

12<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Dear Parent / Carer,

We wanted to provide you with an update following a number of important changes at South Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust, and also following the end of the consultation on our restructure. We hope that this letter provides reassurance and underlines that positive changes are being made to stabilise the Trust and its academies.

First of all, we are very pleased to announce that as of today, the Trust's leadership team has been strengthened by the interim appointments of two senior education leaders. Angela Barry will provide some additional interim Executive Support while Lee Miller is the new Interim Chief Operating Officer. Both external appointments will work closely with and alongside Rachel Shaw, our Chief Executive Officer. Every decision they take will be with the best interests of the students at the front of their minds.

Angela will help drive strategic direction and provide additional leadership capacity from now and for the immediate future. She is a highly experienced education leader, having previously been Chief Executive of a successful multi-academy trust (Woodland Academy Trust) and having served on the Head Teacher Board of the Regional Schools Commissioner for the South East and South London.

Lee is the Deputy Chief Executive of the high-performing Thinking Schools Academy Trust and brings significant operational experience and expertise. Parents of Buckfastleigh Primary Academy will also be pleased to know we have appointed an excellent new headteacher there. Eddie Brown is a strong school leader and joins us from Exeter.

As some of you will know, Rachel is due to leave the Trust when she takes up a new role as CEO of Exeter Learning Academy Trust in September, at which point Angela will become interim CEO of our Trust. I am sure you will join us in congratulating Rachel – we would like to thank her for her work throughout her time with us, and we know she will remain as committed to the South Dartmoor community, as she has always been, until she departs.

We also wanted to inform you of the outcome of the consultation on our proposed restructure. As you know, we have been working with the Department for Education to ensure stability across the Trust going forward. It goes without saying that we value all our members of staff extremely highly and our aim was that as few as possible would be made redundant.

We are pleased there will be no compulsory redundancies among teachers. Across the Trust, five teachers have opted to take voluntary redundancy. Regrettably, a number of support staff will also be made redundant, the vast majority voluntarily. We would like to put on the record our sincere thanks to all members of staff leaving us for the dedication and professionalism they have always shown.

There are many strengths in our schools, as you know, and this process was very much about ensuring their future so that we continue to provide a good education and deliver a strong curriculum to the children and young people we are privileged to serve.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and patience through this period of change. We know that a number of you have said you would like to meet the senior leadership team and we will provide an update on a date for this shortly.

Yours sincerely,

**Rachel Shaw**  
Chief Executive Officer  
South Dartmoor Academy

**Graeme Cock**  
Chair of Directors  
South Dartmoor Academy

**Angela Barry**  
Interim Executive Support  
South Dartmoor Academy