

25th April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a restful and enjoyable Easter break. As we return to our schools, I'd like to warmly welcome you to the Summer Term.

Due to the late timing of Easter, Term 5 will be a short sprint to the Whitsun break. Almost immediately, the examination season will begin. The first GCSE exams (Business Studies and German) will take place on Friday 9th May, followed by English Literature on Monday 12th May, when our Year 11 students begin their exams in earnest. Our Year 6 pupils will also begin their KS2 SATs on the same morning with English papers 1 and 2. These moments matter—and we're confident that, with your support, our children will shine.

It is with great sadness that I inform you that Treve Mitchell recently passed away after a short illness. Treve was a wonderful servant and ambassador of both Ivybridge Community College and the Trust. He served as a Governor at Ivybridge for 25 years, 20 of which he spent as Chair—leading the school to become one of the first academy converters in 2010. He continued as a member and trustee of the newly formed Trust, chairing the Finance Committee until stepping down in September 2016. Even then, he remained an active and supportive member, lending his wisdom and experience at many Board meetings until earlier this year, when he finally retired from public service. We will all have our own special memories of Treve, who will be greatly missed.

As many of you will know from the national news, government spending on public services is under significant constraint. Sadly, education is not exempt from this pressure, and schools—including ours—are working hard to safeguard the essential aspects of school life while managing increasingly tight budgets. In addition, the South West is experiencing a rapid decline in the birth rate, which is further compounding financial pressures.

Despite these challenges, we remain committed to providing the highest quality education and support to our children. However, we may need to adjust our model of operation in certain areas. We understand this may cause concern and want to assure you that we are doing everything possible to manage our resources effectively while maintaining the standard of education and care you expect from us.

On a personal note, I have informed the WeST Trust Board that I will be retiring from my role as CEO on 31st December 2025. After many fulfilling years of service, this decision was not made lightly. However, I believe this is the right time to pass the baton. It has been a deep honour to work alongside such dedicated and talented colleagues. The

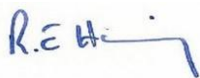
STRONGER TOGETHER... EVERY CHILD IN A GREAT SCHOOL

progress and achievements we have made together have been incredibly heartening, and I am confident that the future holds even greater successes for the children and staff of WeST.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your ongoing support and commitment. The coming months will be a time of transition, and I look forward to working with you to ensure a smooth and seamless handover.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership in your child's education.

Best wishes,



Rob Haring
Chief Executive Officer
Westcountry Schools Trust