

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Happy New Year, welcome back to school and welcome to the BDAT family.

We are writing to you with some expected and some unexpected news this week.

First of all we want to formally welcome you into BDAT. As you will be very well aware, the school had been working on a January 1<sup>st</sup> conversion and officially joined your new Academy Trust this month.

As we start our journey with BDAT we will continue to host additional parental engagement events to ensure you get a chance to meet the BDAT and school leadership teams; feedback on how your children have found the Trust transfer and discuss ideas to help shape the future of your school.

The next event is already scheduled to take place next Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

Secondly, we want to introduce you to your new Chair of Governors and say a thank you to Alison Cooper, the previous Chair. Alison had always planned to stand down as Chair at the point of transfer to BDAT alongside a number of other experienced Governors who have decided this is an opportune time to leave the Board. We hope you will join us in offering your sincere thanks to Alison and other Governor colleagues for their hard work and dedication to Bradford Girls' Grammar. In the coming months we will be looking at additional opportunities for Governor recruitment and will be coming back to talk to you further about opportunities for parents to get involved.

The new Chair of Bradford Girls' is Chris Sutcliffe. Chris has been a governor at BGGGS for a little under 2 years. He joined the BGGGS governing body when he moved back into the local area. Prior to this, Chris lived in Kirklees and was Chair of Governors for 18 years at a very large primary school. He has also been Chair for a number of years at a secondary school in Kirklees. In proof that this is a small world, Chris's sister attended BGGGS also!

Chris will be attending next week's parental engagement event so please do come along and say hello.

Lastly, and more unexpectedly, it is with some sadness we have to inform you that Mrs Clare Martin (our Principal) has been successful in securing a new role at King James's School in Knaresborough.

King James's is a school that is very close to Mrs Martin's heart as she started her leadership career there.

Whilst we are disappointed that we will not be working together going forward, we do want to say a special thank you to Mrs Martin for all of her hard work and dedication to Bradford Girls' Grammar. Mrs Martin joined the school at the start of the COVID pandemic and has led the school admirably during these unprecedented times, navigating her way through the pandemic, helping the school improve an OFSTED grade and traversing the complications of the Academy transfer. Once again, I hope you can join us in offering Mrs Martin our congratulations and good wishes for the future. We anticipate that Mrs Martin will leave Bradford Girls' Grammar at Easter.

Mrs Martin's departure does now leave us with some important decisions to make about the future leadership of the Academy and how we work as a co-joined primary and secondary Academy. Bradford Girls' Grammar already has a strong leadership team and now has access to the strong leadership and staffing team across the BDAT family. Over the coming weeks, we will be looking at the opportunities and options available following Mrs Martin's departure we will make sure you are informed of next steps.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to read this letter. If you do have questions or comments, please do pop into our parental engagement event next week or speak to a member of the school leadership team.

Although we appreciate this is a lot of change at one time, we do believe this opens up exciting opportunities for the next stages of the Bradford Girls' Grammar and Lady Royd Primary School's journey and we look forward continuing on this journey with your support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CJ Sutcliffe'.

**CJ Sutcliffe**

**Chair of Governors**

**Bradford Girls' Grammar School**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol Dewhurst'.

**Carol Dewhurst**

**Chief Executive Officer**

**Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust**