



Ark John Keats Academy

10th June 2020

Dear parents and guardians,

I am writing to you in regard to the leadership of Ark John Keats from September 2020. As you will be aware, Ms Henderson left her post as Principal at Easter and Mr Mackintosh, the Head of Secondary, will leave the school at the end of this academic year to take up a Principal's role closer to his home.

Ms Henderson and Mr Mackintosh are founding members of Ark John Keats and contributed hugely to the school's establishment and successes. We will miss them both greatly and are disappointed the new structure we put in place eighteen months ago hasn't endured for as long as we would have wished.

However, the situation has also given us an opportunity to look at the structure and to appoint a new leader with a fresh perspective. I am delighted, therefore, to inform you of the appointment of Jo Facer as the academy's new Principal. Over the last year Ms Facer has been overseeing the development of Ark Soane, a new Ark school that will open in west London in 2021. She has previously worked in Ebbsfleet, Michaela Community School and Ark Globe. We have appointed Ms Facer because she is hugely committed to Ark's vision of an excellent education for all, she is very highly qualified and she has a burning passion to ensure John Keats delivers the highest standard of education for all our pupils.

There is much to be proud of at the academy. It is one of the most popular schools in London in terms of applications, our first set of GCSE results put us in the top 3% nationally for progress and we were second only to St Anne's as the top performing school in Enfield in terms of progress. However, there is also work to do. We are determined next year to improve the school's curriculum so it engages all our pupils and enables them to make excellent academic progress. We want to make our teaching even more effective so that every pupil in every lesson is being taught well. We have work to do on behaviour to ensure the school is inclusive, calm, purposeful and orderly for every child and every adult. We also want to ensure that when pupils return from this extended absence they do so in an environment where they are supported and any issues are addressed thoughtfully and meaningfully.

Ms Facer will have ultimate responsibility for the whole school as Principal. Ms Baird will continue to lead the primary and Ms Facer will take direct control of secondary as we are not seeking a Head of Secondary. As with all new principals Ms Facer will be supported by myself and an executive principal (EP) from the North London region which I oversee. Ms Witheford will be supporting a new principal in one of the region's other schools so AJK will have a new EP from September. I will update you in due course.

I am very excited about the future of Ark John Keats. As a country we are going through a period of instability unknown in our lifetimes. It is likely education will continue to be disrupted in the months ahead but I believe the school has responded very well to this and will continue to do so. I have rarely met someone as knowledgeable and passionate about

Executive Principal: Jane Witheford
Secondary Headteacher: William Mackintosh
Primary Headteacher: Amy Baird

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education as Ms Facer so, along with Ms Baird and other senior colleagues, I believe the school is in great hands and has a very exciting future.

Ms Facer will write to you to introduce herself in the next week or so and I look forward to working with you again next year in making John Keats a great place for your children to be educated.

Yours sincerely,

Jerry Collins
Regional Director, Ark Schools

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