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CEO - Miss S Whelan

1 July 2020

Dear Parents and carers

As you will be aware from the consultation process, the intention to merge the PPAT trust schools into the Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Southampton and Portsmouth (HISP) Multi Academy Trust (MAT) has been shared with parents, carers and stakeholders over the past few months.

As of 1 July, Portswood and Tanners Brook Primary Schools (PPAT) have joined the HISP MAT which offers a real opportunity for us to work together for the benefit of children within each school. Our drive will be to share the benefits of a larger organisation, while ensuring that schools are supported as organisations which work within and serve their individual communities.

The MAT now has three schools, Portswood, Tanners Brook and Thornden and their geographic proximity allows us to be fully staffed as individual schools while also sharing key staff and resources where needed and appropriate.

While the key MAT staff have been working closely with the school providing support since 1 May, when redundancies which were made by PPAT came into place, I am excited, as are the MAT team, to be able to work more closely with school leaders, staff and students.

While I have met some parents formally and others informally, I am looking forward to meeting with parents and carers at school events when we are open fully and at specific events when we will be able to share information and talk with parents and carers.

The key MAT staff you will expect to see on a regular basis are myself and Amanda Parry, who is Deputy CEO and will be Executive Head at Portswood. This role is designed to support the school and enable a real link between school and MAT. There will be times each week when both myself and/or Amanda will be in school, but our presence does not detract from what Mr Head does as Principal, he remains in his critical role as the significant leader of the school. He has done a tremendous job this year, which has been made more difficult by the Covid situation and I have really appreciated his support over the last month.

Our key focus over the next year will be to work alongside partners and ensure all children are able to return to school following the difficulties we have all faced this year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Su Whelan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Su Whelan
CEO
HISP MAT