

13th July 2023

Dear Parents

### **Introduction to United Learning**

We are very pleased that the DfE Regional Director has confirmed that the four schools currently in the Midland Academies Trust – the George Eliot Academy, Hartshill Academy, Heath Lane Academy and Nuneaton Academy – are to join United Learning. As a group with a strong track record of running successful schools across the country, we look forward to welcoming you into United Learning and exploring how we can work together for mutual benefit, building on the very positive work we have already done with the Midland Academies Trust and senior leaders across the four schools.

There are over 90 schools in United Learning; each with its own identity and ethos that chime with the community it serves – context matters, and one size does not fit all. Many of our schools have existed for decades and have a strong legacy whilst others are entirely new and have developed their own character and identity. We believe strongly that as a group we can achieve more than any individual school could by working on its own; our schools all share practice and learn from each other.

Each of the schools joining United Learning from the Midland Academies Trust has its own strengths; we will draw on our experience, expertise, and resources to support each to continue to develop and improve. We have already started to do this at The Nuneaton Academy, where we have been providing leadership support – at the request of the Midland Academies Trust and the DfE Regional Director – since February this year. We provide our schools with central resource and support – both educationally and in wider functions – where they need it, but we are equally clear that, in areas where a school is already strong, our role is to encourage and facilitate it to continue to thrive.

The four schools will form a new cluster for United Learning centred on Nuneaton and Earl Shilton. The schools will maintain the close relationships and collaborative approach that have developed between them as part of the Midland Academies Trust. There is close alignment between this and our own approach, through which we seek to build strong groups of schools close together, to enable meaningful collaboration to bring benefits to staff and students. These include opportunities for professional development and progression for staff through strong local and national networks at all levels as well as opportunities for students that go beyond what any single school could offer – for example, programmes bringing students from different schools together to challenge themselves in new ways and group-wide musical performances in major venues like the Lyceum Theatre, Southwark Cathedral and Copper Box Arena.

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Our Heads run our schools and make decisions in the interests of what is right for their children and young people. In doing so, they are overseen, supported, and challenged by strong local governing bodies. All our schools are united in putting students first, but our scale gives us significant capacity to get behind schools and support them to succeed.

As a group, we have four strategic aims that underpin all our work. These are to be:

- **Great places to learn** - through the educational quality of our schools, their development of the whole person and the preparation they offer for life, the pastoral care they offer and the quality of the environment and relationships;
- **Great places to work** – through our schools offering an excellent professional experience, strong relationships with students and other colleagues, excellent professional growth and opportunities and high-quality working environment and resources;
- **A great group to join** – through the quality of support we offer schools with compliance, the ‘back office’, education and school improvement and the high-quality collaboration between schools;
- **A great contribution beyond the Group** – through a commitment to local communities, the national education system, and the wider world.


Over the next few months, we will work with leaders to complete the formal transfer process so that the four schools can join us in the autumn term. We look forward to our colleagues spending more time in each of the schools during this process.

We appreciate that parents may have questions they wish to ask us about United Learning and what it means to be part of our Group. We would therefore like to invite you to a meeting with colleagues from our senior team, on **14<sup>th</sup> September** at **5:30pm** at the **Nuneaton Academy** to tell you more about us and our approach to running our schools, and to assure you of our commitment to your child’s school and its future.

Yours sincerely



Sir Jon Coles  
Chief Executive



Dame Sally Coates  
Director of Secondary Academies