

Dear Parents and Carers

# Happy New Mercian Year!



As 2018 gets into its stride, I wanted to confirm to you what you probably already know. The Department for Education has, over the Christmas holidays, confirmed its approval of all the arrangements we have put in place to set up our new Multi-Academy Trust or MAT. After years of talking about this new venture, the Mercian Trust officially came into existence on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

An exciting new chapter begins for our family of Schools:

- Aldridge School
- Queen Mary's Grammar School
- Queen Mary's High School
- Shire Oak Academy
- Walsall Studio School

These are the Founder Academies of the Mercian Trust and your children, as pupils and students in those academies, are pioneers with us in this new venture.

These are uncertain times politically and the landscape of education is in a period of rapid and sometimes bewildering change. We believe that we are stronger together. Each of the Founder Academies has a proud tradition and a successful track record. We have absolutely no intention of changing that. We do not believe in a one-size-fits-all approach. Quite the opposite in fact: diversity underpins our Trust; seamless collaboration is what makes it work.

Collaboration isn't always easy. But we are determined to find new ways to **share best practice**, to **maintain a broad and enriching curriculum** at times of financial restraint, to **train the next generation of teachers and leaders**. By working together, we also hope to offer new opportunities, new horizons for your son or daughter outside the classroom too.

*If we are to make sense of this new century of ours, we must buckle up and breakthrough, evolving new technologies, new business models, and, most fundamentally of all **new mind-sets**.*

Change will not happen all at once. In fact, it's possible that you won't notice any difference in day to day life at school. However, behind the scenes, The Mercian Trust is working on some exciting projects that will have a positive impact on pupils at every Key Stage. You'll be able to discover more details soon on a Mercian website which will be launched before the end of the month.

It's a real privilege for me to take on the role of CEO of The Mercian Trust. As a team of school leaders, we want to help your son or daughter to:

- **Realise their potential**
- **Thrive in the world of work**
- **Make a positive contribution to the local, national and international community.**

Together with you, we want to prepare them for a rewarding future – **Life to the Full!**

We look forward to an exciting Mercian Year!

Yours sincerely

Timothy Swain  
CEO, The Mercian Trust

