

5 February 2018

TRUST

Dear Parent / Carer,

I wanted to write to you personally to let you know of important changes we are making to the Goodwin Academy to ensure its long-term success.

Academic standards, leadership, teaching, safeguarding and behaviour at the Goodwin Academy are improving, and the school is increasingly popular in the community. It is very well led by Simon Smith, who has done such an excellent job since joining the school in 2005 and becoming Principal in September 2016.

However, we need to address some weaknesses in financial management, and so today are publishing a consultation on staffing, which will first be a voluntary redundancy scheme. This follows discussions with staff and unions, and after a whole school review of budgets, curriculum and the deployment of staff.

The restructure will enable the school to be a financially sustainable organisation while ensuring there is no impact on the high quality of teaching that students already receive. At the same time, we are proposing to increase the number of students joining in Year 7 on a temporary basis, given the high level of interest from parents for places, which will mitigate any funding shortfall.

I have also been appointed interim Chief Executive Officer of SchoolsCompany Trust, the organisation which sponsors the Goodwin Academy, to oversee the improvements required. I am working hard with the Education and Skills Funding Agency and with the Regional Schools Commissioner, and am already putting in place the changes that will mean the Academy continues on its upward trajectory. At the same time, I would like to take this opportunity to apologise to you and your children for the previous financial failings, which are unacceptable.

I also want to reassure you that the changes we are making will swiftly resolve the issues we have identified. I have considerable experience of leading successful and well-managed schools, and will be supporting the Goodwin Academy and your children to the very best of my ability.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me – my door is always open.

Yours sincerely,



Angela Barry
Interim Chief Executive Officer
SchoolsCompany Trust

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