



Forest Gate Community School

8th July 2019
Ref: SS/SE

Forest Lane
Forest Gate
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Head of School: Charlotte Whelan
Executive Headteacher: Simon Elliott

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Changes within Forest Gate Community School

On the evening of Thursday, 27th June, the Community Schools Trust, of which FGCS is the lead school, received a call to help out with Hackney New School, a Free School which is seriously failing its pupils.

As an outstanding school in London, FGCS was naturally a first port of call to provide much needed support to this school. As you may know, there is a need nationally for stronger schools to help weaker schools, especially in times of crisis, and this is very definitely the case here.

Ms Whelan has agreed to act as interim Headteacher at Hackney New School as she has the expertise needed to make immediate improvements for the pupils there and we are planning to work with this school in the future and bring it into our trust. This is subject to the approval of the Regional Schools Commissioner and the existing boards of both the Hackney New School and CST. We are working to ensure that this process is followed correctly and with due diligence.

We have been very pleased by the excellent response of staff throughout the CST who share our moral purpose to help children and have been strongly supportive of this move.

FGCS will be overseen by Thahmina Begum for the immediate future. Ms Begum has extensive experience of raising standards and was responsible for FGCS having the best English results in the whole of the country in 2017-18. We will be looking to rotate additional members of our leadership team throughout our trust over the next few weeks to ensure we have the best leaders in the right places. Mr Zaman, my Deputy, and I, will also play a key role in ensuring the success of FGCS continues. As a Multi Academy Trust, CST has expanded its leadership team and retains a very strong cadre of senior and middle leaders across its schools.

Communication around this issue has been difficult for various reasons and reporting of matters in other quarters has not always been accurate. I apologise for the delay in communicating this issue and will endeavour to keep you abreast of developments.

Thank you for your continued support of FGCS.

Yours sincerely

Simon Elliott
CEO CST