

9 November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Now that we are halfway through the first term of the new academic year, I wanted to update you about some key developments that you may start hearing more about at your child's school in the coming weeks and months.

These approaches are, we believe, a huge step forward in delivering on our promise to create ambitious and successful schools in which every child thrives. They are also a direct response to some of the conversations I had with school communities back in the Spring, shortly after I took up my post as Anthem CEO.

Education

We have begun to implement a new strategy in all Anthem schools that aims to make a difference for *every* student, in *every* lesson, *all* the time.

Many of our students, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, have low levels of literacy, limited cultural and social capital, and some face lifelong barriers to achievement due to their special educational needs.

The Every Student strategy is designed to close the attainment gaps for these students. It's about putting inclusion at the heart of the culture and values of every Anthem school. Everyone must believe that every student can achieve and surpass all expectations.

By reducing the attainment gap between advantaged and disadvantaged students, we raise attainment for all.

Governance

You may already be aware that following a consultation, we are launching a completely new kind of governance in our schools, with local governing bodies being replaced by Anthem Community Councils and the introduction of another layer of Trust quality assurance in the form of termly reviews and ongoing support and challenge.

Local governors will become Anthem Community Council members, and they will play a crucial role in ensuring your school is known, understood, and celebrated within the local community.

We recognise the value of our ACC members as independent local voices with a passion for making a difference for our school communities. ACC members will be 'Champions' leading in specific areas, working together to focus on four key areas: our community, celebration, ensuring SEND, inclusion and safeguarding are prioritised, and supporting panels across Anthem.

For more information on this new structure for local governance, visit the Anthem website, where there is a handy summary guide: [Anthem Schools Trust - Anthem Community Councils](#).

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Your support is essential - we would love for you to get involved in the life of the school and its standing in the community. If you are interested in becoming an ACC member, or would like an initial conversation to learn more, simply fill out this form: [ACC Expression of Interest Form](#).

These are just two of the major developments at Anthem this term. I look forward to sharing further updates with you as our plans progress.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mohsen Ojja".

Mohsen Ojja
CEO, Anthem Schools Trust