

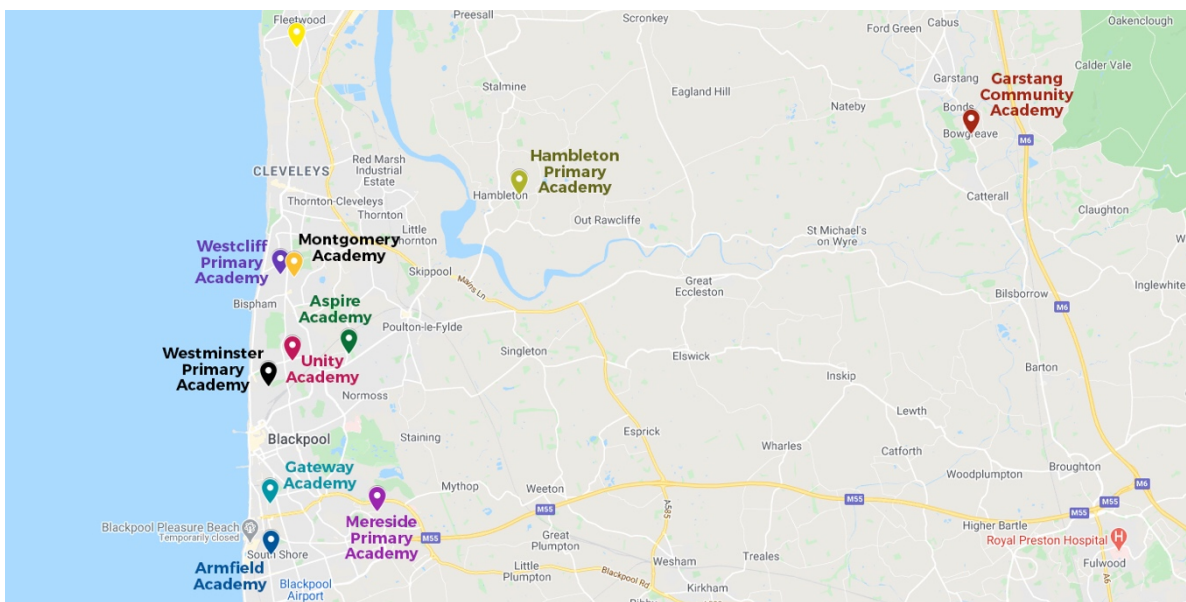
15th December 2020

## Report to all FCAT parents from Sean Bullen (IDOE) at the end of the calendar year 2020

Dear Parent /Carer,

This is the first end of year report we have written to all our parents. Firstly let me introduce myself, my name is Sean Bullen, Interim Director of Education for Fylde Coast Academy Trust. I have worked for FCAT for 5 years and was previously chair of Lancashire Secondary Headteachers when I was Headteacher at Millfield Science and Performing Arts College.

I am sure you are all aware that your child's school is part of a Multi Academy Trust, FCAT. We are responsible for ten schools. I will list them in alphabetical order dependent on the phases. Going up through the age groups, we have 5 Primary schools which are : Gateway, Hambleton, Mereside, Westcliff and Westminster. We then have 2 all through schools,(there are only 109 in the country), which have children from aged 4 to 16 : these are Armfield and Unity. Finally, we have three Secondary schools which are: Aspire, Garstang and Montgomery. Our schools are located in Blackpool and further into Lancashire as highlighted on the map below.



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In terms of our vision, this is summed up in this Hexagonal graphic, which explains our values, our non-negotiables, our approach to Teaching and our Curriculum design. We are not perfect, we know there are always things we can do better. However, we try to live by our values, to try to help all of our students be 'The best they can be'.



As you all know, this has been a year like no other. Normally this type of report might share OFSTED findings, but we have not had any this year due to COVID. We might also look back at results, but we have not had proper Tests in Primary, and we have had to use Centre Assessed Grades in Secondary.

We can however share our approach to COVID. As a Trust we have met both as Senior Leaders and as a group of Headteachers regularly to learn from each other about the best approaches to both Learning for the children and Health and Safety in our schools. As a Trust we have a team of people who regularly check Risk Assessments and review Government

guidance. We can assure you that at every juncture we have tried to keep our schools open, whilst being as safe as possible.

Looking forward to 2021, we are all hopeful that it will be a significantly better year. I am a Liverpool Season Ticket holder, but please do not hold that against me. The words of 'You'll never walk alone'- originally from the Musical 'Carousel', are actually designed on the stage to comfort a young girl. 'At the end of the Storm, there's a golden sky and the sweet silver song of a lark'. I am hoping we are coming to the end of the COVID storm. We have over 5000 children, so sadly it is likely some of you will personally have had COVID tragedies in your lives. Our hearts go out to you, but also to everyone as we have all been so affected by this pandemic. I live in Blackpool, I know through friends the pressures that the NHS has been under. A rainbow of thank yous to them.

We also thank all our staff and all our students for their resilience, but at this time can we also thank all of you for your patience ; patience with changes to school days, patience when supporting Remote Learning and your generous support for all we do. We work in partnership with you all. We wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas. Although we may not spend it physically with all our friends and family as normal, we will all be together in spirit. Finally, from my home in sunny Bispham I wish you, your families and friends, indeed the nation a happier and healthier 2021.

*Sean M. Bullen*

FCAT Interim Director of Education