



The William Henry Smith School

8th June 2023

Dear Families,

Summer Term Update

Before this year's Prize Giving in July when we celebrate the achievements and numerous successes of our students, I'd like to share with you exciting news and developments with the organisation of the School and the Trust. At present there are two bodies; the School which delivers services and the Trust which manages the estate and provides the environment in which all of the services operate. This arrangement has served us well historically but required review.

As you will be aware, in order to offer the best possible opportunities, the breadth of services provided by the school, and supported by the Trust, has expanded in recent years beyond that of a traditional school. Numerous material changes, such as the age range and increase in student numbers have resulted in significant growth of several areas leading to the formalisation of our residential 16+ department as our Sixth Form. Our BEST provision (Bespoke, Education, Support and Tuition) has become a UK Registered Learning Provider and will be known as The William Henry Smith Specialist College. Our Sixth Form will continue to provide placements for students from the school and the College will offer non-residential placements accepting students aged 16-25, offered on the basis of a maximum 3-year programme.

You may also be aware that we are in the process of registering our new Children's home, Boothroyd House, with Ofsted. This will allow us to provide 52-week specialist therapeutic residential care and will complement our existing 38-week residential provision and our non-residential day school offer.

These developments and the historic organisation prompted a review to ensure that moving forward our organisation structure was appropriate for a dynamic and constantly evolving organisation. The options were discussed between the Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team, and it was agreed that changes were necessary to create an organisation that is streamlined, flexible and able to accommodate the challenges of improvements in the future.

As a result and behind the scenes, since 2022 there has been significant work undertaken to implement the restructuring and I am delighted to confirm with you that from September 2023, the school will be operating fully under the charitable Trust, The Smith Foundation. This will have no direct impact upon your child or the services we offer but will allow the Trustees and Senior Leadership Team to plan for the future allowing an efficient approach for the implementation of new and improved services. This brilliant news will also allow us to meet the needs of more young people.

The new arrangement will result in a new structure, a simplified version of which is illustrated at the end of this letter and explained below.

Sue Ackroyd, will become our Chief Executive Officer/Executive Principal with strategic oversight of all services and will continue to be supported by the Trustees.

Caroline Booth will become Chief Operating Officer working closely with Sue.

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Karl Adamski will become Head of School having responsibility for Education and Curriculum.

Damien Talbot will remain Deputy Principal managing Residential Services including the new children's home. He will maintain the lead for safeguarding.

Leanne Clarke (Vice Principal), will be responsible for Further Education including the sixth form and college (formally BEST).

We also have two recent appointments to the Senior Leadership Team: Tom Gilbody and Georgina Poole who are both Vice Principals.

As explained the change is in the underlying organisation only, branding changes are under consideration and will be released in due course. The Trust will continue to have a presence as a National and International Centre of Excellence within the SEN sector, regularly presenting at conferences and universities. Our School and Sixth Form has an Ofsted judgement of 'Outstanding' in all areas. Our Psychotherapy team is leading the field in working with complex and developmental trauma in the UK. We continue to be heavily involved with national organisations such as NASS and Natspec, making a valuable contribution, including providing consultancy, specialist training and support to schools, colleges and other provisions locally, regionally and nationally.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Senior Leadership Team.

Yours sincerely

Roger Tilbrook
Chair of Trust and Governors

