safe and create a learning environment where children, students and staff are proud to be and want to give of their best.

Collaboration

Primary and secondary academies in the Trust are able to work together both within the same phase and across the phases thereby sharing good practice and ensuring the transition for children between academies is caring, compassionate and efficient, but at the same time ensuring no wasted time or resources in teaching and learning. In the future, we also envisage students visiting each other's academies to experience different teaching, local environments and cultures

Central Services

The Trust provides all the academies a comprehensive suite of central services. Including, Finance, Human Resources, Estate Management including Health and Safety, ICT and School Lettings. This enables the Head Teachers to focus on the core business of teaching and learning ensuring that every child within the Trust experiences nothing less than good teaching and frequently outstanding lessons. Through the central services significant economies of scale are realised ensuring that much funding goes to where it is needed most, the classroom.

Support and Challenge

The Trust is able to monitor far more closely the performance of all the academies due to the scale of the Trust and the expertise within it. This was never possible before due to the Local Authority having limited resources and having to concentrate on schools that were in difficulties. All the schools receive a fortnightly monitoring visit from either the Executive Headteacher or Chief Executive Officer (CEO) where current data on academic performance, the quality of teaching, learning and assessment, behaviour and attendance and the well-being of the students and the staff are checked and any necessary actions/interventions put in place.

Onwards and Upwards...

I hope this bulletin gives you some clarity on how The Wensum Trust is already supporting and working with your academy and your children. We are privileged to be able to make a difference and improve the quality of education in all the academies in the Trust and look forward to meeting you during this academic year. There is also a Parents/Carers Forum, which will meet for the second time after half term. If you would be interested in joining this group, please contact the Headteacher of your child's academy.

The Trust is still relatively young, but has achieved a lot in a small space of time. We have ambitious plans for the future and will keep you updated in regular Newsletters when we will also talk more about the Trust's Vision, Aims and Objectives.

With all good wishes for the coming year



Gerard Batty
CEO, The Wensum Trust