

Dear student,

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

You will be aware that we have been working hard over the last two years to enhance the experience of every student 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.

This proposal will not adversely affect your experience of college in any way, shape or form. You will continue to access the same courses at the same location, just as before. In addition, you will benefit from an extended enrichment offer and trips and visits which may not have been viable with just one college.

We want to hear your views. There will be an opportunity to come along and ask questions about this proposal on Wednesday 23rd September, 12.45-1.30pm in the Lecture Theatre. We look forward to receiving your feedback.

Best wishes,

Judy Burton,
Principal