

SOUTHEND EAST COMMUNITY ACADEMY TRUST

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Chief Executive Officer: Mr Ben Stickley

25 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm delighted to introduce myself as the newly appointed Chair of the SECAT Trust Board. With past experiences as the Vice Chair and Chair of the Audit, Risk and Resources Committee, I have garnered a deep understanding of our Trust and am eager to further our collective mission in this new role.

To begin, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Karen Dovaston, the outgoing Chair of Trustees. Her legacy of steadfast dedication and commitment to the welfare of our schools serves as an inspiration to all. We are unquestionably grateful to her for paving the way for our pupils' bright futures. "Thank you, Karen," hardly seems adequate for her outstanding effort and exceptional contribution.

A little background about my journey: I've been in the financial services industry for over two decades and run my own mortgage and wealth advising firm. Furthermore, I have an MBA from Warwick Business School, which has broadened my perspective and strategic approach in a variety of ways. My daughter is a proud student at Bournes Green Junior School. Before stepping into my role with the Trust, I had the privilege of serving as a Community Governor at a different primary school in the area.

I take on this responsibility fully aware of its significance. As Chair of Trustees, it is critical for me to ensure that our decisions and endeavours are properly aligned with the concept of providing unmatched outcomes for our students. I'm pleased to work with our CEO, Ben Stickley, as well as the great trust board and leadership team, who have consistently exhibited exceptional performance. Even with limits, our collective desire to use every available resource and innovate when presented with problems remains unwavering.

Our future will be strongly reliant on open communication and collaboration. To forge stronger bonds and understand our individual schools better, I'm planning a series of interactions and visits. I'll keep you posted on the specifics shortly.

In conclusion, the future looks bright, and I'm excited about the heights we'll reach together through our collective endeavours.

Kind regards,

Riz Malik
Chair of the SECAT Trust Board

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