



Tuesday 4 February 2020

Moving Wayland Junior to a new Trust to support our continued improvement

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to let you know about an exciting and important development for Wayland Junior Academy Watton. This will see the school leave Norfolk Academies multi-academy trust and join Corvus Education multi-academy trust.

We recognise that there has been some uncertainty arising from the school being placed in Special Measures. The move to Corvus Education gives parents, staff, and the community, clarity and certainty about the future of Wayland Junior. We are confident that this is the right move for the school, both for the long-term, as well as for building on the improvements that have already been made.

Why is Wayland Junior moving to a new academy trust?

A change of multi-academy trust has been planned for some time, with Norfolk Academies seeking new trusts for its schools that bring together 'like with like'. For Wayland Junior, this means leaving a federation of high schools and colleges and joining a primary phase trust. The outcome of our last full Ofsted inspection, and the subsequent DfE warning notice, has slightly speeded up this process. The change of trusts has the support of the Regional Schools Commissioner, who oversees the process of schools moving from one trust to another.

Who are Corvus Education?

Corvus Education is a group of three Norfolk Schools who work together to provide the best possible outcomes for all our children: Watton Westfield Infant and Nursery, Aslacton Primary, and Manor Field Infant and Nursery.

Whilst each school in the trust is individual, and has its own Headteacher, or Executive Headteacher, the schools work across the trust to share best practice and lead improvements in teaching, learning, and pupil outcomes across all the schools. [Click here](#) to read more about Corvus Education.

How will Corvus Education support improvements at Wayland Junior?

The Trust Lead from Corvus Education Trust is part of the Interim Executive Board and the trust is already working to support the senior leadership team on the key areas for improvement identified by Ofsted last July.

As a specialist primary trust, with two schools that have a Good rating from Ofsted, Corvus Education is well placed to help Wayland Junior in all areas of the Key Stage 2 curriculum.



The fact that Watton Westfield Infant and Nursery is already part of Corvus Education offers important opportunities for even closer links between the two schools. Strengthening this link will support the transition of pupils from the infant to the junior school, ultimately contributing to improved outcomes at the end of Key Stage 2.

How will this affect pupils and parents?

The most important impact of this change, and the key reason for it, is to support the school in its improvement journey.

Back in July, Ofsted recognised that “The Principal has quickly implemented much needed systems to support school improvement, but the work is still in its early stages”. Corvus Education will support the school in continuing to improve, building on the many positives that are already in place: above average attendance levels, pupils participating more actively in lessons and assemblies, and last summer’s encouraging SATs results which saw many more pupils making the expected progress in maths.

On a practical note, Wayland Junior Academy Watton will be changing its name to Watton Junior School and there will be a new school logo introduced from September.

When will the change take place?

There are several processes that the two trusts must now go through in order for the transfer to take place. Norfolk Academies and Corvus Education Trust are committed to completing the transfer as soon as possible and expect to have it concluded later this term.

We will communicate with you in the coming weeks once we know exactly when this exciting new chapter for Wayland Junior Academy will begin.

Who to contact if you have any further questions:

If you have any questions about any aspect of the planned transfer of Wayland Junior to Corvus Education, these can be directed to our Interim Executive Board, which is chaired by Neil McShane (Executive Principal, Norfolk Academies), or the Trust Lead of Corvus Education Trust, Alex Lightbown.

Please send any questions or comments to: principal@aan.norfolk.sch.uk or alightbown@corvuseducation.com

Yours sincerely,

Neil McShane
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Alex Lightbown
Trust Lead, Corvus Education