

The
COUNTY
HIGH SCHOOL
Leftwich

28th January 2019



Dear Parent / Carer

Friday, January 25th was an especially productive day at The County High School, Leftwich. Thank you so much, not only for exceptionally high attendance at our Consultation Day, but also for your supportive participation in the constructive discussions. I am really proud of the teamwork that this event evidences. It is easy to talk about partnership-working; it is truly professionally satisfying to observe such meaningful collaboration in practice.

Whilst those meetings were taking place, the Governing Body discussed the progress of negotiations with Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College in consideration of joining The Sir John Brunner Foundation – and I am pleased to update you with their decision to do so. I feel this is a project I began in 2011 when I suggested the school became an academy, opening as such in September 2012. We have used that status to continue to drive up standards and secure positive outcomes, as noted last week in the published Performance Tables.

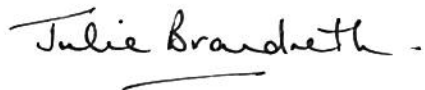
I am thus delighted that the Governing Body has now determined this logical next step – the “outstanding” secondary and the “outstanding” College in Northwich affirming their partnership in a strong and financially resilient structure, sharing – and thus working to safeguard – our values. Accordingly, the formal consultation opens today and you might like to read the information that is published on our website, detailing some of the thinking that has led to this decision.

It was in 2016 when I first approached Governors to suggest we consider the idea of a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). The process became protracted, but I have worked tirelessly to explore the best way forward and am delighted with the decision Governors made on Friday. Consequently, I am now in a position when I can tell you that phase 1 (strategic negotiations) is drawing to a close and phase 2 (operational best practice) can begin, so I have decided that this is the right time to enable the Governing Body to appoint a new Principal, who will be extremely fortunate to lead “Team Leftwich” through this new and exciting phase of development. Accordingly, I have advised Governors of my intention to retire this summer after (almost!) 13 years of rewarding headship of this very special school. Be assured that the process of securing a new Principal, who has no idea how lucky s/he will be, has already begun.



Working with delightful students, supportive parents / carers (and grandparents!), talented staff and wise Governors in such a caring learning community has been a joy and a privilege. I look forward to watching The County High School, Leftwich continue to thrive and convey my gratitude for all your support and for the trust you have placed in me and my very special team.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Brandreth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Julie Brandreth
Principal