



AMI/SFLT

November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

At the beginning of March this year, the Beyond Schools Trust were approached by the Department for Education (DfE) and the Skills for Life Trust to ask if we would support Walderslade Girls' School (WGS), as it had been judged as 'Inadequate' following an Ofsted inspection on 22nd February 2023. Greenacre Academy was then subsequently also judged as 'Inadequate' on 17th March 2023. Consequently, the Skills for Life Trust Board asked me to become the Acting CEO and thus, began a period of intense collaboration between our two Trusts.

It is encouraging to note that the work that we have carried out behind the scenes and the support we have provided over the last 8 months, specifically to Walderslade and Greenacre, are not only making a positive impact on these schools but also on the Quality of Education across all 5 schools within the Skills for Life Trust.

We are delighted to announce that our support has also been recognised by the Department for Education's Regional Director, Dame Kate Dethridge. At the South East Regional Advisory Board meeting on Thursday 16th November 2023, it was decided that both Greenacre Academy and Walderslade Girls' School are to become part of the Beyond Schools Trust. Simultaneously, the two Trusts submitted a Merger application for the remaining three Primary schools to join Beyond Schools Trust and we are pleased to announce that has also been given approval. This transfer will take effect later this academic year.

The five schools within the Beyond Schools Trust are based within the same geographical area as the five schools in the Skills for Life Trust and share many of the same values. Combined, it will create a stronger Trust for all 10 schools and for over 7,000 students. All the schools are within an 8-mile radius, maximising collaborative benefits and joint initiatives in relation to inclusion and Trustwide quality assurance. Additionally, a greater number of students will be able to enjoy a full educational journey with over 500 students flowing from Year R to Year 13, which allows us to maximise a smooth curriculum pathway.

All the Beyond schools are currently rated by Ofsted as at least 'Good' with Fort Pitt Grammar School rated as 'Outstanding' and we look forward to continuing the journey of improvement for all students in our care.



We are delighted at this decision as the work we have started can continue at pace, and we are committed to continuing to improve and enhance the educational provisions and outcomes for all the students across the Schools.

The Beyond Schools Trust Board have already completed due diligence checks and we have been working closely at Governance and Executive level. As Acting CEO for Skills for Life, I have been developing positive relationships across our two Trusts and been implementing the systems and support required to create a smooth transition. Now that the DfE have made their decision, we are confident that the period of uncertainty is now behind us and we can work together to create a bright future. We plan to hold a consultation to hear from stakeholders so we can build your views into our Strategic Plans moving forward.

We look forward to working with you all, embedding a strong and collaborative ethos across all the schools, to become an inclusive, innovative, and empowering Trust for the benefit of the students in our care.

Yours faithfully



Mr Andrew Minchin
CEO



Mr Tom Maddison
Chair of Trustees