

24th April 2017

Dear Families

Re: Appointment of Dee Pickerill to Post of Principal Designate, Bearsted Academy

I am pleased and indeed very proud to inform all families of Dee's appointment to the above post. Bearsted Academy is one of three new Free Schools that Central Government have approved for Leigh Academies Trust to open. Bearsted Academy will be a secondary special school based at Junction 7 of the M20 near Maidstone.

Dee's appointment to the post of Principal Designate reflects not only Dee's admirable skill set but presents Dee with a unique opportunity to lead the development of a brand new school from the drawing board through to the daily delivery of a high quality education to its pupils.

Whilst we are all thrilled for Dee I wish to inform families of the following:

1. As Bearsted Academy is due to open in September 2018 (at the very earliest) the intention, as of today, is that Dee will remain at Milestone for the rest of this academic year, and at least half of the next academic year 2017-18
2. The current leadership and management structure will therefore remain the same for the time being
3. Whilst Bearsted Academy is a Free School to be set up totally separately from Milestone Academy, we will of course be two special schools operating within the LAT and as such will have a close working relationship

Finally, please rest assured that knowing Dee as I do, she will stay fully committed to carrying out her vital role across Milestone. I will write to families again once plans for Dee's permanent move to her new role have been updated or indeed finalised.

Once again I would like to offer my congratulations to Dee on obtaining this quite unique role, especially as it is her first headship.

Yours sincerely

Nigel Jones

Principal