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GREENWOOD ACADEMIES TRUST

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21 October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I am writing to you today to introduce myself as the newly appointed Trust Director of SEND, helping to support the development of our SEND strategy and support for pupils across our Academies, including here in Medeshamstede. I joined the Trust in September, having previously been an Executive Headteacher for seven years of a split outstanding special school. I am also a Department for Education (DfE) National Leader of Education.

I also wanted to let you know that due to personal reasons, Mrs Ives has decided to leave her role as Principal at Medeshamstede Academy. Greenwood Academies Trust would like to thank Mrs Ives for her services and wish her well for the future. The recruitment process for a new Principal is now underway. In the interim period, we are delighted to say the Trust has appointed Martin Bentham as Interim Principal. Mr Bentham will join us officially after the half term break on Monday 1st November, and will be working closely with our Deputy Principals Mr Spalding and Mr Jones.

Mr Bentham's area of expertise is autism, with substantial experience of being both a Principal and Interim Principal in several independent schools for children with communication and interaction needs. Mr Bentham will be in touch with you after half term to introduce himself and to set out his plans for leading the Academy during this interim period. He will also be in touch to arrange to meet with parents in due course.

As we work to recruit a new permanent Principal, we would very much welcome parental participation in the appointment process. We are keen to invite a small group of parents to form a 'parent panel' as part of the interview process. If this is something you are interested in, then please email the school office and they will maintain a list of interested parents: admin@medeshamstedeacademy.org

Separately, we are aware of a small number of pupils' behaviour is disrupting the learning of the other pupils. This sort of behaviour will not be tolerated at Medeshamstede. As a Trust, we want to assure you we are working closely with colleagues, the families involved and relevant external authorities to support these pupils appropriately.

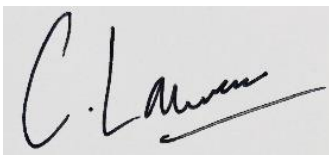
We have also had some questions from parents regarding current pupil numbers and the type and level of need of some pupils placed at the Academy. Whilst it is the local authorities of Peterborough and Cambridge which are responsible for placing pupils at the Academy, we are working with them to ensure their place-planning is appropriate for our Academy.

Because Mrs Ives' was away from the Academy due to personal reasons, and she was the designated SENDCo, some delays were caused to some children's EHCP annual reviews. We apologise if there has been any delay to your child's review – to help facilitate these, an experienced SENDCo from one of our other Peterborough Academies is working in Medeshamstede one day per week to enable these to happen as quickly as possible. We thank you for your ongoing support as we work with you to schedule all these in.

We remain committed to working in partnership with parents and carers to continue to make Medeshamstede Academy a great place to learn. We hope to be able to share an update on a new Principal with you ahead of the Christmas break. In the meantime, I am sure you will join me in welcoming Interim Principal Mr Bentham when he arrives.

I would like to wish the community of Medeshamstede Academy a great October half term.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read 'C. Lawrence'.

Mr. Clive Lawrence
Trust Director of SEND | National Leader of Education