

To: Norfolk Headteachers and Chairs of
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Dear colleagues

A Good Education for Every Norfolk Learner

As the Summer term enters its final days, I wanted to write to thank you for your steadfast determination in working towards our shared ambition for all Norfolk children and young people to benefit from education that is at least good or better. It is pleasing to know that as a result of your dedicated leadership and the strenuous efforts of children, parents, teachers and support staff some 79% of Norfolk's schools are now judged by Ofsted to be at least good. This is only a few percentage points behind the national average and represents a 20% improvement since 2013. Clearly, our collective efforts need to continue but we are making progress.

Following the publication of the Education and Adoption Bill last month, Children's Services Committee at its meeting on 7 July considered a paper on the further development of Norfolk's self-improving school system. Some of the issues raised in the paper are:

- The need for high quality and sustainable leadership of Norfolk's schools
- The necessity for governance to be sufficiently broadly based
- The possible future implications of schools being deemed to be 'coasting'
- The importance of collaboration between schools and the models available for this
- The role of Local Authority officers in encouraging and supporting collaboration.

County Councillors accepted the recommendations in the paper and you can see the paper by [clicking here](#). It should be noted that when the paper was drafted, no criteria regarding 'coasting schools' had been published and the number of Norfolk schools that could be deemed to be 'coasting' is probably under-estimated. As criteria are finalised, we will continue to revise our estimate.

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The Local Authority has strong links with Norfolk's Headteacher and Governor associations and with Tim Coulson, the Regional Schools Commissioner. Discussion with these partners was important in drafting the Committee paper. I was keen to accept Tim Coulson's suggestion that he should write to you to outline his perspective on the unfolding landscape. Please find attached [Tim's letter](#).

The Local Authority's Education Partnership Service is keen to support all schools as they consider their options. Please contact Michelle Smith, michelle.smith@norfolk.gov.uk, if you would like to discuss matters with one of our Partnership Advisers.

As always, I'm keen to discuss matters with you and I look forward to being in touch in the coming months.

I send my very best wishes for a well-deserved Summer break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gordon Boyd". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Gordon Boyd
Assistant Director, Education

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