

20<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that everyone has had a refreshing Easter break and that you are all beginning to enjoy the sunshine and blue skies that are coming our way.

I am very pleased to share exciting news with you. From 19<sup>th</sup> April Dan Zaccheo began his new role as Principal of Meadowfield School. Dan has worked for Meadowfield for just under 10 years and has proven himself to be an outstanding leader. He has had a major impact on the culture of our school, transforming Meadowfield into the child centred school it is today. He has led on a range of key areas including:

- Safeguarding
- Provision for looked after children
- Behavioural support
- Pupil wellbeing
- Educational visits
- Professional development for staff including coaching
- Staff induction
- Supporting new teachers (Newly Qualified Teachers, Early Career Teachers)
- Collaborative working with external agencies
- Restructure of leadership teams as well as departments across the school
- Pupil centred reviews
- Proact
- . . .and much more!

Dan's remit will now expand to include all aspects school development including the strategic direction of Meadowfield. I am confident that Dan will continue to lead by example and will ensure that his strong values underpin every decision he takes. I look forward to seeing the new initiatives that lie ahead as Dan takes Meadowfield forward.

Interviews took place for a new Deputy Principal just before the Easter break. We had a huge response to the job advert with fourteen leaders applying for the post. A robust interview process took place over two days and I am pleased to announce that two new Deputy Principals have been appointed who will be working closely with Angela Howe and Dan.

Continued./..

Page 2

So firstly, congratulations to Liz Hymus who will be Deputy Principal from September. Liz has held a range of positions while at Meadowfield including: cover tutor, Teaching Assistant, Teacher, Fundraiser, Enterprise Teacher and Assistant Principal. Liz has a wealth of expertise and experience from a range of fields including her role as Charity Director for the Fenner Frost Foundation. Liz is highly respected across our school and her creativity, coupled with her demand for high standards, will be of huge benefit in the leadership of Meadowfield.

Secondly, congratulations also go to Joe White who will be joining us from September. Joe will be coming to us with a wealth of experience in the field of SEND, including his experiences of working at Stone Bay School in Broadstairs and Ifield School in Gravesend. Joe stated in his application *'that working as a team with all stakeholders is of primary importance, while drawing on the knowledge and experience of everyone within the school community'*. We look forward to welcoming Joe when he joins us in five months' time and I am confident that he will bring a rich dynamism to his role as Deputy Principal at Meadowfield.

Following on from my 10½ very fulfilling years as Principal of Meadowfield, I am now beginning to settle into my new role as Executive Principal which will include a range of responsibilities such as: supporting our Specialist Teaching and Learning Service, school expansion including satellite provision, development of college provision, developing partnerships within the community including with other schools, raising the profile of Meadowfield, expanding ways we can share our expertise and coaching aspiring and new Headteachers. I am looking forward to being a representative of KSENT (Kent Special Educational Needs Trust) on KAH (Kent Association of Headteachers) as well as Treasurer of KSENT, taking part in the Kent Funding Forum. I will also be taking part in an Inclusion Leadership Programme which will support mainstream schools in developing their inclusive practices. My time will be divided between Ufton Lane, our satellites and our main site on Swanstree Avenue.

It certainly feels like there are exciting times ahead and as we know, Meadowfield never stands still! Many thanks for all of your support and we look forward to working collaboratively with all parents and carers as Meadowfield continues to develop and grow.

Yours faithfully



Jill M. Palmer  
Executive Principal