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Welcome to the first edition of the Auriga Academy Trust Newsletter. Part of our core philosophy in the Trust is to be completely transparent and to involve people as much as possible in the way in which the Trust works.

Crucial to that is regular, clear and two-way communication. This Newsletter is just one of the ways in which we will communicate with you about what is happening in the Trust and it will also provide you with a channel to ask questions and make comments.

We will publish the Newsletter once a term, and it will be available to all staff and parents, as well as anyone visiting our website.

We hope you find it informative, and if you have any questions, comments, suggestions for improvement or areas that you would like to know more about; please send an email to hcjames@tiscali.co.uk . We promise to reply to you within 5 working days and, if we do not have the answer to your question, we will let you know when we will have it. If you want your email to be treated in confidence, then it will.

**Harry James John Kipps**

**Chair Chief Executive Officer**

**Website**

The website for the Trust is now up and running and you can access it on [www.aurigaacademytrust.org.uk](http://www.aurigaacademytrust.org.uk) . We are busy populating the site and more material will be added as we go along. For example, we are about to load up our business plan. This is a brief document that explains the values and ethos of the Trust, how it works, and what our plans are for the next 12 months, the next 3-5 years, and our ambitions beyond that. If there is any information you think would be useful to have on the site please let us know. We would like this site to be dynamic and of real value to you.

**Meetings and events**

Talking of things that are happening; we are planning to hold an event for the Trust community (i.e. parents, staff, pupils, governors) towards the end of the Summer term. The outline is for us to update you on the performance of the Trust, flesh out our plans for the next year or so, and to celebrate the achievement and diversity of our two schools in a relaxed and enjoyable format. Please look out for more details.

Our two schools are gradually working together more and more. We are holding a seminar on the 26th April for all governors, trustees and Members (see the business plan for an explanation of our structure) to review our performance and the way in which we work. We will report back to you on the outcomes.

The senior leadership teams of the two schools are meeting to see where we can share expertise and experience to the benefit of both schools. We have experienced some problems with transport, especially at Clarendon, and we have asked for an urgent meeting with the local authority to see what improvements can be made. Again, we will report back on both these meetings.

We hold our board of trustees meeting once every half term, with the venue alternating between Clarendon and Strathmore schools. If anyone would like to attend any of the meetings as an observer, please let us know.

**Clarendon consultation**

As you may know, Clarendon is planning to redevelop on two sites; the primary centre in the extended Newhouse centre building next door to Buckingham primary school in Hampton; and the secondary centre in a new building on the Richmond College site in Egerton Road Twickenham. The consultation will start on Monday 20th March and end on Friday 21st April; leaflets will be sent to all clarendon parents & carers, parents & carers of children with learning difficulties attending another school, all Clarendon staff and professionals working in schools. Results of the consultation will be published before the end of April on the Clarendon School and Auriga Trust websites.

**Free schools**

The Trust has applied to open two, new, free special schools to accommodate an extra 172 pupils in total. We expect to hear by Easter if our application has been accepted and, if it is, we will be providing much more information and will gather your views and support.