



WHEN YOU'RE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER,
WHERE THE COMMON AIM IS EQUITY FOR
ALL, THEN YOU CAN SURVIVE AND SUCCEED,
WHATEVER HAPPENS.

The Lionheart Academies Trust (LAT) is bigger than its component parts. When disaster strikes, you quickly realise there is power and strength in something bigger than your own school, a wider educational community, during lockdown the benefits of working in a multi-academy trust were manifold. The Lionheart Academy Trust quickly rallied and provided Head Teachers with the support and resources to operate in unprecedented circumstances.

During the first lockdown, pupils at my school could immediately access a high quality, central curriculum in English, Maths and Science via the Lionheart VLE and Curriculum directors were delivering 'Live Lessons' across all the schools, before we even really knew about Live Lessons. As we moved forward and the LAT rolled out training so every teacher began delivering Live Lessons, the key issue very quickly became pupils' access to devices. The LAT provided over 430 chrome books to disadvantaged pupils at my school. As Head of an individual school, I could never have provided my pupils with so many brand new devices and to revolutionise educational engagement for my pupils.

Remember the day before the Christmas holidays, when the government announced all schools should open testing centres in the first week back? I had every intention of working out what a testing centre might look like and who might work in it at some stage in the New Year, accepting it was impossible for me to deliver a testing centre in the first week back. I didn't know how to do it! I didn't want to do it! I wanted to take my Christmas break! My testing centre was up and fully staffed on the second day back from the holiday. Thank you to the Lionheart Executive Team for my testing centre and my

holiday! I needed the break and as I write, over the last two days we have tested over 90% of all pupils in Year 11 and 10.

When disaster strikes and you are leading in unprecedented times, it can be a frightening and unnerving experience. Being part of the LAT gave me access to expertise in health, wellbeing, ICT, estates and finance to name just a few, with the ability to call on the resources and support that I needed.

When you're part of something bigger, where the common aim is equity for all, then you can survive and succeed whatever happens. We are greater than our component parts and we're all responsible for each other.

