

July 2021

Dear Parent

As we come to the end of what can only be described as an extraordinary school year, as Chair of Leodis Academies Trust, I wanted to write to you to thank you, the staff and the children in our schools and to share with you some significant changes in key personnel from September 2021.

Throughout the school year, there has been significant disruption to normal life. Our Academies have had to adapt to new systems and procedures. Staff and pupils/students have had to find new ways of working to accommodate blending face-to-face with online learning, often in the same lesson, before the closure of schools again moved everyone to remote learning. Examination year groups have lived with the uncertainty of what would happen, trips, visits and extra-curricular activities have been curtailed and the loss of social contact has been challenging. Throughout it all resilience and positivity has shone through as has the support of parents – thank you.

We are saying goodbye to two key members of the Leodis Team at the end of this term. Firstly, Mrs Hyams, Principal of Hill Top Primary Academy. Mrs Hyams is retiring after being at Hill Top since September 2009 as both Deputy Headteacher and latterly as the Principal. One of the founding Principals of Leodis Academies Trust, Mrs Hyams has made a significant contribution to the lives of many both at Hill Top and beyond. Her dedication to education over 25 years is exemplary and our sincere thanks go to her with best wishes for retired life.

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Lancaster, currently Deputy Principal at Hill Top Primary Academy will become the Principal in September. Trustees and Governors were impressed at Mrs Lancaster's commitment to the Academy and clear vision for it going forward. I know that pupils, staff and parents share our delight at her appointment.

We are also saying good bye to Miss Booth, Vice Principal at Westerton Primary Academy, although we will still be working with her in her new role as Deputy Director of SCITT at Exceed Academies Trust supporting Initial Teacher training across our primary academies. Miss Booth has been part of the central Leodis Team, setting up our across Trust Primary assessment model as well as supporting school improvement. Her work has been excellent and I know it has been highly valued across the Trust. We wish her good luck with her new role.

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Westerton Primary Academy



Woodkirk Academy  
&  
The Sixth Form @ Woodkirk Academy



Westerton Primary Academy has also kindly allowed their Principal, Mrs Makin to be seconded to the central team for a day each week and this will continue into next year. Mrs Makin is currently looking at Early Years Provision as we move to become a centre of excellence for this across Leodis. As strategic partners in the Leeds Teaching School Hub and a National Leader in Education, Mrs Makin will focus on areas of school improvement that we can offer beyond Leodis.

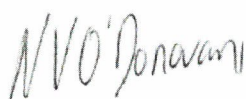
There are changes too at Woodkirk Academy. As you know, Mrs Barton has held a dual role over a number of years as Principal at Woodkirk and as CEO for Leodis Academies Trust. To support her with this, Woodkirk appointed Mr Jones as Associate Principal. The Trust Board have asked Mrs Barton to become the full time CEO from September to develop Leodis further working across the five schools.

As such, Mr Jones has been appointed to the full time role of Principal at Woodkirk. Mr Jones has been instrumental in the development of Woodkirk over a number of years and his appointment will allow the Academy to go from strength to strength. I'm sure you will join me in congratulating him on his appointment.

Governance is a key part of Leodis Academies Trust and this has also provided challenges over the past year. Despite this, each Academy has a robust and talented Governing Board that have continued to meet remotely to support Principals and senior leaders, hear the views of stakeholders and know that each Academy continues to provide a first class education. The Trust Board, as the legal entity, have also met regularly to keep oversight of all Academies and to progress our improvement agenda to benefit each Academy and the pupils and students in them. Members too have ensured that governance has been robust during this time period. I would like to thank all who give up their time voluntarily for their efforts in making governance purposeful and meaningful.

As we look to the next academic year, the announcements made this week in terms of schools and life in general I'm sure will be very welcome and each school will be in touch shortly about arrangements for the remainder of term and the return in September. Until then, on behalf of Leodis Academies Trust, thank you once again.

Yours sincerely



Mr N O' Donovan  
Chair of Trustees