



Executive Headteacher: Mrs S Murcott

23rd February 2021

Dear Parent, Carer

I hope my message finds you well during this time.

I am writing to introduce myself as the new Executive Headteacher of Willenhall and West Walsall E-ACT Academy.

As Executive Headteacher of both academies, I will remain the Headteacher of West Walsall Academy and Mr Bhugvandeem will remain the Headteacher of Willenhall, and I would like to reassure you that your relationship with Mr Bhugvandeem will continue exactly as before.

My appointment forms part of our educational trust's overall vision for the area and represents E-ACT's commitment to further invest in both our academies.

What does my appointment mean for you and your child?

We are of the firm belief that every child, no matter their starting point in life, can succeed, and that the very best curricula and extracurricular opportunities should be accessible to all young people.

I will be working closely with Mr Bhugvandeem to develop the great work he and his leadership team are already doing to build a high aspiration culture across both academies so every student in this area can access the best possible opportunities.

What will I be doing in my new role?

The WWEA leadership team and I, together with our students, have worked hard to help progress our academy, which has culminated in an upturn in student results, student numbers and stability in staffing.

We know that Walsall is a very tight-knit community and Willenhall and WWEA are an important part of that. It will be my role to ensure that both academies are working closer together through better sharing of resources, ideas and expertise.

It is my belief that both sets of students can only benefit from a closer partnership. With a greater collective voice, we can attract the attention of the best teachers, universities, providers of further education and employment in the country, and together we have an opportunity to make people more aware of the undoubted talent in our area.

How will the two academies collaborate?

Every child in Walsall should have access to high-quality teaching and extracurricular opportunities. This will only be possible by building on the collaboration already taking place between the two academies.

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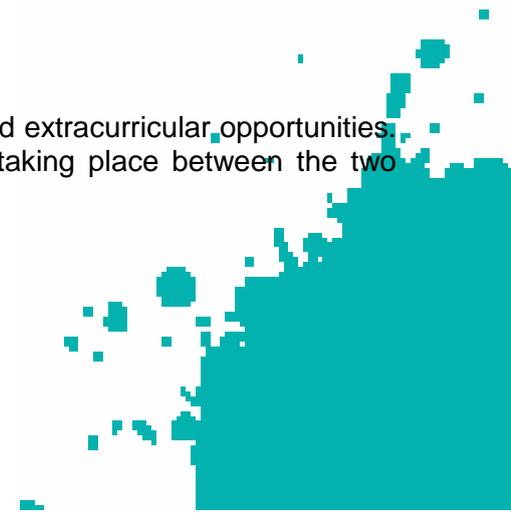
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By being part of E-ACT, our academies can collaborate and share ideas with one another in ways that other schools may not be able to. For example, we can share expertise across the two academies, use the same proven data and assessment systems and have our staff participate in high-quality training and professional development together.

Does this mean the two academies will merge?

There are no plans to merge our academies. As mentioned already, Willenhall and WWEA will continue to have their own Headteachers and Leadership Teams, and we strongly believe that each academy has its own unique identity which should be celebrated.

What is clear is that both sets of students and our wider community can only benefit from our academies working more closely together.

What are our priorities for Willenhall and WWEA?

We remain committed to further progressing our students' educational experiences and results, our Ofsted ratings and the positive relationships we have developed with the wider community, all of which we know will result in more students and families wanting to join us.

We are ambitious in our plans for Willenhall and WWEA, and I am very confident that our academies will continue to make strong progress together.

Why is my appointment being made now?

Our trust, E-ACT, is firmly committed to continuing to invest in education in Walsall. As part of our vision, my appointment forms just one part of our overall plan, which has also included significant investment in staffing, our buildings across Walsall as well as professional and leadership development opportunities for our staff.

Thank you for your continued support of our academies.

We hope you will agree that our academies can only benefit from continuing to work more closely together. It is our job to remove glass ceilings and raise aspirations by showing the young people of Walsall that anything is possible.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of our academies. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me on the number above.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Murcott
Executive Headteacher Walsall Secondary Academies

