



## **Regional Schools Commissioner formally launches Cornwall's outstanding Wave Multi Academy Trust**

17 January 2019

Wave MAT video - 8 min version :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DI4aCuzm520>

Wave MAT video - 100 seconds (social Media) :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iqoRzlu1PMs>

Interview with Lisa Mannall Regional Schools Commissioner South West : <https://youtu.be/WYgBFq38gvc>

Lisa Mannall, the Regional Schools Commissioner for the South West, formally launched Cornwall's Wave Multi Academy Trust (MAT) at a special celebration event held at the China Fleet Country Club in Saltash today.

Wave, which changed its name from Acorn Academy Cornwall in July 2018, is recognised by Ofsted as the most successful Alternative Provision MAT in England for providing education for pupils who have been excluded from school. It runs six AP academies in Cornwall, together with the Community and Hospital Education Service (CHES) which provides education for students who are not in school for medical reasons.

Last Summer the Department for Education announced that it was transferring three Devon academies: Central Devon Academy, North Devon Academy and South and West Devon Academy, previously run by Schools Company Trust, to Wave following critical Ofsted reports. The MAT officially took over running of the academies on 1st November 2018.

This aim of today's event, which brought together all staff from each of the 10 AP academies in Cornwall and Devon for the first time, was to celebrate the change of name and formally welcome the three Devon academies into the Wave family.

**"This is a very exciting day"** said Lisa Mannall. **"Wave was chosen as the new provider for the three Devon schools as you have the**

**track record and the ability to empower schools to do what they do best - supporting vulnerable young people through education. I know you will continue to offer the highest level of education to pupils in all Wave academies.**

**"You are setting the bar very high for everyone and I know you have a bright future ahead".**

Alternative Provision Academies provide education for mainstream pupils who have been permanently excluded from school or are at risk of exclusion. They have to meet the same Ofsted criteria as mainstream schools with regard to attendance, behaviour, attainment and pupil progress.

Wave CEO Rob Gasson said **"Every single member of the Wave MAT team works very hard to ensure that we are providing the highest quality education for all our pupils. Our aim is to support pupils who are disengaged from education so they can integrate back into mainstream or special needs schools, the world of work or into further education. This means equipping children with the skills they need for both education and for life.**

**"We are very proud of what we have achieved in Cornwall and are working with staff, parents and young people from these three schools in Devon to achieve the same outcomes."**

One of the students supported by Wave is Ryan who came to the MAT after being formally excluded from his secondary school in Year 10. There was no single major incident which triggered his permanent exclusion. Instead he received a series of temporary exclusions following incidents of low level disruption – including a 10-day exclusion for wearing orange socks. On his return to school after this incident Ryan's attitude to a warning about his future behaviour led to him being permanently excluded for showing "extreme disrespect to a senior member of staff".

Ryan, who always felt he was different, said he found it very difficult to fit in with what he saw as a regimented and inflexible system in mainstream education and being given a place at an APA changed his life.

**"From the very first day I felt accepted for who I am and this support never wavered. Rather than try and force me to be someone else, staff at Wave took the time to find out about me as an individual and then encouraged me to work out what I wanted to do with my life".**

Now aged 17 Ryan is working as a teaching assistant at the North Cornwall and is due to begin a Primary Teaching Degree at Bath Spa University in September.

Another student, Callum, came to Wave after being permanently excluded for bringing a knife into his school. After suffering experiencing severe bullying, leading to periods of self-harming and experiencing suicidal thoughts, and desperate to fit in with the bullies, Callum stupidly followed their instruction to bring a knife into school.

Callum was initially terrified after being told he was going to an APA but now says the support he received from staff and fellow students enabled him to turn his life around by slowly building his self-confidence and helping him to manage his depression.

**“Things are now looking good for me”** he said. **“I feel staff in mainstream schools are often too quick to punish people like me rather than find out how they could help us and deal with the bullies. At Wave our teachers really care about us and help us to turn our lives around and succeed ”.**

With the support of staff at the APA Callum took his Maths and English GCSE’s early and is now looking forward to the future.

Anai was supported by the Community Hospital Education Service last year after being diagnosed with Lyme's Disease. Despite being very poorly with many visits to hospital, she did very well in her GCSEs and is now at college studying A Levels in Psychology, Biology and Law and plans to go to university to study Neuro Science. **“We feel as parents, CHES brought out the very best in Anai and without them there is no doubt that she wouldn’t have done as well as she did with her GCSE”** said Anai’s Mum. **“ We were fully supported by CHES and are eternally grateful.”**

Wave is the largest Alternative Provision MAT in the South West, with six academies - Caradon AP Academy, based in Liskeard; Carrick AP Academy, based in Truro; Nine Maidens AP Academy, based in Four Lanes; North Cornwall AP Academy, based in Bodmin; Penwith AP Academy, based in Penzance and Restormel AP Academy, based in St Austell – and the Community and Hospital Education Service (CHES). Together the seven academies educate in excess of 350 pupils.

Wave is also the most successful AP MAT in the country by Ofsted outcome, with two of its academies judged as “Outstanding” and the remaining five judged as “Good”.

In 2018, a remarkable 79% of WAVE students achieved both English and Maths Level 1 qualifications – a figure that reflects a determination to improve the life chances of young people. In the previous year 95% of Year 11 students achieved a qualification, and among younger age groups, around 90 students reintegrated into mainstream schools. Within Wave's behaviour provisions, 45% of Year 11 students achieved 5 or more GCSEs, or equivalent qualifications, compared to only 24% of pupils in similar provision nationally.

**“We recognise that each child learns differently and use a range of methods to ensure that we can tailor our approach to their individual strengths”** said Rob Gasson. **“Our proven approach has been to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which enables all children to succeed and we will be using this same approach with our three new academies.**

**“We will also be working with partners to ensure that we are supporting pupils’ emotional and mental health needs and establishing an ethos where they feel secure, are encouraged to talk, are listened to and feel safe”.**

## **Ends**

### **Notes to editors**

Wave Multi Academy Trust is also a member of the Kernow Teaching School Alliance. The Alliance includes three other partner Multi Academy Trusts – Ace Academy Trust, Newquay Education Trust and the Learning Academy Trust, and works with Leading School South West, The University of Exeter and the University of St. Mark and St. John.