

Our Ref: FF/DWe

14th January 2012

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write to you at the earliest opportunity to inform you that the Board of Governors has accepted the resignations of both the Principal, Mr McMahon, and the Vice-Principal, Mrs Shanahan. As you will be aware both members of staff took on their positions at the University Academy of Birkenhead having been Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher of one of the predecessor schools, Park High School.

Although a great deal has been achieved in a short space of time since the Academy was set up a year ago and the improvement in student results has been impressive, our aim of achieving a fully united professional body of staff remains a key challenge. One of the main tasks of both the Principal and Vice Principal when they were appointed was to bring together the two predecessor schools and create this unity. Unfortunately and in spite of a lot of hard work this has proved more difficult than envisaged and so for the good of the Academy and its students they have decided to step down now to allow other candidates to be appointed to ensure this critical move is successfully completed.

The Governors at each of their meetings have spent much time planning how students' education can be improved and will ensure these plans will be stuck to rigidly. Our expectations of all of our staff will continue to increase and be challenging in the interests of our students. We have accepted the resignations knowing that the professionalism and dedication of the staff will ensure these goals are met this year.

To ensure the Academy remains smoothly managed the Governors have appointed Helen Johnson as Acting Vice Principal and are about to appoint an Acting Principal. We have also established a search committee to find our new members of staff and our aim is to have them in place as soon as possible.

If any parent has any concerns I would be very happy to hear from you via the Academy. I would also like to take the opportunity to invite you again to the Parents' Forum meeting which has been arranged for 16.00 on 9th February at the Academy. Both I and Professor David Cracknell, the Vice Chair of Governors, will be present. We are all hopeful, as we wrote before Christmas, the Forum will become hugely important in ensuring parents influence how the Academy continues to develop.

With best wishes,

FRANK FIELD
Chair of Governors