



15 December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

We are pleased to tell you that from January the school will be led on an interim basis by Nat Parnell, as we start the process of appointing a permanent Headteacher. Nat, who is a Regional Director for United Learning, is an extremely experienced school leader. We are confident that he will be able to build on the excellent work that Emma Yates has done in the school over the past few weeks.

Nat was brought up in the South West and spent the first 20 years of his career working in South West schools and academies. He still lives in the region but has been working away from home a great deal as a Regional Director for United Learning and is particularly pleased to be working back closer to home. Having visited Huish Episcopi Academy this week, he is excited about the school's potential and is really looking forward to working with us all.

In parallel, United Learning will be carrying out a process of 'due diligence' with a view to Huish Episcopi Academy joining it. United Learning is a charitable trust and sees itself as a 'national group of local schools'. It thinks that schools need to be distinctive and different from one another if they are to do an excellent job of serving their community. Because it has national scale, United Learning is able to offer strong support to each of its schools – including, for example, subject specialist support and professional development for staff.

The DfE regional team has strongly encouraged United Learning schools into our area because of the extremely high performance of its schools in the wider DfE region. In its nearest cluster to us, in Bournemouth and Poole, United Learning has 3 schools which Nat Parnell oversees, which are currently in the top 100 schools nationally for the progress children make. The trust hopes that Huish Episcopi Academy will become the first in a local cluster of United Learning schools.

Yours sincerely

Dave Elston
Chair of the Academy Board.

Huish Episcopi Academy

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