

# The Minerva Learning Trust

The Ridgeway,  
Bridport,  
DT6 3DT



18 July 2017

Dear Parents

It seems no time at all since the Minerva Learning Trust was formed but it has now been over a year! I thought you would like to see some of the things we have been up to and I have included with this letter a PDF telling you about our first year. You can also access this on the website at [www.minervalearningtrust.org.uk](http://www.minervalearningtrust.org.uk).

## SEND Funding

There has been a lot of discussion about the issue of top up funding for children with special educational needs. This funding comes from the Local Authority and unfortunately Dorset has a £5.2 million deficit on this budget. As a result:

- Tipping Point money (received by all three primary schools) has been reduced and only two of our primaries now qualify for this but at a much reduced rate.
- Top up funding (the money the Local Authority gave schools to support children with Educational and Health Care Plans) also is to reduce and the Local Authority were to consult on a new programme for this. The consultation document is now on the Dorset For You website. The schools in the Minerva Learning Trust have concerns about the proposals in this document as it could result in significant reductions in the money schools receive and therefore the support they can offer. All the schools have responded to the consultation setting out our objections and we hope that Dorset will reconsider the proposal.

This is a very challenging time for schools with regard to funding as both national and Local Government are reducing the amounts going into schools at a time when costs are increasing. All of our schools will continue to do the best we can for your children but the way we do this will be changing. If you would like further information or would like to discuss these proposals please do not hesitate to contact me.

## Annual General Meeting

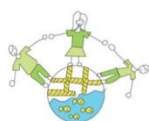
On 4 July 2017 we had a successful Annual General Meeting. The MLT Choir performed and two students from the Sir John Colfox Academy, Emily Hendry and Dan Van Zyl, spoke about what they hope they have given our primary pupils through supporting them as well as what they have gained personally. Clive Bath, Chair of the Trust Board, outlined the financial position and David Powell, Vice Chair of the Trust Board, explained how governance is developing. As Executive Principal I analysed the performance of our schools and explained what we achieved in 2016-17. There were probing questions from the floor. Minutes of the AGM will be posted on the MLT website.

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The Minerva Learning Trust (Dorset) is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with Company Number 8561222

The Registered office is at: The Minerva Learning Trust, The Ridgeway, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3DT

Tel: 01308 422291 ~ Fax: 01308 420036 ~ Email: [office@colfox.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@colfox.dorset.sch.uk)



Bridport Primary School



Burton Bradstock  
CE Primary School



St. Marys CE Primary School



Sir John Colfox Academy

## The Year Ahead

As you will see from our review of the year, we have had a very busy time this year and we are planning an equally busy year next year. Our collaborative work on Mastery in Mathematics and Language and Communication will be extended and we hope to expand this by beginning to look at other subjects as well, particularly Science teaching.

We are developing our strategy for Music and Performing Arts thanks to generous donations from the Burton Bradstock Festival of Music and Arts and Palmers Brewery. The Edge is being extended to all schools: links with the local community are being further developed as are links with other schools outside the local area.

This has been an exciting year. We look forward to 2017-18 and to developing our schools further so that we are providing the best possible education and support for the children in our care.

Yours sincerely



Kay Taylor  
Executive Principal

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