



29th June 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

I wanted to write and update you on the work that Archway is doing across the Trust. It has been a very busy few weeks as staff have worked incredibly hard to complete the Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) that have replaced the external examination system this year. I wanted to thank them publicly for all this work as the entire examination system for the country has been devolved down into schools and it has created a huge additional burden on teachers to ensure all grades are robustly and fairly assessed. This work is now complete and the sampling by examination boards is the next stage taking place in this process.

There has been a great deal of new training taking place in a number of areas from literacy to behaviour, to teaching and learning and the implementation of a new data system called Go4Schools. All of these initiatives are building on the great work already taking place in our schools, helping them to develop this work and improve upon it. The result of this should be that as this training becomes embedded and some staff take up new roles, we should see outcomes and behaviour improve and be better equipped to communicate this with you on a more regular basis. We are also putting in place plans to support with new staff induction and regular training for all.

I know that the staffing restructure work on each site has been unsettling and for those affected, upsetting. I am sad that some staff have felt the only way they can communicate their feelings has been via industrial action. That said we remain fully committed to working with all staff and are continuing to engage meaningfully with unions to avoid any such actions. I would like to reassure you that these restructures are not optional for us, as we have to ensure our schools are financially viable in order to protect and sustain the education of young people well into the future. We are also passionate about making sure that your child and all students in the future reach their potential and are well supported and cared for.

Interviews will be taking place in the next few weeks for our new Year Leaders. We are excited that these members of staff will be available to support our young people at all times without the distraction of a teaching commitment. We know from experience in our other similar schools that this enhances our offer to our children and provides them with the support and care that they will need coming out of this pandemic.

It has been a challenging time to try and communicate with parents as we still have Covid safety measures in place but I am keen to engage with you and have been attending as many Academy Advisory Boards (your local governing bodies) as I can where I have met some parents. We are really keen on growing and building these boards so if you or someone you know in the community would be interested to help, or have the ability to connect the school with individuals or organisations in the local area who could add value to bring parents and the community closer to the school please get in touch via the clerk, via: clerk@archwaytrust.co.uk. Likewise if you would like to meet with me and talk about anything to do with Long Eaton, Lees Brook or Merrill please do not hesitate to get in touch with me by contacting the school office.

I look forward to a time when there will be parental events we can hold safely in our schools and I will be able to meet you face to face. Until then I hope that you keep safe and if you do manage to get away this summer that you have a wonderful and refreshing time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Hampton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sian Hampton
CEO, Archway Learning Trust