



Whitefield

Academy Trust

Tuesday, 2 June 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

Last August 2019, I spoke to the directors of our Academy about retiring as CEO of Whitefield Academy Trust at the end of this August after 42 years of working in education. As you can imagine, the current disruptive circumstances made both me and the board of directors question whether this was still a good idea. It all depended on our ability to find exactly the right person.

I'm delighted to say that we have found that person to lead the Academy.

Kirstie Fulthorpe will be joining us as CEO from August 24th from the National Autistic Society where she is currently a Director. Kirstie is an accomplished education leader who brings wide experience across schools and children's services, including specialist education. Prior to the NAS, Kirstie has been one of Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) for Ofsted, an Executive Leader for two Multi-academy Trusts, a senior officer for a high performing London Local Authority and successful school Principal in North London. She has worked with a global management consultant in the international education sector and also plays an influential role in the education system more widely as a Founding Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA).

As you can see, Whitefield Academy Trust will be in *very* safe hands. She and I will be working together over the next three months to ensure a smooth transition and my last day with the Trust will be September 11th.

Ordinarily, we would have an opportunity for you to meet Kirstie where she could introduce herself, but in these extraordinary times, that may have to take place at a later time, I will give you more details of that when it is arranged.

I'm sure you will join in me in welcoming Kirstie to the Academy and share my and the directors' pleasure that we have found such a capable leader for the Trust.

Elaine Colquhoun
CEO, Whitefield Academy Trust