



Dear Parents and Carers

As you know, your school is part of a multi-academy trust. Whilst of course your first interest will be in the school that your child attends, we know that many of you are also interested in what it means for your school to be part of the bigger organisation and since this is the first year in which we have operated under our new name of The Scholars' Education Trust, this seemed a good opportunity to share with you the vision, values and activities of our trust.

What are we all about?

The Scholars' Education Trust, known as SET, currently consists of Sir John Lawes School in Harpenden, Samuel Ryder Academy in St Albans, Robert Barclay Academy in Hoddesdon and Harpenden Academy. In total the Trust is responsible for educating just over 3,000 young people between the ages of 4 and 19. SET, previously known as the Sir John Lawes Academies Trust, is a community of ambitious, forward thinking schools who work together to offer the students in their care a transformational education, underpinned by traditional values, to prepare them for whatever the future may hold.

SET creates a culture that enables schools to focus on offering an innovative learning experience for students, both within their school and beyond, and challenging and inspiring career development for all staff, within a climate of collective responsibility. The Scholars' Education Trust sees inspirational leadership as the keystone of its stability and success, offering an environment of integrity in practice, measured growth and a supportive core of operational expertise, guidance and resources.

The Scholars' Education Trust Values

The values of the Scholars' Education Trust (SET) are summed up in the acronym ACE: Achievement, Care and Excellence. ACE underpins everything that schools within the Trust do and provides a secure basis for all the Trust strives to accomplish.

- **Achievement** in academic, artistic, cultural and other forms with a focus on teaching and learning
- **Care** for students, staff and others beyond the Academy community
- **Excellent** standards, manners, honesty, personal integrity and uniform

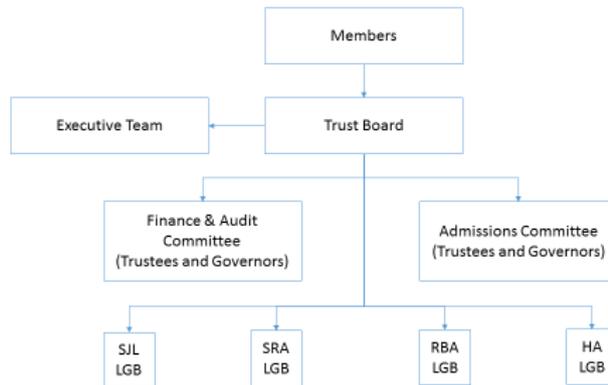
Our Aims & Objectives

The aims of the Scholars' Education Trust are to:

- Work in genuine partnership to strengthen schools and their communities
- Foster a culture of positive challenge and continual school improvement
- Provide a common sense of purpose with a focus on outstanding teaching and learning
- Offer an excellent educational experience so that every student fulfils their potential
- Encourage a rich, dynamic and purposeful range of learning opportunities for all students
- Develop life-enhancing values so that students leave school prepared for the ever-changing world

We want this shared mission to run through all that we do and to underpin the vision and identities of our individual schools.

Trust Structure



Education Trusts are governed by a board of Trustees (similar to the local governing body of a school, but with more legal duties and responsibilities). In addition, there are five Trust Members who guard the values of the Trust and ensure that all our work aligns with the vision. We will be launching a new central Trust website in the summer and you will be able to find details of all these individuals on the website. Each Member and Trustee has been appointed for their specific skills and expertise, many were previously governors at schools within the Trust; together they work with the Heads to ensure all students have the opportunity to realise their full potential.

Under the Trust, each school has its Local Governing Body (LGB) which challenges and supports school leaders, with the Head teacher responsible for the day to day running of their own school.

Central Services

The Trust has a central team which carries out the day to day finances and administration of our schools and manages the IT systems and HR needs of the Trust. SET also has a Central Executive Team of Claire Robins, Matt Gauthier and Hazel Wale, who monitor and evaluate the performance of schools within the Trust and provide executive management of each of our schools.

What are the benefits of being in a trust?

- The most important asset in any school is the quality of our teachers. As a trust we have a real focus on staff development, examples of this include joint INSET where faculties can plan for the delivery of new courses together; staff carrying out coursework moderation across the trust; support for new middle leaders from experienced leaders; a trust wide middle leadership development course and support for internal subject reviews. In addition, we can provide increased career development for teachers by helping them extend their experience and take advantage of leadership opportunities across the trust.
- By working together, many of the 'non-teaching' aspects of our work such as finance and administration can be managed centrally, allowing schools to focus on providing the best possible education for students. Working together also allows us to save money so we can spend more on each student.
- We have begun to provide more opportunities for our students to work together. We had a joint meeting of all our trust councils last year and they are working on developing a 'Trust Pledge' for our students, which shows what they can expect from being a SET student. This year SJL and RBA have carried out exchanges and the 6th forms from the three secondary schools all benefitted from SJL's award winning careers day in March
- A major benefit of trust working is sharing expertise across our schools. Where extra support is needed because of staff absence or inexperience, being part of a bigger organisation means that there is always support that can be called on. The four head teachers meet fortnightly and discuss where such support might be required and how it can be supplied.

The Future.....

The most important focus for the Trust must be to ensure that all our students are accessing the best possible education. All our Heads and staff are focused on constantly improving the educational opportunities of each and every student. We will continue to look for ways to improve standards at all our schools and to improve the capacity of the trust to provide support for its members. We hope to increase the links between students at our schools (we already have plans for a trust concert in the new academic year!) and we will always look for opportunities to develop the expertise of our staff.

Most of all, we want to ensure that we are producing young people of whom we can all be proud and we hope that you will support us in achieving that ambition by supporting the school which your child attends and supporting the wider work of the trust.

If you have any comments, thoughts or suggestions about what has been covered in this update then please do contact our CEO Claire Robins at Sir John Lawes School (head@sjl.herts.sch.uk)

Yours



Martin Sidders
Chair of the Scholars' Education Trust



Claire Robins
Chief Operating Officer