

20 December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As the term and 2023 comes to a close we would like to wish you and your family a well-deserved rest, on behalf of The Potteries Educational Trust.

Students across the PET had their best ever results this year, thanks to the hard work, inspirational teaching, pastoral and specialist support of our staff and your support as parents and carers.

In contrast to the national trend, learners at PET academies improved their results compared with previous years and were able to progress onto their next steps at secondary school, further education, employment, apprenticeships and beyond. Trustees and Governors joined us in visiting each of our academies to thank staff in person.

Our Staff

Our staff are continually developing as professionals, examples of this were seen on our joint development day on 20 October 2023 with inspiration from Andy Cope, author of *Art of Being Brilliant*. Our staff engage with and develop their professional expertise with the support of inclusion experts from Stoke-on-Trent Virtual School and CEDARS specialist provision and a range of SEND and high needs experts.

Our professional development offer has recently been nationally approved as the PET successfully won a national (DFE) bid to research and create professional development programmes for Data Professionals. The expertise of our Chief Information Officer, and IT and Data Managers will be used to help support other academies and multi academy trusts to support this important area in the educational sector.

Our Community

The PET has also successfully won a regional bid from the DFE to deliver the PEIA Primary English Project to 34 Stoke-on-Trent Primary Schools. Caroline Prince, Headteacher of Werrington Primary School and Becki Brookes of Werrington and City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College are leading the project on behalf of the PET. This has been a great opportunity to showcase the outstanding practice in English in Werrington and across the Trust for the benefit of all young people in Stoke-on-Trent.

PET Christmas Concert 2023

Thank you to everyone who sang, played an instrument, chaperoned and/or attended our second annual PET Christmas Concert at the Mitchell Arts Centre on Tuesday 5th December. There were fantastic performances throughout, ending with a resounding all-hall

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sing-a-long to Shakin' Stevens, *Merry Christmas Everyone*. Thank you to our brilliant Music Leads: Ashley Meakin, Moorside High School, Anna Hughes, Sixth Form College, Zoe Shone, Werrington Primary School and Dr James Shufflebotham, Biddulph High School.

Farewell to Mark Kent, CEO of PET and Principal, City of Stoke Sixth Form College

From Mark:

It has been the privilege of my life to lead such a can-do, creative and hard-working group of staff and students, both as college Principal and as Trust CEO. The learning community we have forged is one in which a broad and innovative curriculum is cherished and continues to develop, and our student outcomes continue to improve. We have the highest of ambitions for all the children and young people in our care and most of all as a caring community we look after and value every young person and every member of staff. All the very best for the future of the Trust which I know will go from strength to strength with Heather as the new CEO.

From Heather:

After 8 years as Principal of City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College and CEO of the PET, we say farewell to Mark Kent at the end of this term. Mark has had a long and illustrious career in teaching, sharing his love and enthusiasm for Mathematics with thousands of students. This passion for learning has helped shape our Trust, ensuring students are at the heart of everything we do and that our curriculum, teaching and learning is of the highest quality for every learner.

Mark's vision for the PET was to have an open, supportive learning community where every member of staff is a learner and every learner is valued. This has helped to make the PET the strong successful Trust and the Sixth Form College the high performing centre for learning that they are today.

We wish Mark the very best on the next stages of his life journey and will look to build on all of his successes to ensure the PET continues to be the caring community which delivers excellence and inspires futures.

Looking ahead to 2024

Following a successful selection process Heather McLachlan was appointed to the post of Chief Executive Officer and will take up her new role with effect from 1 January 2024 when Mark Kent retires at the end of this term.

Heather is keen to meet with parents and carers upon taking up her appointment in January and get to know as many people across the Trust as possible. Please look out for an invitation to attend a meet the CEO online session in the new year where you can share your thoughts about our Potteries Educational Trust future and have the chance to ask questions via a Microsoft Form. An in-person event will be scheduled at each academy in due course.

This term has been a busy and an eventful one, and our learners have worked hard. Thank you for your support as parents and carers. Please make sure you enjoy a good rest over the break and spend time with your friends and family.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Mark and Heather

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