



**Learning**  
Community Trust

**CEO LCT: Dr Gill Eatough**  
**Chair of the Trust: Mr Mike Briscoe**

*Advancing Schools, Inspiring Learners, Transforming Communities*

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are well. It has been an incredibly challenging time in schools and families this term as we manage all the complexities of living and working in the midst of a pandemic. I do believe that after Christmas we will begin to see a gradual return to normal as vaccines and testing really begin to have an impact.

I want to introduce myself, I am Gill Eatough and have the privilege of being the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Learning Community Trust (LCT), a position I have held since September 2017 when we gained approval from the DfE to establish a Multi-Academy Trust. We currently have three secondary schools, three primary schools and a Special School in our MAT. Previous to this I was Principal of the Hadley Learning Community in Telford which is an all-through school on a modern- purpose built campus in North Telford, I was in post for nearly 11 years as we built and established a brand new school. Prior to this I had just over 5 years as Headteacher of Lacon Childe School in Shropshire.

I have been involved in supporting leadership and governance at Severndale since August, at the direction of the DfE and have spent considerable time in school and understanding the context it works in. I have met many staff during my visits and would have spent more time with teachers, support staff, children and parents if we had not had COVID-19 restrictions in place.

LCT, at the request of the DfE and Severndale Trustees has been asked to consider the transfer of Severndale into our MAT. We have had to complete full Due Diligence on the academy so that we understand key areas such as staffing models, safeguarding, curriculum, teaching and learning as well as finance, estates, HR and Health and Safety. In addition to the Monkmoor campus I have also visited Mary Webb and Futures.

Our Trust Board held a Special Meeting last week to consider our Due Diligence reports and to reach a decision. I am delighted to inform you that our Trustees voted unanimously for the transfer of Severndale Academy to LCT. We believe that LCT can offer the support and challenge to Severndale but that Severndale can bring many strengths to LCT.

The work now begins to undertake the transfer, which we hope to achieve for the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021.

I do recognise that for you as parents and carers that this change to the status of Severndale will perhaps cause some anxieties and lots of questions. I want to make it very clear from the outset that we are committed to providing the very best school for your children where they are happy, safe and enjoy school every day, where their individual needs are met, they learn and make good progress during their years at the school, preparing them for life beyond school. Over the next few weeks we will be sending out information to you to keep you updated on progress, we will give you lots of opportunity to ask questions and if some restrictions are lifted early next term to meet me in person and if not virtually.

I wanted to write to you today so you are very clear on the next steps for your school as I know you have been aware that we have been making decisions over the course of the last few months.

This is a really exciting time for Severndale and LCT, we are delighted to be welcoming you as parents and carers into our Trust and I am really looking forward to working with you.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. J. Eatough". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

Dr. Gill Eatough  
CEO LCT