**PRESS RELEASE**

**Wednesday 16 January 2019**

**GRACE ACADEMY SOLIHULL LINKS WITH TOVE LEARNING TRUST**

Building on the significant progress made over the past few years, Grace Academy is pleased to announce that it is planning to transfer its academies to the Tove Learning Trust (TLT).

Grace Academy has already been working closely with Sponne School, linked with TLT, to develop and strengthen excellence in its teaching and learning provision. As a result, performance standards have been continuously increasing and the academies are oversubscribed for places in Year 7.

With the opportunity to access wider expertise by linking more closely with TLT, Grace Academy Solihull aims to further maximise the learning potential and performance of every individual student and continue to deliver high quality education provision.

Jamie Clarke, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Grace Academy, is also CEO of TLT, providing the opportunity for a smooth leadership transition. Commenting on the transfer to TLT, Jamie Clarke said:

“This is a very positive step for Grace Academy that will secure our future with a known, school-centred multi-academy trust, and bring about more opportunities for staff and students as part of a larger organisation.

“While this move requires final Department of Education (DfE) approval, there is strong support for the transfer and, if formal consultation proceeds as planned, the transfer is likely to occur on 1 April 2019.”

Lord and Lady Edmiston will become members of TLT, and this will bring further continuity to the governance of the academies. There are no other changes to leadership, name or admission numbers planned at Grace Academy Solihull.

TLT is a relatively young multi-academy trust (MAT), grown out from Sponne School in Towcester, an outstanding secondary school. TLT has four secondary schools and a nursery, with a lead primary school about to join. The MAT also has a teaching school providing excellent Continuing Professional Development for staff.

The vision of TLT is to ensure that all pupils in the Trust academies are provided with outstanding educational experiences that lead to outstanding outcomes. This includes all aspects of school life, with pupils achieving to the very best of their ability.

Aligned with this, Grace Academy will continue to be a centre of excellence for students, both personally and academically. The Academy will, therefore, retain its ethos and core values of Grace, Integrity, Potential, Respect and Excellence, that have made an exceptional contribution to the success of students in every area of life.

Grace Academy’s outstanding ethos work is expected to expand and flourish over time with Gary Spicer, Grace Academy Trustee, still overseeing this provision that will be funded by the IM Group going forward.

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