

22 July 2022

Dear Parent or Carer

As you may well be aware, over the past two years, discussions have taken place on a possible merger between Newham Community Schools Trust (responsible for **Eastlea, Lister, Rokeby** and **Sarah Bonnell** Schools) and Leading Learning Trust (responsible for **Portway** and **Selwyn** Primary Schools).

Following consultation processes in both Trusts, and a TUPE exercise at LLT, both Trust Boards have now given their final approval to the merger. They have also confirmed a new name of **Newham Community Learning** - bringing together elements of both Trusts' names, and reflecting our joint commitment to our local community. We expect this to take formal effect on 1 September.

As discussed in the consultation process there will be no change to your child's day to day experience of school as a result of the change. The new Trust Board, which includes Trustees from both NCST and LLT, is committed to maintaining the distinct character of each school in the Trust; the staff in each school will continue as previously, and the school uniforms, behaviour and curriculum policies will remain the same.

We do however believe that this merger represents an exciting and positive development for all our schools: Emma Nicholls, the CEO of LLT, will become the Deputy CEO of Newham Community Learning and will lead on school improvement in the primary schools. Charlotte Robinson, formerly Headteacher of Rokeby, will stay with us to lead on school improvement programmes across the secondary schools. This extra capacity will enable us to find more opportunities for all our students to benefit from the collective experience and skills of our staff across the Trust.

The merged Trust offers our children, parents, staff and our wider community a range of exciting opportunities for collaboration, sharing and celebrating together, including sharing facilities, supporting the secondary transition, integrated curriculum planning, supporting our children with SEND, and the provision of extra-curricular activities.

We will be sharing more information with you about the Trust in the first few weeks of the new term, but wanted to write to you now to ensure you are aware of the new name and that the merger, which we have been discussing for some time now, is indeed taking place.

We wish all of you and your families a happy and relaxing summer holiday.



Anthony Wilson
CEO, NCST



Paul Leslie
Chair of Trustees, NCST

Newham Community Schools Trust (NCST) and the **Leading Learning Trust (LLT)** have agreed to merge, effective 01 September 2022, to create a strong local Trust, which will provide an excellent standard of education and support the wider wellbeing and success of our students and our community.