

February 26<sup>th</sup> 2021

Dear All

### **Changes within the Mayflower Academy Trust**

As many of you are already aware, whilst Gary Nixon has been away from work unwell, there has been an interim management structure, as required by Trust regulations, to support the smooth day-to-day running of our schools. Gary has now decided that the time has come to say farewell to Mayflower and to move on to other things. We not only wish him well for the future but also take this opportunity to thank him publicly for his time with us over the last 6 years, bringing schools together and moving us to the well-respected academy status we now enjoy.

For the last few weeks, the Trust has been supported by Dee Freeman moving over from governance to take on the Interim CEO role and by the appointment of Mr. Jon Brown as Acting Executive Principal. Mr. Brown has significant experience in education working at school, trust and national levels. To maintain continuity during a period of transition that the resignation of a senior leader brings about, Mr. Brown will be assuming both the CEO and Executive Principal roles, until a new full-time appointment is made. Due to the time that process will take and where we are in the school year now, Mr. Brown will lead the school until the end of the next school year, August 2022. Dee Freeman will return to her role as Chair of the Governing Body and Jonathan Downes remains as the Chair of the Mayflower Trust. The Trust Board has recently secured the services of two new Trustees, Mr. Simon Argall and Mr. Ian Cruickshank and the Governing Body has been joined by Mrs. Nicky Hodgson. We are in the process of recruiting two more staff governors and thus we are in a much stronger position to support the ongoing work of both our schools.

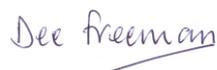
With changes in personnel and with all the disruption of Covid, we remain indebted to the leadership teams on both sites and commend them for their unstinting work during these last twelve months. So much has to happen behind the scenes to ensure school environments are fully safe to meet students' needs. Their daily workload has increased significantly during Covid, but throughout everything, the welfare of our students has remained paramount.

We look forward to welcoming all students back on site from March 8<sup>th</sup> onwards and to welcoming back our families and friends on site as and when the restrictions are lifted.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Downes  
Chair of Mayflower Trust



Dee Freeman  
Interim CEO