

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to inform you that Paradigm Trust has been asked by the Department for Education to sponsor an additional school. Ipswich Academy, in Suffolk, is expected to be transferred into our control, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015. It is a secondary academy that has recently been put into special measures by OFSTED and we have been asked to take on the role of sponsor as a result of our strong track record of working with schools where significant improvement is required.

Prior to entering discussions, we conducted a full assessment of our resources to ensure that we had the capacity to look after a new school without impacting our current schools. We are confident that we have the skills and resources, and we also anticipate that being part of a larger organisation offers great benefits and opportunities for pupils and staff alike in terms of resources.

We have made significant progress at Solebay Primary Academy since the transfer to Paradigm Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014. The move into the new building was accomplished and the building works completed. We have established a strong team of staff and are very pleased with the progress being shown by the pupils. We have addressed the concerns raised by OFSTED when it inspected the school under its previous sponsor CET.

From 1<sup>st</sup> September, Amanda Phillips, the Executive Principal, will spend four days a week in Ipswich and one day in Tower Hamlets – although she will be available by email and telephone throughout the week.

An Interim Principal will be appointed for Solebay Primary Academy whose time will be split equally between teaching and operational issues at the school. That person will be supported by Bill Holledge (leadership and management consultant) and Grant Jenkins (professional assistant to

the Executive Principal and Company Secretary), both of whom are already closely involved in the running of Paradigm Trust and familiar with Solebay Primary Academy, which will mean that there is senior level leadership available to support the Interim Principal on three out of five school days face to face, and senior staff to consult on other days.

On this basis, Amanda will have enough time to work with the team at Ipswich Academy whilst ensuring that Solebay Primary Academy continues to develop and thrive.

Yours faithfully,



**Christopher Crozier**

Chairman of the Board of Directors