

THE AURIGA ACADEMY TRUST NEWSLETTER

We want to hear from you

The Auriga Academy Trust is now almost three years old, and we feel it is time to take stock of where we are and how we want to develop in the future. We have always said that we want to be an organisation where people are at the heart of everything we do. That hasn't changed.

We still want to provide outstanding education for young people with SEND, and we want to do it near to where they live. We also want pupils, parents and staff to play a major role in how we develop as a trust. We are looking at what our strategy will be over the next five years, and we would very much value your opinions and suggestions. We have outlined our ideas below and now we want your input.

Please forward any comments, suggestions, concerns or questions you may have to hcjames@tiscali.co.uk. When we have finalised our plans, we will cascade it to everyone and tell you how we intend to achieve it.

Our aim over the next five years;

- For every parent and carer in Richmond who has a child with special needs to be able to access very high-quality education near to where they live.
- For the Auriga Academy Trust to be the first-choice provider of that education based on our outstanding practice and having the schools within the locality.
- For the Auriga Academy Trust to be recognised as a centre of excellence for special needs education, so that people want to learn from our expertise.
- To create an organisation that encourages and nurtures talented and committed education staff in an environment that fosters creativity, innovation and a relentless thirst for improvement.
- We want to create a working environment where every individual and every idea is valued, where the well-being of staff is one of our top priorities and where fun and laughter are cherished.
- We want to use our expertise, skill and knowledge to benefit the wider SEND community by providing high quality services and sharing our success.
- To work with like-minded organisations and individuals to inspire and learn from each other in order to change and enhance the lives of the young people and families we serve.
- For all our schools and centres to be an integral part of their local community, for the buildings to become 'living hubs' to be used for the benefit of the community.

The changing face of Auriga

When we started out at Auriga we were acutely aware that one of the main reasons for a number of trusts failing was that they expanded too fast. We were determined that this wouldn't happen to us. During our first three years, we have had a number of requests from schools to join the trust. They have come from far and wide including Windsor and (strangely) Sunderland. We have resisted all these requests because we felt that our existing pupils, parents and staff would not have benefited from their inclusion.

However, that it is not to say that we have not expanded over the past three years. The number of children in Richmond with special needs has increased quite markedly, and we have tried to increase the number of spaces available to local families by expanding our existing schools. Sometimes, when you are part of a particular school, or a specific site, it quite difficult to have a picture of the whole trust; so we thought it might be useful to tell you what schools and sites we currently have, and those we plan to have;

Clarendon Primary Centre - this opened in a newly refurbished building in Hampton in June 2018 and has spaces for 50 pupils.

Clarendon Secondary Centre - this opened on a brand new site in July 2018 and is co-located with a new mainstream secondary academy, the Richmond upon Thames School, next door to Richmond College in Twickenham. This has spaces for 90 pupils.

The Gateway - Clarendon also manages The Gateway, which is a centre for 20 pupils (11-16) with autism and is co-located with Twickenham School.

Capella House - We have been successful in our application to open a new free school, Capella House. This will be for 72 pupils (4 - 19) with speech, language and communication difficulties. The secondary centre will open, on the Clarendon secondary site, in September 2019 with Lynn Majakas as Head Teacher. The primary site will be located next to St. Mary's Primary School in Amyand Road in Twickenham and is due to open in September 2020.

Strathmore - Strathmore School has also expanded over the past three years and has moved from one, rather dilapidated, building to three brand new buildings, all co-located with mainstream schools;

- Grey Court campus - for secondary pupils and opened in May 2016
- The Russell campus - for primary pupils, opened in November 2017
- St. Richard Reynolds campus - for primary and secondary pupils, opened in December 2017.

Congratulations

Both Clarendon and Strathmore schools were recently inspected by Ofsted and both schools maintained their judgements of Outstanding and Good respectively. We would like to say a huge 'well done' to everyone involved in what can be a very stressful time.

Kew Gardens

Some of the benefits of being a trust is that we can negotiate new, improved, contracts and schemes; and sometimes we can include benefits for staff. As part of one such new scheme, all staff will have free access to Kew Gardens. Staff are also be able to take a member of their family for half price and up to five children for free. This will, initially, run for a year so that we can see how successful it is; so we would encourage all staff to take advantage and enjoy this world heritage site on our doorstep.

Newsletter

We plan to publish these Newsletters twice a year and we would like to know what sort of information you would like to hear about. We would also welcome contributions from anyone who thinks they have got something they would like to share with the rest of the trust. If you do have any suggestions for future editions, please email them to Harry James at hcjames@tiscali.co.uk

We hope you have an enjoyable summer and we look forward to an exciting year ahead.