



6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear parents, legal guardians and carers,

The 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020 marked another significant milestone in Hague Bar's long history. After almost 2 years of heated debate and much soul-searching on behalf of the governors and incredibly hard work by Mrs Kennedy, Mrs Parry, Mrs Wagstaff and Mr David Waugh (CEO of TTLP and Head of Poynton High School) we finally converted to an academy and became a member of The True Learning Partnership.

The full letter confirming this is on the website, but this sentence sums up what academies are all about.

*"Academies form an integral part of the Government's education policy to raise attainment for all children."*

Hague Bar will continue to be the nurturing, inclusive, enterprising school it has been but will now benefit from much more local support, guidance and leadership.

We have always been given good service by Derbyshire Local Authority, but were a very small and remote cog in a big wheel, which was not always to our advantage.

We have already begun to experience a much more responsive service - a good example being the speed with which the recent employment contract for our newly appointed staff member, Mr Whibley was received. We will also realise many financial savings and the governing board will be monitoring these, along with other less tangible benefits, as part of our regular business, and will report back to you periodically.

The transition to TTLP and the permanent appointment of Mrs Parry made it an ideal time for the governors to spend some time doing some strategic planning. At a recent meeting we discussed the school's vision and core values and agreed some strategic priorities. You should see these appearing on the website before the end of term.

All the governors have dedicated much more time than usual to their responsibilities over the last few months and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them publicly, especially Sarah Butterworth, whose term on the board comes to an end soon. Sarah's experience as ex headteacher of Newtown primary, has been invaluable to the board and the school, and she has always been a brilliant sounding board for me. Sarah is planning to move to Northumberland soon and we wish her all the very best.

I will also be stepping down from the governing board shortly, so we will be looking for 2 more governors. We have our full quota of parent governors, but if you have any friends or family members who might be interested please do let Mrs Parry or Mrs Wagstaff know.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Sutton  
Chair of Governors