

28th February 2017

Dear Families

As you may be aware, I recently took over as Chief Executive of the academy trust from David Pomfret. I am writing to let you know of some important changes taking place at King's Lynn Academy which we hope will have a positive and rapid impact on improving outcomes for all of our students.

King's Lynn Academy was the first school sponsored by the Trust in 2010 and has undergone many very positive changes in that time, most notably through the new buildings. However, as Mr Morrison wrote in his recent letter to you, we were very disappointed to receive a negative Ofsted report placing the academy into 'special measures' recently: the reason for this is that whilst improvements have been made, they have not been deemed to be quick enough.

As I shared with many parents at our recent event, the Trust is committed to KLA and to putting things right. We therefore want to put the resources we have in the right places to have the best impact for your children. We have undertaken a review of our options.

To maximise the chances of success we feel that governors and leaders must have a true focus on improving KLA and the resources to match the task. As such, we have decided that the best course of action is to split KLA from KES and dedicate ourselves to the priorities of each rather than build the connections between the two. The academies will of course still work in partnership but it will be less formal, allowing each leadership team to do what is in the best interests of the individual academy, which is particularly important for KLA now. This is also in response to the comments in the Ofsted report which state that improvements at KLA slowed when Mr Morrison was deployed to work across two academies.

I would like to reassure you that should your son or daughter have classes at KES, the courses will continue and no staff timetables at either academy will change this year.

I have held discussions with Mr Morrison and our board of directors and we have agreed together that he will step down from his role as Executive Principal and focus upon his work as Principal at KES only as of this week. This recognises both the recent improvements at KES since 2014 and Mr Morrison's work to improve KLA over time, but it also recognises that there is a need for some change at KLA given the recent inspection outcome.

Miss Backham, Vice Principal across the two academies, will be joining Mr Morrison full-time at KES. I would like to personally thank Mr Morrison for his tireless work at KLA and his dedication to improving outcomes for students. In partnership with Miss Backham, they have developed an interesting and exciting curriculum and ensured that behaviour has been good for a long period of time. Their care and concern for each and every student is there for all to see.

I am pleased to inform you that with immediate effect, Mr Alan Fletcher, the Trust's Director of Achievement, will begin work as Acting Principal at KLA, working closely with Mr Rimmer, the Head of School and the rest of the team. Mr Fletcher knows KLA well having previously worked here as Vice Principal and he has a strong track record of improving GCSE results in several schools. Mr Fletcher will be writing to families soon to introduce himself.

The Trust's Director of English, Mr Graham Frammingham, has also been working at KLA to improve English since September. I am pleased to say that we are deploying him full time as an additional Acting Assistant Principal with responsibility for English and Literacy.

We are also very fortunate to have secured the services of Louise Soden, a highly experienced senior educationalist and director at Ofsted to work part-time as our Secondary Improvement Leader. She will be working at KLA and KES but will initially spend a greater proportion of her time at KLA. She will both support and challenge the team to take the necessary steps to improve and she will report regularly on our progress, both to our board and to the Regional Schools Commissioner.

Increasing the leadership capacity at the academy is an important step in our plan and I hope you can see that our intention is to do everything possible to make rapid improvements. We will be writing again shortly to tell you more and to invite you to a further parents' event to explain our plan and how you can support it.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Ramsey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Duncan Ramsey
Chief Executive