

16th September 2015

Dear parent/guardian,

I am writing to make you aware of college developments which will be of interest to you.

As you may be aware, we have been working hard over the last two years to enhance your son or daughter's experience at Prior. We were delighted when Ofsted recognised our achievements, judging the college to be 'Good' across all areas in March 2015.

Following a very successful year, I began to explore arrangements for my retirement with the college's Governing Body. After eleven years at Prior, I will retire from my role as Principal in December 2015.

The work to relentlessly drive further improvements will continue. Over the last two years, part of this work has involved an effective partnership with Stockton Sixth Form College, sharing staff and support services and enabling each college to grow stronger.

Both Prior Pursglove College and Stockton Sixth Form College belong to a sector which has long been recognised as the most successful and highest performing amongst its competitors. Therefore, detailed consideration has been given to enable both colleges to reach the highest standards whilst continuing to make cost savings and, as such, the governing bodies of both colleges have agreed to conduct a consultation around a proposal to merge.

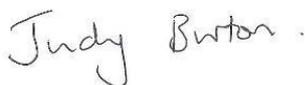
Subject to the outcome of consultation, the intention is that Joanna Bailey, currently Principal at Stockton Sixth Form College, be appointed to the role of Principal of the merged college to oversee the strategic direction of both sites.

Joanna has over 25 years' experience working in sixth form colleges, including almost 10 in college leadership. She has a passion for inspirational teaching and learning and shares the college's vision for providing high quality education which allows students to achieve or exceed their potential. To appoint someone with Joanna's experience would be a huge coup for the college and one which would only serve to benefit students, staff and the wider community in the coming years.

These changes will cause no disruption to the day-to-day experience of college life for your son or daughter. Both sites will continue to operate exactly as currently; the only change I would expect students to notice is a positive one, in terms of an improved enrichment offer or trips and visits at a lower price.

This proposal will secure both colleges' future prosperity against a backdrop of funding cuts and the need to achieve ever greater efficiencies. It will also enable us to retain and strengthen sixth form college education on both sites and in both boroughs.

We want to hear your views about this proposal and to this end invite you to a drop-in consultation meeting at Prior Pursglove College on Wednesday 23rd September 5.00-7.00pm. Please find enclosed a consultation document for your perusal. Your views will shape and influence the way the proposal is taken forward.



Judy Burton,
Principal