

January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,



My name is Rachel Howie and I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust - DGAT. This is the Trust (MAT) that Mr Millington mentions in his letter to you – the family of schools that you will be joining in April. I have been the CEO of the Trust for almost seven years, and I am extremely proud of how we serve the children in our care.

I am delighted that St James' CofE Junior School and Hatherley Infant School will be joining us. We are currently a family of 22 schools serving 4500 pupils. The Trust was founded over 10 years ago and we have a very successful and proven track record of supporting schools to be the best they can for the benefit of their children.

We have started to work alongside Mr Millington to get to know and understand both schools and this will continue in the coming weeks and months. Each of the schools within the DGAT family is unique and precious and we are committed to ensuring they each retain this individuality whilst benefitting from being part of a larger organisation. The focus of all we do is achieving the best possible outcomes we can for our children. While your schools are joining a bigger organisation, lots of things continue to be decided at a local level so please do not worry that that lots of things will change. For example, the uniforms will remain the same and the day to day running of the school will be in the hands of Mr Millington and his senior leaders.

Mr Millington has organised a meeting to talk to you about both schools joining the Trust. This is on **22 January at 3.30pm**. I will also be there to answer any questions you may have and tell you a little about the Trust. I am really looking forward to meeting those of you who can attend. If you are unable to be there and want to find out more about the Trust, the website is a good starting place <https://www.dgat.org.uk/>. I will also organise another meeting for you once the schools have been in the Trust for a term to answer any further questions and share the work that the school and the Trust central team are doing together to support your children.

I understand that you are likely to have lots of questions about your school joining DGAT, and to answer some of those we have provided a list of frequently asked questions for you, which are attached to this letter.

In the meantime, thank you for all you do to support for the schools and your children's learning, and I look forward to meeting you in due course.

Thank you and best wishes



Canon Rachel Howie