



28th November 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians

You will no doubt be aware I am sure, that Huish Episcopi Academy had a recent Ofsted inspection. Although the report is yet to be published, it would be fair to say that when it is published, it will highlight areas of significant improvement required at the school - particularly in leadership and the management of student behaviour and attitudes.

The Academy's Trust Board has been working with the Regional Schools' Commissioner to determine the next steps for the school on its improvement journey. As a priority, the Board liaised with a variety of Multi-Academy Trusts to seek support for Huish Episcopi. Having assessed the level of support that was on offer from various Trusts, the Board determined that the most effective support was the offer made by The Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership (MNSP). My role in this organisation is Deputy CEO overseeing school improvement.

The Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership (MNSP) is a large Multi-Academy Trust with a track record of supporting schools in difficulty. We are also relatively local. St Dunstan's in Glastonbury joined the Trust when it was in danger of closing and is now flourishing with a rising role and graded 'good' by Ofsted. Preston Academy and Buckler's Mead Academy (both in Yeovil), joined the Trust more recently and spoke very highly of the support they have received from MNSP Trust to your Academy Board.

As the Academy's future long term partnerships are yet to be decided, The Trust Board have asked me to be based at the school as a full time Executive Leader and Alun Williams, the CEO, to visit regularly, over the next few weeks in the first instance. I have also arranged for the school to receive specialist support with safeguarding and behaviour. Teachers and support staff here will also be able to access the Trust's programme of professional development training, which includes support from Leaders in SEND and curriculum subjects like English, Maths, Science, Languages and DT. Most importantly, Alun and I have reassured your Board and staff that there are many good things about Huish Episcopi, such as its Careers Offer and Sixth Form provision, and these aspects will be retained and nurtured.

It might be helpful to know a little more about Alun and myself. Alun is an Ofsted inspector and has been a Headteacher of 6 schools in the past, and is now the CEO of the MNSP Trust. I am also an experienced Headteacher and have spent the last 18 months working with many secondary Headteachers and their Leadership Teams to secure improvement in the quality of education in their schools. I have also worked in Somerset as a Head of Science, albeit 20 years ago, and remember Huish Episcopi as an excellent school, renowned for its high standards and outcomes. We both have a lot of experience of moving schools forward to bring about rapid improvement and we look forward to securing your confidence in us and the leadership of the Academy.

I would like to invite you to my Open House evening, where I can formally introduce myself and Alun to you. We will, along with the Chair of the Trust Board, share with you an overview

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of the outcomes from the Academy's recent inspection that are likely to feature in the Ofsted Report when it is published. We will also share with you the emerging plans we have for the Academy so that all issues are addressed swiftly. I will meet all pupils through a series of assemblies this week to introduce myself, so this particular event is for parents and guardians only. When I meet with pupils and staff, I will try to be very clear about my expectations and how we will raise standards. Of course, most pupils are already behaving well and sensibly, so I hope they will be relieved to hear that those who are not, will be challenged.

The Headteacher's Open House will take place on Tuesday 6th December at 6pm in the School Hall. Please click on this link to confirm your attendance: (link)

[Huish Episcopi Academy Open House Tuesday 6th December 6pm in School Hall \(google.com\)](#)

The Board will continue discussions with the Regional Schools' Commissioner regarding the positioning of Huish Episcopi in a Multi-Academy Trust and long-term partnerships for the school. Naturally, I will update you on this as soon as I can.

Yours faithfully,

Emma Yates

Executive Leader (Designate) of Huish Episcopi Academy

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