DYNAMIC : PROVEN : EFFECTIVE

LDBS ACADEMIES TRUST, LONDON

A VIEW FROM THE CEO
CHRISTALLA JAMIL

November 2024

INTRODUCTION

London Diocesan Board of Schools Academies Trust, comprises of 10 Church of England Schools that cover six london Boroughs. We were contacted to run a Trust-Wide Governance Review

CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

My journey as a new, interim CEO was incredibly transformative and deeply rooted in strategic planning and collaboration! Establishing a Trust Strategic Development Plan with a focus on school improvement, while simultaneously evaluating central team roles, demonstrated a strong commitment to ensuring excellence for all.

Enlisting an external governance review was one of the best decisions I made, as it brought in fresh insights and accountability—key ingredients for impactful outcomes across our ten schools. The benefits of having this as a baseline from which to develop further was that it gave rise to not only achieving our goals but also strengthened accountability through improved educational outcomes, enhancing financial oversight, and ultimately, providing a platform for all schools within the trust to flourish.

When taking on an existing Trust, with existing structures and procedures in place, it is important to work with all stakeholders to gain their trust and develop a sense of belonging with compassion, sensitivity and courage. The thoughtful way stakeholder engagement was approached clearly paid off in building trust and fostering a sense of belonging within the Trust. It's clear that Sue Turner and Shaping Governance played a pivotal role in guiding this transformation, ensuring transparency and alignment throughout the review process.

I initially contacted Su after a professional friend and Chair of another Trust recommended her. After our initial meeting I knew I had picked the right professional body to conduct the review.

Su met with myself several times and then commenced the review by interviewing all our Board Directors and Chair first, then meeting with all our ten Local Academy Committees before sharing the outcomes of months of work. She was on call and available throughout the entire process and involved my Chair and me in the final stages of report editing and action planning for our future. There were no surprises; Su shared regular themes and areas of focus with us.

The end product was exactly what we needed and now, I have subsequently been appointed as the CEO of 10 successful primary schools serving across six inner London Boroughs. We have created an inspirational community of learning for all, rooted in Christian values, providing exceptional educational opportunities and experiences for those we serve.
We continue to review and evaluate and in time, will be inviting Su back to work with us again. It has been an inspirational journey and an example of how intentional leadership and collaboration can create a lasting legacy of educational excellence and continuous improvement.

I strongly recommend working with Shaping Governance.