



FINHAM PARK
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Thursday, January 7, 2021

Dear parents

I am writing to formally welcome you all to Finham Park Multi Academy Trust. We are delighted that, as of 1st January 2021, Whitley Academy converted into the Trust – it does seem a long time ago that I was lucky enough to meet some of you at a parent event at Whitley during the Spring Term of 2019-20!

Let me introduce myself to you. My name is Mark Bailie, Executive Headteacher at Finham Park Multi Academy Trust. I have previously been the Headteacher at two large secondary schools – one near Great Yarmouth in Norfolk, and the other in Coventry at Finham Park School (2009-2017). I have worked in education for 30 years; have supported the improvement and removal of three schools from Ofsted Special Measures; am a National Leader of Education (NLE); and a serving Ofsted Inspector. Outside work I enjoy time with my family, have a passion for anything automotive (especially Jaguar, Alfa Romeo and Lambretta!) and love live music. I look forward to meeting many of you over the next few years...

Finham Park Multi Academy Trust was formed in 2015 and now supports the work of four secondary schools (Finham Park, Lyng Hall, Finham Park 2, Whitley Academy) and three primary schools (Finham Primary, Pearl Hyde Primary, Lillington Primary). Our ambition is to provide a 'World Class' education for all students served by our schools. We are proud to be locally based and our schools are from the broadest contexts in the City. We value kindness, respect, teamwork, honesty, integrity and enjoyment and we aim to nurture all of these in our students while they are learning at school. All our schools enjoy 'Good' or 'Outstanding' Ofsted ratings and we will work together with everyone at Whitley to ensure rapid improvement over the next twelve months. There are some fantastic teachers and students at the school and a real sense of excitement about the future!

Talking about the future...we are keen to have a conversation with you about our shared vision for Whitley Academy – together we will see the school develop a new specialism to reflect local, national and international priorities, new subjects on the curriculum, more sporting activities, clubs and societies and ensure – including all our other schools – that there is something to excite the mind of every young person who attends the school. Whitley has a bright future with your support and involvement!

A new Local Governing Body (LGB) has been formed to support the role of local governance at the school. The Chair of Whitley Academy LGB is now David Kershaw CBE, a local man who has huge experience of educational improvement in the most challenging circumstances, and as the ex headteacher of Coundon Court School, has a long association with our City. Other governors have been co-opted by the Trust to reflect their local knowledge, and other specialities such as finance, safeguarding and inclusion, and school leadership. I am delighted to inform you that we





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will shortly be seeking new parent governors – these are elected by the body of parents. Please contact the Clerk to Finham Park MAT, Sam Jannaway on s.jannaway@finhampark.co.uk if you feel you may be interested in one of these roles.

Attached to this letter should be the latest edition of our 'MAT Parent Newsletter'. This should give you an indication of the sorts of opportunities that your son/daughter will be able to engage with over the coming months and years. If you wish to see more, there are many examples on our website, www.finhamparkmultiacademytrust.co.uk – a snappy address! The site is being redesigned and relaunched this year but feel free to have a look and find out more.

Yours Sincerely

Mark Bailie
Executive Headteacher
Finham Park Multi Academy Trust

Kathryn Wright
Headteacher
Whitley Academy

