

26 May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I wanted to write to you this side of half term to keep you fully informed of the key developments at the Academy.

It has now been finalised, with legal checks and due diligence all carried out, that Huish Episcopi Academy will join United Learning (UL) on 1st June 2023.

As you are aware, since the beginning of January Nat Parnell has led the Academy as Interim Principal. The Board worked with United Learning on an improvement plan, which we have been holding Mr Parnell to account for progress against, on a monthly basis. Whilst we recognise there is still some distance to go, we believe that there is good reason to believe that the school will continue on an upwards trajectory when Mrs Katie Boyes starts as Principal in September. The positive impact of joining UL is already starting to take effect where most subjects in school have, or are in the process of, switching to the UL curriculum which will help drive positive outcomes across the school. United Learning have sent a number of specialists into the Academy to work with key staff to ensure the school improvement journey is a rapid one.

Improvements to Safeguarding, Behaviour & Attitudes have been the key focus and the improvements in this area were borne out and recognised by the findings of the Ofsted monitoring visit last month. This turnaround in a short period of time has been very positive and is a reflection of the energy that Mr Parnell and all the team at the school have put into this.

As the move into United Learning is finalised the make-up and nature of the Governing Board will change. The board will become a Local Governing Board (LGB), the School will have a Regional Director from United Learning overseeing progress and working directly with Mrs Boyes. The LGB will continue to meet with Mrs Boyes and the Regional Director monthly for a period of time to understand and question progress against the Academy Improvement Plan. These meetings will evolve in the first year to becoming 4-6 times a year. Some of the existing Governors/Trustees are moving to this new LGB to help with the transition, while some are stepping aside.

We would like to thank all the staff for their support and hard work through what has been a very challenging time and to parents and carers as well for your support during this transition. The change that has started to take place and embed itself at the school will continue for the benefit of all and ultimately the pupils at the school.

I would like to wish you a happy half term and hope you get the opportunity to enjoy some nice weather and important family time.

Yours sincerely



Dave Elston
Chair of Board of Trustees