

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Ref: 0866



Dear school community,

I write to let you know of some positive changes agreed by the Governing Body at our December meeting.

As you know, the school converted to become a member of the Derbyshire Diocese Academy Trust (DDAT) family. In July 2019, a whole school review was carried out by DDAT to evaluate the effectiveness of the school. I am thrilled to let you know that DDAT now recognise us formally as a good school with strong leadership and management and effective teaching and learning.

DDAT's judgment and decision, together with our recent excellent SIAMS inspections, means that DDAT will no longer need to give the school the same level of support that has been required in the past: leaders and governors will now have more autonomy in the decision making of the school. As a result of this, governors met last week to discuss and decide the next steps for the school going forward.

In 2016, the governing body approached Hardwick Primary School to help support St Chad's to increase and improve its leadership capacity. St Chad's entered a 'Memorandum of Understanding' with resulted in Mr Gallimore becoming Executive Headteacher across the two schools. Initially, Mrs Walker was seconded from Hardwick to be our acting Head of School. In 2017, we appointed Ms. Leach as our substantive Head of School.

As you know, with Ms. Leach, the school has gone from strength to strength. The governing body has come to the conclusion that St Chad's, under the umbrella of and with the support of DDAT, no longer needs the same level of support from Mr Gallimore and Hardwick Primary and therefore has decided to end the formal agreement under which the two schools have been operating.

I am therefore delighted to inform you that we have decided to appoint Ms. Leach as our substantive Headteacher. Although Mr Gallimore will no longer be our Executive Headteacher, he will continue to provide oversight and support in his role as the local DDAT Hub Leader.

We are immensely grateful for the support that we have received from Hardwick Primary over the past few years and for the guidance, support and commitment that Mr Gallimore, Mrs Walker and Ms. Leach have given to our school. We look forward to continuing our close partnership with Hardwick Primary alongside other DDAT school across Derby City and Derbyshire.

Finally, may I take the opportunity to thank all staff, volunteers, parents and governors for the contribution you make to the life of our school community, and to wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas and New Year break.

With best wishes,

*Andy Ward*

Andy Ward Chair of Governors

**LOVE God LOVE Neighbour LOVE Self**

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**Executive Headteacher: Mr J Gallimore**

**Head of School: Ms. K Leach**

