

July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

CEO's Update 4 – Summer 2023

As we approach the end of another academic year, I wanted to provide a final update before the summer break. It has been a busy and successful term, especially over the last few weeks which have seen performances, celebration events and induction evenings across our schools. I have been delighted to have attended a number of them, although I recognise that with 8 schools now, it is impossible for me to attend them all personally! I am proud to see that so many students have been recognised for their efforts and successes and that so many have had opportunities for cultural and creative learning experiences. At the same time, pupils in particular year groups have worked hard towards national tests and public exams and I look forward to reporting their successes after the summer. This term also saw the publication of our Trust's fourth OFSTED report in the last 12 months – click [here](#) to read about the “exceptional education” that inspectors reported on at Riddlesdown Collegiate, judged outstanding in every category.

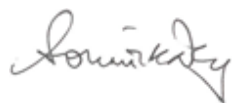
Of course, the challenges I referred to in my last update have also continued, with further teacher strikes earlier this month. Since then, the Prime Minister has confirmed a pay offer which unions look likely to accept and so it is hoped that industrial action will now cease and we can go into next academic year more positively.

As always at the end of an academic year, we will be saying goodbye to some pupils and students who have come to the end of a stage in their education, and also to some members of staff who will be leaving our team. I would like to thank all of them for their contribution to our work and wish them the very best of luck for their next steps. In particular, I would like to mention Mr David Clarke, Chief Operating Officer, who will leave us this summer after 14 years. Mr Clarke initially joined our team as the Business Manager at Riddlesdown Collegiate, moving into his current role as Chief Operating Officer in the Trust's Executive Team a few years later as our family of schools grew. In this role, he has overseen our estates, the Collegiate Trading Company, HR & legal, as well as a huge range of other operational areas. We are grateful for his huge contribution to our Trust's work and success.

The new academic year will see changes in leadership at Riddlesdown Collegiate and Kenley Primary School, where Dr Parimal Bhatt and Mrs Jacki Keogh have been appointed to the posts of Principal and interim Head of School, respectively. Mrs Katie Turner, who must be thanked for her excellent tenure as interim Principal at Riddlesdown Collegiate this academic year, will return to the Trust's Executive Team as Director of Education, as part of which she will provide executive leadership at Kenley. I shall write to you in September with details of other senior staff changes.

Our success comes, first and foremost, from strong partnerships and so I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for the continued support you give to our schools, our teams and our young people. Our mission is **collaboration to deliver exceptional education** – and, together, that is exactly what we are striving to do. I wish everyone a very relaxing summer break.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Dey
Chief Executive Officer

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