



11th March 2020

Principal Recruitment Update

Dear Parents, Pupils, and School Community,

Firstly, apologies for the photo of me in the letter. Recently I was told by another parent that they didn't realise I was a governor and when I mentioned this to my wife, she suggested that we should all have photos on updates and the website so that you know who we are. I will ask the other Governors to update their profiles in due course, but for now, I have added my portrait to this letter. Should you wish to talk to me about the contents or anything else, you may now recognise me.

The search for a new principal for the school has proven fruitful this year. We had applications from several very different people in different positions, but there was one outstanding candidate that we could not overlook.

The candidate was part of the leadership team of a Northampton school which managed to make the step up from good to outstanding in 2014. This school continues to provide an excellent level of education and opportunities for local children helping to grow the pioneers of our future. I am, of course talking about our school, so it gives me great pleasure to welcome back Mrs Tracey Coles as our new Principal. We have set a target starting date of 1st June. Mrs Coles worked for Preston Hedge's Primary School for 11 years before moving (within the trust) to become principal at Parklands Primary School in 2018. She has massively improved the school from the inadequate Ofsted rating it had before we took it on, into a school in which the trust is extremely proud.

Mrs Coles is excited to be moving back to Preston Hedge's, and the team are looking forward to her return. I am sure most of you already know her, but for those with children in Reception or Year 1, we will arrange an opportunity for you to meet her.

I remind everyone that we are not losing Mr Paul Watson from the trust, but rather freeing him up to pursue the strategic aims of the trust and its overall performance and effectiveness. You will still see him around the school at various times. Where Mr Watson has had to wear two significant hats for the last few terms, Mrs Coles will be able to primarily focus on this school, maintaining the exceptionally high standard which we have all become accustomed. She will also retain a much smaller remit to support the trust as one of its senior leaders.



National Support School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership

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I hope you will all join me in welcoming Mrs Coles back to the school and wishing her every success in the future.

Yours Sincerely

Carl Dillow
Chair of Governors

