

Members of the Trust:

Angel Oak Academy
Applegarth Academy
Beddington Park Academy
Benedict Academy
Breakwater Academy

Burfield Academy
David Livingstone Academy
La Fontaine Academy
Gonville Academy
Hawkes Farm Academy

Heathfield Academy
High Cliff Academy
Park Academy
Peacehaven Heights Academy
Phoenix Academy

Telscombe Cliffs Academy
Tudor Academy
Turnham Academy
Westbridge Academy
White House Academy



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CEO: Mr P Glover
CFOO: Mr B March

20th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are well and that you had a restful summer break. I am writing to welcome you and your child to the new school year, whilst also introducing myself as I begin my role as Chief Executive Officer of STEP Academy Trust. As you will know, our founding CEO, Mark Ducker, retired last year, after many years of dedicated service in education. We wish him well and recognise the vast impression he has left on our community of schools.

We have already seen a generation defining moment this term. We share with many, the sense of loss at the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and acknowledge her service to so many during her 70 years as Monarch.

As we embark on a new school year, I want to recognise what have been some of the most challenging times that we as a country have faced over the past two years, following the outbreak of COVID-19. Our school communities have pulled together in what has been an incredibly difficult time and I want to thank you all for your support and commitment to the children and school communities.

Alongside this, we also recognise the increasingly challenging reality which faces many families this year. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage families to reach out to your schools should the cost-of-living crisis begin to place significant burden on your family. We realise the impact this is likely to have on so many across the country and therefore want to support our children and their families as much as we can. Whilst of course you will know that schools face very real financial pressures, as a Trust we will look to support you wherever we can.

As we look ahead to this academic year, we are pleased to continue much of the important work that has been undertaken to date. One of the most significant developments we are taking forward this year is our Race Charter Mark. Our commitment to fighting racism and championing diversity and inclusion is incredibly important and reflects our Trust's core values. To provide a learning environment where children feel happy and safe, we stay dedicated to our goal of being an anti-racist organisation. We have worked in partnership with our communities to introduce training and anti-racist practices across the Trust and will continue to drive forward with this work in the coming academic year.

Another exciting development for the Trust is the introduction of two new Associate Psychologists who will join our teams in London and East Sussex to provide additional support to both pupils and staff. We are pleased to offer this service to support mental health and wellbeing across our academies and create a positive and happy learning and work environment.

This will build on the successes of last year which saw two of our academies, Burfield Academy and Applegarth Academy, have successful Ofsted inspections, receiving 'good' ratings with outstanding elements. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our leadership, teaching and support staff across both academies, whose fantastic work was critical in achieving this. We expect more Ofsted inspections for some of our schools this year and are confident for the same positive outcomes.

I look forward to working with each school in STEP Academy Trust throughout the year, and wish you a happy and healthy first term.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Glover
Chief Executive Officer
STEP Academy Trust