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OCTOBER 11, 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the 2016-2017 academic year, and I extend a further warm welcome to all new pupils and families. I trust that you all had a restful break and that your child returned to school ready to play a leading part in shaping yet another great year of learning experiences.

After nine years of Headship at Merrylands Primary School I am truly delighted and proud to have been offered the exciting opportunity to be the CEO for the Berlesduna Trust and I am very much looking forward to working alongside a wider range of staff and families in a highly collaborative way.

My priority as CEO for the Berlesduna Trust is principally no different to that of being the Headteacher of Merrylands and Executive Headteacher at The Willows and I will continue to ensure that all Trust schools become outstanding schools. Not only do I want to get to know the pupils, staff and school communities this term I will also be working alongside an excellent team which will include Miss Fisher as Head of School at Merrylands, Mr Freese, Head of School at The Willows, Mrs Kemp Headteacher at Whitmore and Mrs Wheatley The Trust Business Manager. This will ensure that we are able to meet the needs of all the pupils to achieve their full potential in their academic, creative, personal, physical, moral and spiritual development.

I am very much aware of the responsibility that the staff and I have in ensuring that the highest standard of teaching and learning is evident in all areas. The Berlesduna Multi Academy Trust's vision is to create and foster a culture of high aspiration, enjoyment for learning, academic success and lifelong skills amongst all pupils. With an absolute focus on this core purpose coupled with hard work and determination, this vision is achievable for all Berlesduna Trust children. This in turn will deliver what I think most parents want; happy self-motivated children who leave school with plenty of life choices available to them and who are well-equipped to play a leading role in modern society.

The Berlesduna Trust has a bright and challenging future ahead, with opportunities, that when seized, will be vast. It is my firm belief that if we continue with the core principles, focus on the things that matter most and work together great things will be achieved. Strong working partnerships are essential, in order that children find school a positive

and rewarding experience. I strongly believe achievement and enjoyment go hand in hand to ensure each child's excellent progress.

Starting this half term I will be organising The Trust Pupil Voice, which will give pupils the opportunity to share their views with us and the schools. Made up of two ambassadors from each of the schools, the Pupil Voice follow a self-developed Pupil Voice Charter, which forms their ethos and structure which themselves and future ambassadors will adhere to. The ambassadors will represent their school and allow fellow pupils to share their views with the Trust which will give them the opportunity to work together with pupils from within the Trust schools.

I will also be organising The Trust Parent Forum at each school. The forum, with the support of each school, will consist of a body of parents who will represent parents. The focus will be to assist the schools to address the needs and views of parents, to support the schools in reaching out to parents who do not routinely make contact, and to help break down barriers and promote greater participation.

I sincerely hope that you will support the high expectations in all areas, especially in behaviour and achievement and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible becoming involved in school and Trust life so that we can make sure it serves the needs of our young people and community.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S. Tobin

CEO Berlesduna Academy Trust