

24th June 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

My name is Brian Crosby and from Monday 27th June I will be taking over as Executive Headteacher of Canon Lee School. I feel it is a real privilege to be able to work with the staff, students and parents of Canon Lee in shaping a bright future for all the young people in this community.

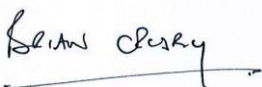
I have had experience as a Headteacher and Principal for 14 years and I have known Canon Lee since I came to the city in 1992. From September I will become the CEO of the Hope Learning Trust that is sponsoring Canon Lee. Having undertaken due diligence we have decided to delay the conversion of the school to an academy until 1st January 2017. We are still totally committed to sponsoring Canon Lee but the delay allows us more time to prepare for the transition. I am delighted that Helen Dowds will be taking over as Principal from September and Helen has already begun working with the existing leadership team preparing for her new appointment.

As you will have seen in a recent flyer that the Hope Learning Trust sent out we are considering a name change and uniform changes for the 1st of January 2017. It is our intention that any costs for uniform change will be borne by the Trust and not the parents. The changes will be minimal. We are discussing the changes on Monday evening (27th June) at 6.30 pm and we promise that we will finish by 7.30 pm so that English football fans can get back in good time for the match. Going forward we want to open conversations with our parents and students to hear their views, you do matter. We fully appreciate that changes to name or uniform are not the fundamental activities that we want to undertake as these relate to the quality of teaching and learning and ensuring outstanding behaviour throughout.

Coming in from the outside to a school designated as being in 'special measures' I have been impressed by the response of the staff, the behaviour around the site and the desire of the students to make the most of their education. I want to thank Richard Crane for all he has done and to the Governors and Frances Johnston for steering the school through a difficult time. I have worked in a number of challenging situations supporting school leadership teams and I have to say that bringing Canon Lee to good or outstanding is well within our capacity.

I am looking forward to meeting students, staff and parents in the next few weeks and assuring them of our long term commitment to the school.

Yours sincerely



Brian Crosby
Executive Headteacher