

10th February 2015

VLU/CPs/Leadershipupdate

Dear Parent/Carer

Leadership Update at The Leigh Academy

As many of you will be aware, Faye McGill has recently been appointed Principal of Brunel College. Faye maintains her post as Principal of Da Vinci College. I am delighted to report that this new arrangement is already proving to have a strong impact on standards. Faye's 'Outstanding' leadership is now being embedded across two Colleges.

The Academy Governing Board has recently reviewed this arrangement and have concluded that they wish to extend this powerful set-up across the whole Academy. As such, Julia Collins, currently Principal of Chaucer College will also take the lead of Darwin College from Module 4. Julia knows both Colleges and their students very well indeed having undertaken senior roles across Chaucer and Darwin in recent years. She is an exceptional leader and well-placed to take on this demanding role and has the full confidence of governors to secure rapid, on-going improvements.

I am delighted to report Sharon Waterman's appointment as Trust Principal within Leigh Academies Trust. This is in recognition of Sharon's growing role across the North West Kent cluster of academies. As a consequence, governors have asked Sharon to take on an overarching role across The Leigh Academy to work with other Principals to ensure high standards and expectations across all areas of the Academy's work.

All other leadership positions within the Academy remain unchanged.

I am very confident that these important enhancements place The Leigh Academy firmly on a track to becoming one of the region's most strikingly successful academies. It is already one of the most popular and successful Academy in Kent, in this year alone, we have received nearly 1,000 applications for The Leigh's 240 places in Year 7. Academic performance in 2014, as shown in the recently published government league tables, was amongst the highest of any non-selective school in Kent and is amongst the top 25% of schools nationally. As parents, you will be delighted to learn that academic scores are forecast to rise again this year at The Leigh.

Our ambition is to be a centre of excellence across all subject areas. At the same time, The Leigh is developing resilience and character in its students. We believe that a 'Leigh student' will be recognised always and forever as having attended this great Academy.

Yours faithfully



Simon Beamish
CHIEF EXECUTIVE