

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you as the new Principal at Bowling Green Academy from summer term. My name is Jamie Stuttard, and I am thrilled and honoured to be joining your school soon.

I have worked locally in education for almost ten years and have been in the Elland Cluster of schools - which includes Bowling Green - throughout. I have visited the school several times and have always been impressed by the warm welcome, dedication and commitment to pupils, and by the smiles on children's faces with every visit.

I am a family-orientated person; my family and friends mean the world to me and I'm especially excited to meet my family's newest member when current restrictions ease a little. I like going to live shows and music festivals, am currently learning BSL and have started running over the past year. I shall definitely be bringing my running shoes to Stainland to explore some new routes!

At All Saints' School, I have led the school's Wellbeing Strategy for positive mental health (for both children and staff) not just as a token, but threaded throughout every decision made in taking an Outstanding, improving school forwards. I leave as the Reading Leader, valuing reading, children's enjoyment of texts, their vocabulary and engagement with books as the key driver in their education, and also as the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo). From this latter role particularly, I believe wholeheartedly in inclusivity, recognising everyone's achievements and ensuring that all children have access to great teaching and learning across the curriculum.

From my experience being a Deputy Headteacher at All Saints', I know and greatly value how Bowling Green Academy has a community at the centre – it is the beating heart of the local area, one that should echo (and enhance) the high standards expected from neighbouring homes and families. During my time as Acting Headteacher, the school and community working closely together was exceptionally rewarding for myself, children and families.

Parents and Carers make an important contribution to children's achievements at school. You are the experts of your children and of the local area. I want to continue to develop and build this relationship with school going forward for everyone's benefit. I will soon be welcoming your voices to celebrate the school's successes and your expectations for the future. Together, we will drive forwards a shared vision to make the school, a beacon school in the local area – one which develops an enthusiasm for learning, showcases mutual respect by all and provides opportunities for each child to flourish.

Of course, I am acutely aware that I am joining Bowling Green Academy in extraordinary times during which families have been placed under tremendous strain. We now need to focus on supporting children and young people back into 'normal' school life so that they build resilience, successful coping strategies and strength that they will rebuild their confidence. May I offer a huge well done to Mrs Deighton who has 'steered the ship' during a time that has been difficult for all in education. I am really looking forward to working with all the staff within school.

I am very proud to be the new Principal at Bowling Green Academy, and to leading what I believe is a school with huge potential. I am determined to secure an excellent future for the school. I have high expectations of everyone and it is my intention that by working together, pupils can *achieve together*, as says the school's aspirational motto. Regarding that, our newly launched kite logo will be available to purchase for September from the jumper shop (older jumpers can, of course, still be worn and/or passed down to siblings, too as we transition to the new logo).

I really am so very excited to start and meet all the children, and look forward to celebrating their successes in all areas of life. I also look forward to meeting you all over the next few months, and to working in partnership with you all.

Your sincerely,

Mr Jamie Stuttard