



12th November 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed a new Principal for Holcombe Grammar School (HGS). We are hugely excited to welcome Lee Preston, who will be joining HGS in January.

A local man, born and raised in the area, Mr Preston has worked in schools in Kent throughout his career. He is an experienced school leader who joins us from the Thomas Aveling School in Rochester, where he is currently the Deputy Head. He has a strong record in school improvement and maintaining high standards, and has played a key role in ensuring that his current school is rated 'Good' by Ofsted.

With more than 12 years of school leadership experience, Mr Preston has previously held roles as an Assistant Head at Hayes School in Bromley and Assistant Head of Year at Cator Park School in Beckenham.

Mr Preston was the outstanding candidate for the headship, and the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, governing body and I are all confident that Mr Preston will be a superb Principal for HGS, ensuring our school continues on its upward trajectory. As Principal, he will focus on driving further school improvement, ensuring that we are providing your children with the best possible education – championing both academic excellence and broader personal development, and helping the school to reach new heights.

His appointment comes at an exciting time for HGS. We are pleased to have recently been accredited by the University of Exeter as a 'Thinking School' (teaching students to be creative and independent thinkers). In their report, as part of the accreditation process, the University of Exeter's Graduate School of Education praised the leadership team and wider teaching staff for "actively seeking opportunities to continuously drive improvements in learning and teaching" and "creating a positive learning culture."

I know that Mr Preston fully supports our cognitive approach to education and the central role this plays in preparing our students to succeed in the next steps of their education or in the workplace, and he will seek to further this work as Principal.

He will also work closely with colleagues at the Victory Academy – our sister school – ensuring that your children continue to benefit from our joint leadership structure and the opportunities this provides for expertise and best practice sharing across the two schools.



I will be continuing to support the team here at HGS in my role as Director of Education, Chatham for Thinking Schools Academy Trust and look forward to working with Mr Preston and the exceptional leadership team already in place to build on the school's achievements to date.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Gage', is positioned above the printed name.

Mandy Gage
Director of Education, Chatham
Thinking Schools Academy Trust