

16 May 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

LEADERSHIP OF HILLSVIEW ACADEMY

I am writing to let you know that Mr Doug Elliott is leaving Hillsview Academy after over two years' service as Principal. Mr Elliott is leaving the academy to take on new challenges elsewhere. All of us at AET thank him for his commitment and dedication to the Academy, community and the Trust, and wish him well for the future.

I am also very pleased to let you know that Mrs Gemma Simon will be taking up appointment as Principal of Hillsview Academy with immediate effect. Mrs Simon's leadership was positively reported on by Ofsted inspectors at a recent inspection of her current academy, Unity City Academy: *"The principal has accelerated the pace of improvement since the previous inspection...She has developed appropriate action plans and measured progress towards goals on a regular basis...The morale of middle leaders has increased...The principal welcomes challenge and accountability"*. The Gazette also recently reported on the excellent work going on at Unity, under Mrs Simon's leadership.

I have also appointed Mr John Szynal as a Trust System Leader to support Mrs Simon in the significant work and improvement that is needed at Hillsview Academy, in order to make it a good academy of choice in the area. Mr Szynal is an extremely experienced and respected educational leader having taken one of our secondary academies in Essex from Requires Improvement to Outstanding. He is also a National Leader of Education recognised by the Department for Education.

Together with the recent appointment of Mr Robert Turner as AET Chair of Governors, I am confident we have got a strong and good team leading your child's school, who are all focused on making sure Hillsview Academy improves rapidly and that children receive the quality of education they deserve. Specific areas of focus will include:

- Improving the quality of teaching and the GCSE results that students attain by the end of Year 11;
- Improving students' behaviour and attitudes to learning;
- Ensuring that students attendance improves and exclusions come down;
- Ensuring that the academy is taking effective action and comes out of special measures within the next 12-18 months.

We appreciate that performance at Hillsview in the last few years has not been at a standard that we would expect of our academies, but I want to assure you that we are absolutely focused on providing the support that is needed to improve standards as quickly as possible. There will be an opportunity to meet Mrs Simon and Mr Turner at a parents' evening in the near future to hear about their plans, and the academy will be in touch soon with further details.

In addition, Mr Turner, AET's Chair of Governors for Middlesbrough, can be contacted via the school office/reception, should you have any queries that you do not wish to raise directly with Mrs Simon or the leadership team.

Thank you for your continuing support of Hillsview Academy as we work to raise standards and improve the quality of education that each and every child receives.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Hatchett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

David Hatchett
National Director of Secondary Schools