

28th February 2017



Dear Families

As you may be aware, I recently took over as Chief Executive of the academy trust from David Pomfret. I am writing to let you know of some changes taking place at King Edward VII Academy which we hope will ensure that improvements continue at pace, placing the academy in the strongest position possible.

As of this week, Craig Morrison, Executive Principal of both KES and King's Lynn Academy, will step down from his joint responsibilities and be based solely at KES, working with Lloyd Brown, Head of School and the rest of the team to secure the best possible outcomes for our students. Craig will be joined at KES by Barbara Backham, currently Vice Principal across the two academies.

These changes reflect the view of the Trust's board that the academy should have ample resources to improve so that it is judged a 'good' school at the earliest opportunity. Building on the strong work already being done by the leadership team, our aim is to strengthen further and accelerate our improvement.

Many parents will also be aware that we were very disappointed to receive a negative Ofsted report placing King's Lynn Academy into 'special measures' recently: the reason for this is that whilst improvements have been made, they have not been deemed to be quick enough.

To maximise the success of KES, we feel that governors and leaders must have a true focus on one academy which they are solely dedicated to. As such, we have decided that the best course of action is to split KES from KLA. The academies will of course still work in partnership but it will be less formal, allowing each leadership team to do what is in the best interests of the individual academy.

Since Mr Morrison started at KES in 2014 results have improved hand in hand with further enhancements to the leadership team, notably with the appointment of Mr Brown last academic year. However, the KLA Ofsted report states that improvements at KLA slowed when Mr Morrison was deployed to work across two academies.

I have held discussions with Mr Morrison and our board of directors and we have agreed together that he will now focus on academy only in KES. This recognises both the recent improvements at KES since 2014 and Mr Morrison's work to improve KLA over time, but it also recognises that there is a need for some change at KLA given the recent inspection outcome.

I would like to reassure you that should your son or daughter have classes at KLA, the courses will continue and no staff timetables at either academy will change this year.

Increasing the leadership capacity at the academy is an important step in securing the improvements taking place at KES and we will be ensuring that governors and leaders take the right actions to do this.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Ramsey', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Duncan Ramsey
Chief Executive

King Edward VII Academy

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