



Consilium Academies

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

Thursday 7th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As many of you will be aware, since 1st September 2021, Mrs Hamilton has been covering the Headteacher post at Thornhill Academy on an interim basis, while Mr Austwick has been covering the post of Headteacher at Washington Academy.

Having taken time to interview candidates externally, and seeing the swift progress already made at Thornhill, no appointment was made following a first-round of interviews. This external process provided us with an excellent opportunity to reflect on the strengths of existing leaders within the Trust, and to think carefully about what Thornhill Academy needed moving forward.

I am, therefore, pleased to confirm that we have made the decision to appoint Mrs Hamilton to the post of Headteacher at Thornhill Academy on a permanent basis with immediate effect. This decision has been made due to the exceptional progress made by Washington Academy, during Mrs Hamilton's time at the school, and the strength of leadership at all levels, reflected in the recent Ofsted inspection when leadership and management was judged to be "good". With this in mind, Mrs Hamilton has been appointed to support the journey of improvement at Thornhill Academy following this Ofsted progress at Washington Academy.

With an excellent foundation already laid by Mrs Hamilton, I am delighted to confirm that Mr Austwick has agreed to continue in his current role as Acting Headteacher at Washington Academy until the end of this academic year. We are positive his leadership will continue to build on the fantastic progress already made at Washington Academy. We are in the process of making a further appointment to the senior leadership team which will provide additional capacity to ensure the current momentum of improvement is maintained and built upon. Additionally, the Trust will continue to support Washington through the increased capacity of Mr Inman and Miss McBride. We will provide further updates on this as soon as we are able, and we will review these arrangements at Washington Academy in the spring term.

I want to take the time to thank you all for your ongoing support as we continue to make advancements across the Consilium Academies Trust.

Yours sincerely

David Clayton
Chief Executive
Consilium Academies