



King Arthur's School

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Head of School – Mr J Gower

18 March 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

New Head Appointment – September 2019

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Jen Jacklin has been appointed as the permanent Head at King Arthur's School from 1 September 2019. Mr Gower will continue his role until the end of the academic year, when Mrs Jacklin will take up the post. In order to ensure a smooth transition and continued momentum with regards to school improvement, Mr Gower and Mrs Jacklin will work together closely during the summer term.

Mrs Jacklin brings a wealth of experience to the role, having worked in senior leadership teams across three schools; this combined with 12 years of teaching experience in secondary schools and her current role as Teaching School Director at the North Dorset Teaching Alliance means she has expertise in developing staff, delivering training and recruiting new teachers. She has been involved with the school as a member of SAST and will continue the improvement work undertaken to date.

We had a strong field of national applicants from which to choose and we were pleased to interview four candidates from the shortlisted field last week. The rigorous process included learning walks at both King Arthur's and The Gryphon School, meetings with the School Council and an assembly to students. Candidates presented on challenging aspects of school leadership and development to both senior Trust staff and members of the King Arthur's team.

Mrs Jacklin impressed by demonstrating her commitment to students and staff, the development of the school as part of the local community and sharing her ethos of encouraging the empowerment of young people to make their own opportunities and shape their destinies. She is keen to develop ambition and ensure all members of the school community receive the highest standards of education possible. This will include enhancing the curriculum, the quality of learning and the school environment. We are excited that there will also be other new staff joining the existing team and further information will be shared in the summer term. Mrs Jacklin will be increasingly involved in preparation for the new school year and will be attending open evenings and parent meetings. Further information on these events and the opportunity to meet Mrs Jacklin will be provided in the near future.

Mrs Jacklin said, "It is a great privilege to be appointed to this post, and I am thrilled to have this opportunity to work with the staff and the wonderful community of Wincanton. My belief is that all young people should have the best educational opportunities in their area, and I look forward to developing the strong foundations already laid."

The final stages of the schools conversion to become an Academy and joining the Sherborne Area Schools' Trust are being completed, and we expect this to take place on 1 April 2019.

Yours sincerely

S M Hillier
CEO, SAST