16th January 2019

Dear Parents

We are pleased to announce that Grace Academy is planning to transfer its academies to Tove Learning Trust in the near future. The academies will continue to deliver high quality education provision to all our students. There are no planned changes to student admission numbers, leadership or name in the coming months. As you are aware, standards are continuously increasing across GA and our academies are now popular and frequently oversubscribed for places in Year 7.

Our main sponsors, Lord and Lady Edmiston, are spending less time in the UK as they step back from their business interests. Personal circumstances have changed for another key trustee. This has led to Grace Academy board (members and trustees) taking the decision to transfer to Tove Learning Trust. Now is a good time for Grace Academy to secure this trend of improvement.

Dr Clarke is both the CEO of Grace Academy (GA) and Tove Learning Trust (TLT) allowing for a very smooth transition. TLT is a relatively young multi-academy trust (MAT), grown out from Sponne School in Towcester – an outstanding secondary school. TLT currently has four secondary schools and a nursery with a strong primary school about to join. The MAT also has a teaching school providing excellent development opportunities for our staff.

The outstanding ethos work will continue and is likely to expand over time with a current GA trustee overseeing this provision. This will be funded by the very successful IM company and we are extremely grateful to them for ensuring this aspect will continue and flourish in our academy.

Although this is a change in MAT, the same CEO, Principal and similar ways of working will remain. There are no planned changes in staffing and structures in the academies. However, TLT will help to ensure that improvements continue to be made. All children deserve to have a highly effective education.

We need to get final approval from the Department for Education (DfE) but there is strong support already for this transfer. You are more than welcome to hear more about the proposed transfer on Tuesday 22nd January 2019 at 4-5pm at Grace Academy Solihull. You can also share your views with the DfE by email to RSC.WM@education.gov.uk by the 5th February 2019. If all proceeds as planned, the transfer is likely to occur on 1st April 2019.

This is a very positive step for GA securing our future with a known, school-centred MAT, that will bring about more opportunities for staff and students as part of a larger organisation.

Do ask if you have any questions at this time.

Yours sincerely,



**Darren Gelder**

**Principal, Grace Academy Solihull**

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|  | **Dr Jamie Clarke****CEO, Grace Academy**  |