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Monday 28th September 2020

Dear parents and carers,

RE: appointment of new substantive Principal for Strood Academy.

You will recall my previous letter giving temporary leadership arrangements following Mrs Gunn's decision to move on earlier in the year. Since then Mrs Piralic has led the academy on an interim basis through some very challenging months indeed. We are enormously grateful for her committed and determined leadership over this difficult pandemic period.

Last week, representatives of the Trust and governors undertook a two-day selection process following a national recruitment search to find a new substantive Principal for Strood Academy. I am delighted to confirm that the successful candidate is Mrs Numera Anwar.

Before joining the Trust, Mrs Anwar held senior positions in a number of south-east London schools. She joined the Trust as Director of Improvement for science several years ago and has been Vice Principal and Head of College at Strood Academy since June. I am sure you will join me in congratulating her.

Mrs Anwar will take up her new post no later than January 2021 reporting to Mrs Emma Elwin, our Academies Director for Medway. Mrs Piralic will continue to lead the academy for the time being to ensure a smooth transition. Mrs Anwar will write to you herself with final details and to set out her ambitions for Strood Academy in due course. Meanwhile, commenting on her appointment she said:

"It is a wonderful privilege to be appointed as the Principal of Strood Academy. I am really looking forward to fostering strong relations with parents and the wider community to ensure successful outcomes for all of our pupils."

We remain grateful for your support as parents and carers as we continue in our efforts to ensure Strood is one of the most popular and successful schools in the Medway area.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Beamish", written in a cursive style.

Simon Beamish
Chief Executive