



ruskinmill

clervauxgardenschool

Newsletter

March 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

Each term the senior leaders of the school, trustees and myself meet to reflect on the successes of the school and RISE and the areas to develop further. We look at the strategic direction and then identify priorities for both the School Improvement Plan and RISE Development Plan.

Part of the Improvement Plan is to ensure that the staffing structures reflected the growing school and to ensure consistency, stability and succession for the school and RISE.

I am delighted to announce, that after a successful interview with the Trustees, Rob Grice has been appointed as the Executive Principle for Clervaux. Rob has been at Clervaux for the last few months and has worked alongside the staff teams, pupils/students and RISE in bringing the teams together and in providing stability for the Trust.

I would also like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome Cath Corner Head of Adult Care (RISE) and Carol Burnham our new rhythmical massage therapist. It is an exciting time at Clervaux with growing numbers of pupils and students and the introduction of new crafts, therapies and tutors.

We are also currently recruiting for a new Assistant Headteacher and Farm Tutor. We will share updates on these new appointments as they are made.

Alongside the growing staff team, we continue to develop the landscape, embedding not only new crafts, but introducing new animals and new garden developments within our curriculum.



The new Green Woodwork area has been completed, our thanks to Chris Helliwell who has worked tirelessly to get this project finished and in use.

The farm has continued with its development plan but at a slower pace this year due to the very unusual circumstances that have affected us all. However, there have been a number of new developments; the purchase of a new hen house for the RISE site, troughs, feeders, and sheep hurdles have all added to the continued improvements being made to give the pupils and students even greater access to the animals, and to further build on

the school curriculum opportunities and RISE activities. Next term we are continuing the development by adding new fencing around the mount and workshops area and the Rise/Fold.

We are currently fund raising for a new tractor with front loader as this will give the students the opportunity to engage with tractor training when appropriate to do so.

We have also been working on a plan, with the other school farm managers within the Trust, to redesign and develop the animal areas at the school site. This will allow us to further build on the activities we offer within our land and animal-based curriculum for pupils and students. Updates from this working group will be shared with all stakeholders before the end of the academic year.

As the school and RISE continue to grow in number, our aim is to establish an experienced and constant farm team in order to offer as varied as possible farming activities to everyone's benefit, as well as the animals. With that in mind, we are just in the process of appointing an experienced farm tutor for the school.

This is very much an exciting time at Clervaux, and I am confident that the new and existing teams will continue to take Clervaux from strength to strength. Please keep an eye on our website for the latest news at Clervaux <https://www.rmt.org/clervaux-garden-school/>

Tara Gratton
Director of Schools
Ruskin Mill Trust

Each month, we would like to take the opportunity to introduce one of our Trustees. This month we introduce our Chair of Trustees, **Helen Kippax**. Helen has a diverse background in fine arts, social care and educational development including helping to establish a Steiner School in Sheffield. Helen undertook an HNC in Fine Arts as a mature student and set up and ran her own gallery in Sheffield. Helen joined Ruskin Mill Trust in 2004 and was tasked with setting up the Trust's third centre, Freeman College in Sheffield. Helen was Principal of Freeman College until 2012 when she became a Trustee of Ruskin Mill Trust and Senior Mentor. Helen has gained an MSc in Practical Skills Therapeutic Education from the University West of England and continues to support and research the method of PSTE as a Trustee for Ruskin Mill Trust. Helen provides mentorship to senior leaders across the Ruskin Mill Trust group.



Letter from Rob Grice

I am delighted and honoured to be appointed as the new Executive Principle for Clervaux and I'm very keen to continue to get to know parents, and ensure that pupils, students and service users are well supported.

Clervaux has recently been through a time of change within its leadership. I am looking forward to finding out more about the school and provisions, so that the changes we make in this new chapter are supported by the whole community.

Parents make an important contribution to their children's achievements, and I want to develop the relationship between the school, provision and parents for everyone's benefit.

I am hoping the easing of COVID restrictions will allow us to hold community events over the remainder of the academic year, including coffee mornings/drop-in sessions/meet and greets,

parent information sessions, which will provide an opportunity to meet you and discuss the building of a successful partnership. These meetings will take place at different times, which I hope will enable most families to attend.

If you prefer, you're also welcome to contact me by email or phone.

Robert Grice

Executive Principle, Clervaux