



# Nene Valley Partnership

Excellence in Education

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

## **Proposal for Growth of the Nene Valley Partnership**

We are delighted to announce that Cogenhoe Primary School and the Nene Valley Partnership are jointly proposing Cogenhoe's membership of our Multi Academy Trust. This exciting development comes as we are already working very closely together on a range of educational and infrastructure projects. We believe that this growth of the partnership will prove beneficial to all of our schools as we continue to work towards excellence in education for our local communities.

As the very first proposed expansion of the trust, since we established in 2019, for Irchester Primary, Bozeat Primary, Wollaston School and Cogenhoe Primary, this marks a significant moment. It is a great opportunity to further the already strong work of the NVP and all four schools individually. As you may remember from our original proposals, we were clear that any trust growth would only be considered with the right partner school and with the criteria that the arrangement would be mutually beneficial and match our desire for a locally based partnership of schools.

Cogenhoe Primary School clearly match these criteria and we are already enjoying the benefits of working together, with an ethos of mutual support, challenge and the experience that collaboration and community are the main drivers of school improvement. We are very much looking forward to formalising this approach through the expansion of the Nene Valley Partnership.

In terms of next steps, we have submitted our plans to the Department for Education. The Governors at Cogenhoe Primary School will run a consultation process immediately after half term for all interested parties (including staff and parents of NVP schools) to give any views on the proposal. Once these have been considered, there is then a formal legal process which we would hope to have concluded in advance of the start of the September 2022 academic year.

Exciting times ahead for the Nene Valley Partnership!

## **The Role of the Nene Valley Partnership in Regional Education Provision**

We also have positive news regarding the role of the NVP within the wider educational community. As you will be aware, in wanting to shape the future of our schools individually and collectively, we shared the mission to play a leading role in collaborating with other schools and trusts outside of our partnership and ensuring that we remain at the forefront of best practice. Since 2019, this has included a range of successes from taking lead roles with teacher training providers, providing support to other schools, working with DFE educational and business leaders,



**Registered Office:** Wollaston School, Irchester Road, Wollaston, Northants, NN29 7PH

**Tel:** 01933 663501

**Email:** [nvp-office@nenevalleypartnership.com](mailto:nvp-office@nenevalleypartnership.com)





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membership and chairing of local educational forums and strategic groups, in addition to forging strong relationships with a range of stakeholders in our local educational community. All of this has helped us navigate the challenging Covid landscape, as well as ensuring that we are as strong as possible educationally. Our aim is to ensure that our students, staff and schools benefit from membership of a trust which is outward facing and committed to shaping the very best educational provision, both locally and in terms of improving the system more widely.

As we have undertaken this work with other schools and trusts, we have developed positive relationships with other strong multi-academy trusts and will continue to work together on a range of projects. One such collaboration is with the Nene Education Trust (NET), who are a similar sized organisation to ourselves, leading both primary schools and a secondary school. There will be much that we can achieve through working together, and each trust has its own areas of expertise and experience which the other can benefit from. As part of this work, through a commissioned arrangement with the NVP, I will be providing some executive leadership support to their already good secondary school, and I am looking forward to the benefits that this will bring to Manor School, Wollaston School and across both trusts more generally.

## **Leadership Arrangements at Wollaston School**

As all members of the Wollaston School community will already be aware, we made the excellent appointment of Simon Anderson as our Senior Deputy Headteacher / Head of School in September 2020. This position was a new one for our trust and was designed to ensure that we had a proactive plan in place for potential growth and an organic approach to succession planning. Simon is continuing to do an excellent job at Wollaston and is already leading on whole school standards and all aspects of our pastoral provision. I am pleased to announce that in light of this success, and in order to ensure that I can lead the trust growth detailed above and have some presence in each of our schools, Simon will take on further responsibilities as Wollaston's Head of School.

Wollaston School will also continue to benefit from the leadership of Shazia Lydon and Kieron Beeby, our exceptional Deputy Headteachers. I will retain the role of Executive Headteacher at Wollaston School, as well as CEO of the trust and will be based at Wollaston for at least two days of each week. Although I may not be quite so "hands on" in terms of day-to-day school operations, I will retain a fairly active approach to ensuring that every member of the Wollaston School community achieves all that they are capable of in our supportive, aspirational, friendly and successful school. Congratulations to Simon, and I know that he, together with all of the staff at Wollaston School will continue to enjoy your support.



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## **New members of the Nene Valley Partnership Trust Board**

As you may be aware, we ran a successful recruitment campaign in the latter part of 2021, to further strengthen our excellent Trust Board. We are fortunate to benefit from the expertise and time given by members of our local community, and we warmly welcome the following members to the Nene Valley Partnership Trust Board.

Jenny Woodruff

Cheryl Stevens

Laura Goodrick

Craig Malloy

## **Deputy CFO of the Nene Valley Partnership**

Congratulations to Wendy Austyn, the School Business Manager at Irchester Primary School, who has been successful in her application to become our Deputy Chief Financial Officer. Wendy has a wealth of experience and will be a considerable asset to our central team.

Finally, although of course, we cannot say that the pandemic is totally behind us, I would like to recognise the exceptional efforts of all members of our school communities as we have resumed a more “normal” pattern of education now that most restrictions have been lifted. It has been inspiring to see our children, students and staff return to the full breadth of the curriculum and take so much joy and achievement from their learning.

I would also like to formally thank parents and carers for their incredible support both this term and throughout the pandemic. Our collective achievements come from working in partnership with you.

It is now liberating to return to planning for the future and I am looking forward to working with all members of our school communities in the months and years ahead.

With all best wishes,

James Birkett  
CEO Nene Valley Partnership

