September 2019

Dear Parents & Carers,

The new school year is now well and truly underway and we have many exciting activities with a performance at the McMillan Theatre and a residential visit to the Charterhouse Centre just to name two!

During the holiday the long-awaited conversion to academy status of Spaxton C of E Primary School finally took place and we can now celebrate being truly part of the Quantock Education Trust, an equal member of the ‘Trust family’. We are all hugely excited to be able to generate and implement further existing ideas, for ensuring that our primary to secondary collaboration provides our children and young people with extended opportunities for learning, enrichment and personal development, and of course access to a minibus! It is also a great opportunity for our collective staff to learn from each other, sharing strategies for teaching and learning as well as for building character including attributes such as resilience and confidence.

There is a fortnightly meeting of all the Heads of School/Headteachers to discuss the progress of all the pupils and to plan together for how we can support each other across our schools, as well as developing our leadership skills and potential for developing confident and resilient learners.

Governance across the Trust has changed. We now have one overarching Board of Trustees overseeing the performance and operations in all of the schools and acting in the best interests of every child in the Trust, regardless of the school. Each school does however retain a committee of Local Governors, who are the link between the School and the Trust, engaging with yourselves as parents and holding the Head of School to account for the performance of the pupils.

One of the first tasks for the Trust is to appoint a permanent Head of School for Spaxton with a starting date of January 2020. We are working with our Governors to ensure a thorough and robust interview process, so that all of us can feel reassured that the future of our school is in safe hands regarding the culture, ethos and achievements of the children. It is important that all the wonderful features and caring Church ethos of the school is protected and continues to be celebrated. This is a key aim of The Quantock Education Trust. The school is currently being led by Mr Luke Kelly who is doing a splendid job and we wish him well through the interview process.

The Trust is organising its first conference for all its whole staff and governors to come together to celebrate being part of the Trust and to learn together about how we all, as role models, play such an important part in shaping the lives of our children and young people.

This is a very exciting time for our school. We continue to value your contribution to the life of our schools and look forward to seeing you at school functions during this year and to hearing your views on how the school year is progressing.

Yours sincerely



**Mrs K Canham**

CEO/Executive Headteacher

**Suzanne Traynor & Andrew Watson**

Co-Chairs of Governors