

24th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you all for your support as pupils have returned to school this term – it has been a joy for everyone to know that our children and young people are back in our classrooms once again.

As you may remember from our letter on 3rd July, we announced our CEO Daryll Chapman would soon be retiring and that we have appointed Dan Morrow to start as our new CEO in January 2021. We are writing to you today to share the news that Daryll has decided to take his retirement earlier than the end of December as the transition work with Dan has been going well and our pupils and staff have enjoyed a smooth return to school.

Part of the reason Daryll was going to wait until December was that he wanted to ensure that our school communities were well-supported and comfortable during the return to school in the exceptional circumstances that COVID-19 has presented. Now that the term is well underway, Daryll has seen our pupils, staff and wider school communities really come together and he is happy and confident that he can now take his retirement and ensure a smooth transition. Daryll has finished his work with DMAT this week.

Whilst we will miss working with Daryll very much, we are very pleased for him that he will now be able to take this time and pursue his next adventures. Daryll has been integral in helping us build our wonderful Trust, and we are very proud to have shared in the Trust's development with him. Even though he's retiring, Daryll will still be using some of his time to mentor headteachers regionally and we are pleased that the system will continue to benefit from his expertise. We wish him much happiness with everything to come.

Dan Morrow will be officially joining us on 1st January, but he is already working with our schools this term on transition work. Our Vice CEO Hazel Fox will be our Interim CEO during these next few months, and Dan will be supporting her throughout this period.

We very much look forward to welcoming Dan officially in January and will share further updates about the work of DMAT when he is in post.

Thank you for your continued support as we all work together to the benefit of our pupils and communities.

Kind regards,

Tania Skeaping
Chair of Trustees, Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust