



Star

Thursday 19th December, 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to thank you for your support and commitment over the course of the autumn term. In a relatively short period of time, we have achieved a great deal at The Valley Leadership Academy and staff have worked incredibly hard to embed our Star systems, values, cultures and behaviours. This is already having a positive impact on pupils' pastoral and academic outcomes and I am happy to see everyone working together to lay the foundations for future success.

As you are aware, Miss Middlemass, our Executive Principal, was deployed to The Valley for one term and will be leaving us this week to become Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools on behalf of Ofsted. We wish her well in her new role and we have no doubt that she will continue to help schools to improve and encourage pupils to achieve their potential. During her time at The Valley, Miss Middlemass has been working hard to capitalise on the academy's strengths and address any areas for improvement, so that pupils are able to benefit fully from Star's curriculum and education model.

I am pleased to confirm that a new Principal has been appointed and will take up post in September 2020, at the start of the next academic year. In the interim, in order to build on the progress we have already made and to give added impetus to the academy's improvement journey, I am delighted to announce that Star's Executive Director of Education - Kieran Larkin - will take up post as Interim Executive Principal at The Valley for the next two terms.

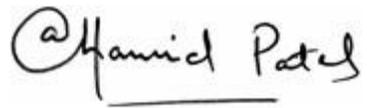
Mr Larkin started his career as a Maths teacher and went on to become the founding Principal and Executive Principal of two sponsored academies in areas of considerable disadvantage. He worked for the DfE as part of the National Strategies for six years and has extensive experience of developing and implementing national programmes in leadership, teaching, learning and assessment. He has held senior leadership roles in two of the largest and most successful multi-academy trusts. Mr Larkin is currently responsible for a number of our Star Partnership regions and ensures that our schools implement, embed and maintain the Star Quality Standards. He provides strategic leadership across the Trust in relation to curriculum and assessment, performance monitoring and the Trust's school improvement framework.

We are keen to ensure that The Valley continues to benefit from specialist support and expert leadership and felt it was important to deploy someone with an in-depth understanding of the Star education model, who could take over from Miss Middlemass and maintain the same high standards. Mr Larkin will work closely with parents to secure excellent outcomes for all of our pupils. He will ensure The Valley is ready to move on to the next stage of its improvement journey and will help the new Principal to settle into their role next September, ensuring the handover process is as smooth and comprehensive as possible.

This term has seen a lot of positive changes for the academy and I am sure our best days are yet to come.

I wish you all an enjoyable and restful Christmas break and I have no doubt that the New Year will bring good tidings for The Valley Leadership Academy. Merry Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "@Hamid Patel". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the '@' symbol and 'Hamid' being more prominent. A horizontal line is drawn under the name 'Hamid Patel'.

(Mufti) Hamid Patel

Chief Executive