

**North Cornwall
Learning Trust**

Working Together for Local Children

Sir James Smith's School, Dark Lane, Camelford PL32 9UJ

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10th October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: North Cornwall Learning Trust (NCLT) – Camelford Primary, Otterham Primary, St Breward Primary, Sir James Smith's Community School and St Teath Primary School

This is an historic and exciting time for schools in the area. I am very pleased to inform you that the NCLT came into existence on 1st October; this is the biggest change to schools' organisation since the introduction of comprehensive schools in the 1960s and 1970s. All five schools closed at midnight on Sunday 30th September and re-opened one minute later as a new entities under the jurisdiction of the NCLT. I feel privileged to be chosen as its first Chief Executive Officer and look forward to working with talented colleagues across all the schools.

Although the five schools are now part of a multi-academy trust (MAT), known as the North Cornwall Learning Trust, each school will retain its name, unique identity, uniform, headteacher and have its own local governing body. They will be inspected by Ofsted separately and publish their own results. On a day-to-day basis our schools will not appear to be different. However, in the background there have been fundamental changes to strategic leadership and governance. In the near future pupils and parents will start to notice small but significant changes.

For many months prior to this the Shadow Board of Trustees worked relentlessly with governing bodies, local headteachers and Michele Bacchus, Sir Jim's Director of Finance, to turn our long held plans for partnership working into reality. I would like to publicly thank them for grasping the nettle and running with a vision about how our schools could be better. Their commitment to local control of schools has been at the heart of the process and they have been realistic in their understanding that our schools have to respond to continuing austerity and changes to the education system. We believe that by working together pupils will get a better deal and that we can retain local control of our schools and make more efficient use of constrained school funding.

The biggest change ushered in by the arrival of the NCLT is that all five schools are now overseen by a Board of Trustees. The Board has three core responsibilities: setting strategic direction; holding the Executive Team to account for the educational performance of the Trust's schools; and the financial performance of the Trust – making sure taxpayers money is spent efficiently and effectively. The Board of Trustees has decided each school will continue to have its own Local Governing Body (LGB). The LGB will work with the school's headteacher and concern itself with safeguarding, pupil progress, the curriculum and outcomes in each school. There is a need for both more Trustees and more Governors to serve on LGBs.

The trustees work with a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) – the Executive Team - to whom it delegates responsibility for its vision and strategy. The CEO will be held to account for the performance of the schools within the trust and for its financial management. In an age of continuing austerity senior leaders will have to be very skilled at managing financial resources for the benefit of all pupils and each school. The success of the trust depends on the success of all its schools.

North Cornwall Learning Trust: a company limited by guarantee, an exempt charity

Registered in England & Wales Company No. 11482891

Registered office Woodwater House, Pynes Hill, Exeter EX2 5WR

Appointment of Trustees

Currently there are 6 trustees, we would like that number to rise to 9. The trustees appointed so far are: Jonathan Holt (Chair); Lynn Davis (Vice Chair); Naomi Quinn, Rob Allingham, Ruth Krolik and Jon Lawrence (CEO) each bringing their own set of skills and experience. New trustees will be expected to bring a different set of skills and experience to the board. So if you have a legal background, have worked in contract management and procurement, HR or facilities management we would be delighted to hear from you.

To find out more about becoming a Trustee please contact Judith Knock at the address below.

Appointment of Local Governors

The role of the local governor is the bit that has changed the most. Much of the strategic and business side of running the schools will now be done by trustees. Governors will focus on those duties delegated to them. These are mainly to do with: safeguarding; curriculum (what's taught); teaching and learning; progress made by pupils; attainment reached by pupils; behaviour and so on. Local governors can concentrate on working with the headteacher and staff on the quality of the school experience for pupils, the things that make their school special.

If you are interested in becoming a local governor please contact Judith Knock at the address below. We are especially keen to recruit local governors for Camelford Primary School.

NCLT website and office

The Executive Team are working with a website designer to set up the NCLT website. This will be available after half term, hopefully! Once up and running you will be able to find out more about the NCLT, our vision for local schools and our plans. The website will also list names and details of Members, Trustees and Local Governors.

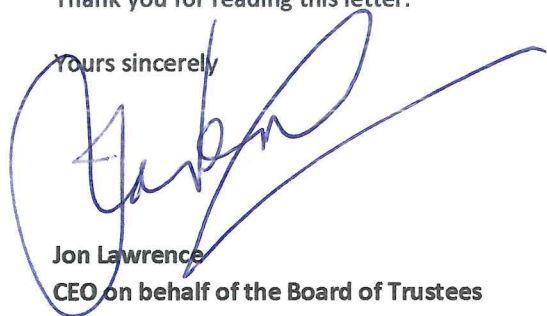
To keep central administration costs down the NCLT office will be based in Camelford Primary School. NCLT will not be renting commercial premises.

The future

The Board of Trustees has lots of ideas to improve opportunities for pupils and raise standards. We would like to have a joined up approach to literacy, numeracy, science, PE, Careers Education, IT, languages and many other areas. We will be merging many of our policies and procedures so that parents experience consistency across our primary schools and when pupils move to Sir Jim's. We will try to match up our training days which will help parents with children in two schools. Teachers are already attending joint training to learn from each other. Whatever we do, parents will be kept informed and where possible involved. In an era of unprecedented change where schools are surrounded by uncertainty, there is one thing that is certain – where schools and parents work together children do better and are more successful.

Thank you for reading this letter.

Yours sincerely

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jon Lawrence', is written over the 'Yours sincerely' text and extends across the signature line.

Jon Lawrence
CEO on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Interested in becoming a Trustee or Governor?

Please email JKnock@sirjamesmiths.cornwall.sch.uk to request details and further information.