



AUROMA ACADEMIES TRUST

VISION & VALUES

Aurora Academies Trust: A company limited by guarantee:

Registered in England Company Number 08107711

Registered address: Glenleigh Park Primary Academy

Gunters Lane Bexhill-on-Sea East Sussex TN39 4ED

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Aurora Academies Trust (AAT) was established in 2012. Our aim is to provide our pupils with a love of learning in order to raise their aspirations and become responsible citizens of the world. This will prepare them for success at university, at work and in life.

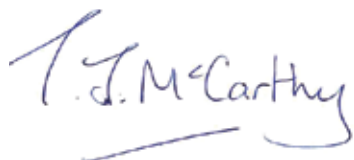
AAT's mission is to provide outstanding education for the children and families that our academies serve in their local communities. We focus on each child every day, in order to support and challenge their learning and enjoyment of education, irrespective of their academic ability.

Our vision and values are expressed by our 8 Aurora Pillars that support the development of the children, families and staff in our school communities. This booklet is designed to give a brief explanation of the Pillars and to introduce you to the outstanding leadership team running the Trust.

The booklet also identifies some of our unique strengths: AAT schools and academies form part of a global network of schools; we have a national reputation for excellence in Early Years education; we provide world class professional development of all staff through our Global Leadership Institute (GLI) and; at all levels there is outstanding collaboration between the staff in our schools.

As at October 2016, AAT operates 4 primary academies and one 'all-through' school with ages ranging from 4 to 16, with more schools looking to join us. We currently have well over 2,000 children within the Trust and our schools are based in two regional clusters: one around Crawley, in West Sussex and the other around Bexhill and Eastbourne, in East Sussex. We have longer term plans to operate a third regional hub in another part of the country, possibly in the North West.

Tim McCarthy CEO



VISION & VALUES AURORA'S PILLARS

Aurora's Pillars describe the 8 principles upon which all of our schools are based.

The most important Pillar is **Student Achievement** and all the other Pillars support this.

All our schools align themselves with our Pillars.



AURORA'S EXECUTIVE TEAM



Tim McCarthy: CEO

Responsible for: **Trust Strategic Direction, Trust Policy Development, External Partnership Development, Senior Leadership, Global Leadership Institute (GLI)**



Martha Burnige: Executive Vice President Pansophic Learning UK & AAT Company Secretary

Responsible for: **Legal & Compliance, Strategic Governance**



John Greenwood: Regional Director of Education (East Sussex)

Responsible for: **Leading the East Sussex Regional Standards Council**



Paul Reilly: Regional Director of Education (West Sussex) & AAT Executive Head

Responsible for: **Leading the West Sussex Regional Standards Council, Exec Head of The Gatwick School**



David Baron: Financial Director

Responsible for: **Financial Systems and Control, Internal & External Audit, Buildings & Premises, Insurance, Human Resources, Contracts & Procurement**



OFSTED says...

HERON PARK

'LEADERS HAVE ENSURED THAT STAFF ARE NOW CLEARLY FOCUSED ON RAISING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PUPILS IN THE SCHOOL BECAUSE EXPECTATIONS ARE COMMUNICATED EFFECTIVELY. THE VAST MAJORITY OF PARENTS AND STAFF ARE OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE ABOUT THE IMPACT THAT LEADERS HAVE MADE ON IMPROVING THE SCHOOL.'

KING OFFA

'THE HEAD OF SCHOOL GIVES CLEAR DIRECTION TO THE WORK OF THE ACADEMY AND HAS INSPIRED A STRONG TEAM SPIRIT AMONG THE STAFF. ALL GROUPS MAKE GOOD PROGRESS, INCLUDING DISABLED PUPILS, THOSE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS, THOSE FROM MINORITY ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS AND THOSE FOR WHOM ENGLISH IS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE.'

OAKWOOD

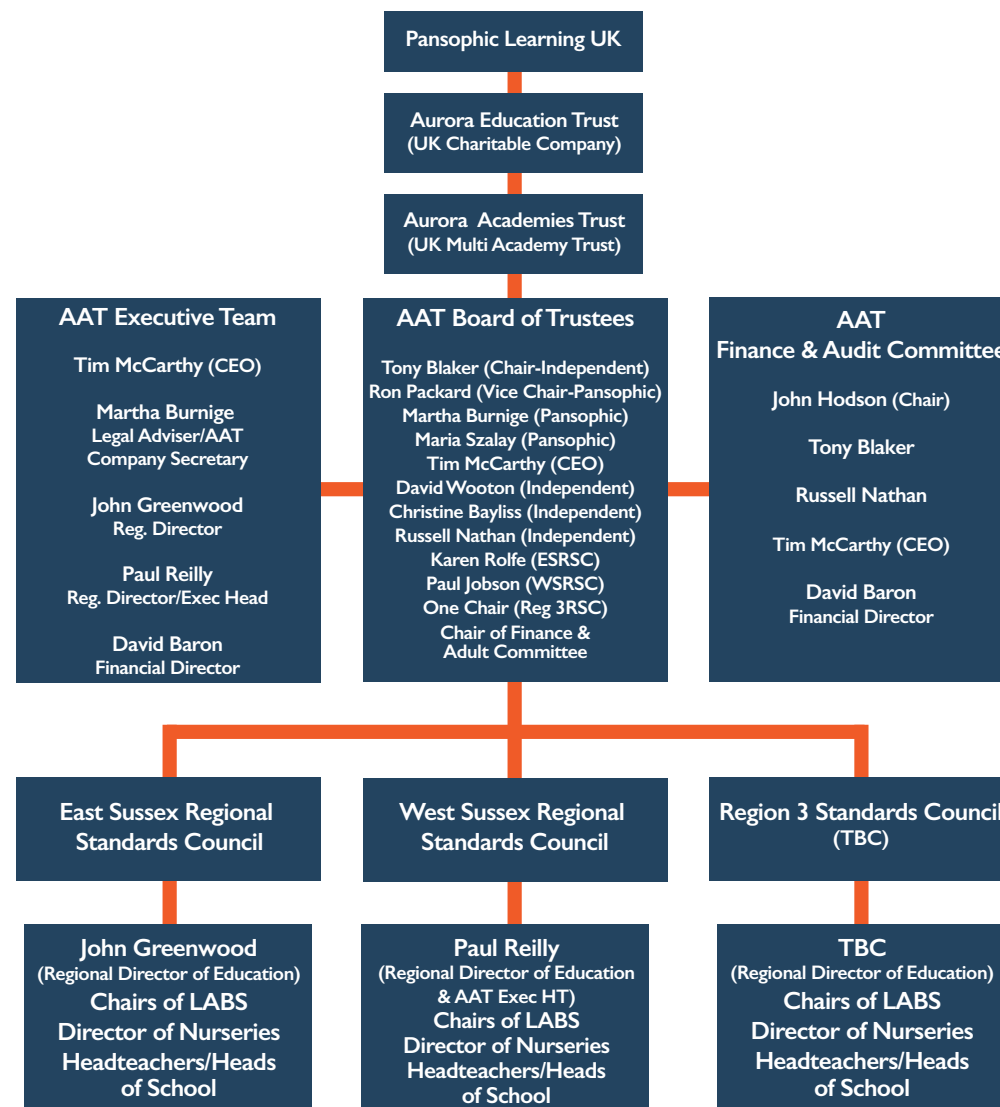
'THE HEAD TEACHER AND EXECUTIVE HEAD TEACHER PROVIDE DETERMINED AND FOCUSED LEADERSHIP. BRITISH VALUES ARE WOVEN THROUGHOUT THE EXTENDED CURRICULUM AND PUPILS ARE WELL PREPARED FOR THE NEXT STAGES OF THEIR LIVES. THE ACADEMY TRUST PROVIDES EFFECTIVE TRAINING TO LEADERS AT ALL LEVELS... WHICH HAS HELPED SENIOR LEADERS IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF TEACHING.'

GLENLEIGH PARK

'THE EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER PROVIDES INSPIRATIONAL LEADERSHIP FOR THIS RAPIDLY IMPROVING SCHOOL. THE AURORA ACADEMIES TRUST PROVIDES STRONG SUPPORT FOR ONGOING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ACADEMY. TRAINING IS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE.'

AURORA ACADEMIES TRUST

ORGANISATIONAL CHART OCTOBER 2016



Pillar 1:

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

AAT believes that all students must strive for the highest achievement possible in all areas of the curriculum and in everything that they do.

We ensure this through:

- Tracking students' progress by regular assessment
- Providing a high quality, well planned and inspiring curriculum
- Lessons that are always engaging and creative
- Concentrating on individual learners
- Raising aspirations
- Accelerating learning
- Having a high expectation of all pupils
- Providing high quality marking and feedback to students
- Providing a wide range of extra- curricular opportunities

PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL FAMILY OF SCHOOLS
Aurora Academies Trust is sponsored by Pansophic Learning UK, which is part of an international family of schools. Pansophic operates around thirty Charter Schools in the US and they also have private schools in Switzerland, UAE and Uganda. Aurora's staff and students all benefit from this global network and helping to widen horizons and sharing best international practice.

EXCELLENCE IN EARLY YEARS

AAT has a national reputation for excellence. Oakwood's Foundation Village is an accredited Excellence Hub and our Director of Nurseries, Sam Attwater is a DFE 'Champion' for Early Years Foundation Stage education. All of our nurseries are either good or outstanding and each provides a springboard to children's future success in their formal education in our schools.

Sam Attwater and Jane Foyle (Head, Oakwood) talk to Sam Gyimah (MP for East Surrey, childcare minister) and Caroline Ansell (MP for Eastbourne) about the work.



Pillar 2:

EXTENDED LEARNING TIME

AAT believes that extending learning beyond the school day leads to a positive impact upon student achievement.

We achieve this through:

- Individually tailored homework and the provision of homework clubs
- A variety of after school activities/clubs e.g. Football, Pottery Reading, SATs, Jump and Climb, Cookery, Drama, Film, Chess etc.
- Encouraging active participation in STEM activities (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths)
- Engaging in competitions (Technology Challenges etc.)

At The Gatwick School we have an extended day for Key Stages 3 and 4 (08.30—16.30). The additional hour per day means that students receive an extra academic year of school-based education throughout their secondary career.





Pillar 3: SAFE ENVIRONMENT

AAT aims to provide a well-equipped, vibrant environment that is secure and gives our students a safe atmosphere in which they can reach their potential. This is achieved through having:

- A mantra in which children always come first in everything that we do
- Secure perimeters to our properties
- Door entry systems
- CCTV & Surveillance systems
- Safe playground areas
- All staff DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) and List 100 checked to an 'Enhanced' level
- Well qualified and highly efficient site managers and staff teams
- All staff trained regularly in Safeguarding procedures
- At least one Designated Safeguarding officer in each school/academy
- All visitors 'signed in and out' and accompanied if necessary
- Good relations with outside agencies that support child welfare
- Working with pupils on the 'School Council'





Pillar 4:

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AAT believes that providing world class professional development is paramount for building capacity and increasing the skills of our workforce, which in turn will drive up student achievement. It is provided at all levels in the Trust through:

- Our Global Leadership Institute (GLI) – an annual programme of 6 days of leadership professional development for our middle and senior leaders
- Senior leadership teams being trained together
- Middle leader training and conferences
- 90 hours of annual professional development for teachers
- Governors on our Local Academy Boards (LABs) receiving bespoke training
- Networks of teachers and teaching assistants working across schools in the Trust to moderate and agree standards
- Training provided by local and National experts
- A mixture of whole Trust training days (all staff), residential conferences and twilight sessions in specific schools/academies
- Staff undertaking action research projects that impact upon pupil outcomes

Pillar 5

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

AAT believes that community support is an essential pillar to promote our academies and to instil aspiration for our children, parents and their families. Our academies are there to support their local communities and to encourage educational involvement for the benefit of the local area through:

- Paragon events every term
- Participation in School Fairs
- Carol Services and Christmas events
- Attendance at local events e.g. Carnival participation
- Open events for the community to attend
- Participation in local radio productions
- The hire of academy facilities to local community groups
- Mentoring of students by local business people
- Community Reps on LABs



Pillar 6

INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY

Technology is an essential part of modern life and therefore AAT believes that our students should have experience of different technologies being integrated into their learning. This will give them experience of technologies that support learning and help foster an interest and love of learning through:

- A variety of technological hardware – desk top computers, hand-held devices etc.
- Interactive whiteboards
- Interactive Clever-Touch TVs
- Various recording technologies
- Beebots, cameras, voice recorders etc.
- Business-standard software packages



Pillar 7

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

AAT believes that parental involvement is essential for children to reach their educational potential. Students spend 55% of their year in school but the remaining 45% at home; therefore the influence of home on a child's attitude to learning is enormous. We believe a partnership with parents, the academy and the child is essential for good educational development to take place. Parents are invited to:

- Attend Paragon events each term
- Attend parent consultations 3 times per year
- Attend special events, plays, sports events etc.
- Offer support and help through various ways – listening to children read, helping with trips/events
- Join the 'Friends Association' or 'PTA' to help raise funds
- Interact with the school through their Facebook page

Our academies will contact parents if there are concerns regarding their child in order to resolve situations early and this will often result in a meeting with staff.



Pillar 8

PARAGON

Paragon is a Humanities based approach to learning that inspires and engages children in their education. It is based on 6 units being studied by the whole school at the same time. Paragon is based on global studies that give the children a tremendous knowledge and understanding of ancient and modern civilisations through:

- 6 units of study beginning in 40,000BC ending in the 21st Century
- Each unit being studied for about one hour per day
- Integrating subject areas of Geography, History, Religious Studies, Science, Art and Technology
- Enhancing children's social, moral, spiritual and cultural development
- Practical, hands-on learning
- A cyclical study of time periods focussing on different areas each year, in greater depth, as the children get older
- A Paragon celebration event for parents at the end of each unit
- An annual Paragon Spectacular Evening held at the Winter Gardens in Eastbourne

propelled by



'The curriculum is exciting and has been adapted well to suit the needs of pupils.' *Ofsted at Heron Park Primary Academy, May 2016*

