

14 December 2021

Dear parents/carers,

I wish to advise you about some important changes to the leadership of our Trust that will take place at the end of this month.

Our Founder Chief Executive, Jane Edgerton, has asked the Board of Trustees to support her in a transition into retirement. Therefore, Jane will leave her post as Chief Executive on 31st December. For the first few months of 2022, Jane will support our new leadership team with advice and guidance, as well as developing our existing work on school-to-school support and the future development of the Trust, until she retires fully.

Jane established Forward Education Trust in 2017 and through her dedication we have developed to where we are today. We are immensely grateful to her and send her our heartfelt thanks, as well as our warmest wishes that she enjoys health and happiness in this next important stage of her life.

The Board of Trustees believe that during this period of change, Forward Education Trust should appoint people to take over from Jane already known to our staff. Therefore, from 1st January 2022, our Director of Operations, Simon Dilkes, will step up to be Acting Chief Executive and he will be partnered by Sarah Kelly, currently Headteacher of The Bridge School, who will become Acting Deputy Chief Executive and Education Director. They will have the benefit of being able to turn to Jane Edgerton for information, advice and history in their first few months in their new roles. The Trust Board will work towards decisions on permanent appointments over the next two terms.

Both Simon and Sarah will be in touch with you in the early New Year. They will use the remaining few days of this term and early next term to start developing plans and ideas with the Headteachers and senior Trust staff, to ensure that the transition is smooth and ensure that we can get off to a good start in 2022.

Before I sign off this letter, can I please pay tribute to all pupils and you, their families for your stamina, your support and huge effort in what has been a challenging year. The Board and I also wish to thank and recognise all our staff and leaders for their incredible work and dedication in 2021. We thought 2020's lockdown had been difficult for everyone, but this year with its gradual release from lockdown followed by infections, contact "pinging", bubbles, staff and pupil illnesses and transport challenges, 2021 has presented us all with the most challenging year any of us can ever remember. We so hope that after a well-earned rest, we can start 2022 with some reasonable hope of a return to normality although we will continue to plan for the worst whilst hoping for better.

In the meantime, on behalf of the Trust Board and all of us at Forward Education Trust and within our schools, we wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas with best wishes for the year ahead. Please be safe, stay healthy and we look forward to seeing you when school returns.

Yours faithfully,



David Lane
Chair of Trustees

