

Dear Parent / Carer

Exciting update:

As of 1 February 2023, Dayspring Trust have officially merged with Northern Lights Learning Trust. We are extremely excited about this opportunity to work together and the opportunities it will bring to our young people and to our staff.

We are now known as Northern Lights Learning Trust.

Last term, we shared that Dayspring Trust – Ian Ramsey CE Academy in Stockton-on-Tees and Venerable Bede CE Academy in Sunderland – was looking to merge with Northern Lights Learning Trust. Both trusts bring a wealth of expertise, with Dayspring working in the secondary school sector and Northern Lights in the primary and early years' sector. The consultation period ended this month and we are delighted to share that the merger of our two boards and 7 schools is now finalised.

Our trust now consists of the following 7 church and non-church schools across the three local authorities of Hartlepool, Stockton-on-Tees and Sunderland:

Benedict Biscop CE Academy, Sunderland

Hart Primary, Hartlepool

Holley Park Academy, Sunderland

Ian Ramsey CE Academy, Stockton-on-Tees

St Helen's Primary, Hartlepool

St Peter's Elwick CofE Primary, Hartlepool

Venerable Bede CE Academy, Sunderland

In addition, Northern Lights is also one of only 87 DfE Teaching School Hubs nationally, as well as being one of only 2 DfE Early Years Hub in the North East. In total, we will be serving over 3000 pupils aged from 2 to 16. We hope that the trust will continue to expand across this geographical area.

Together, we are working closely together with the Board of Trustees to ensure that we can align our policies and procedures. The chairs of both trust boards have been regularly meeting over the past six months and Dayspring Trust's policies have been adopted by NLLT. In the meantime, please be assured that there will not be any significant changes that will affect our pupils, for example, the uniform will remain the same, as will the school names.

The CEO of the trust is Mrs. J Heaton, OBE and I will continue in the role of Executive Headteacher until the summer when I will be moving onto a new position. In September, I will be taking up the role of Interim Director of Education for the Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle. This is a very

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exciting opportunity which also means that I will be able to maintain my close links with the trust moving forward, as well as working with other Church of England schools across 10 local authorities. I will really miss working with the amazing young people, families and staff from both secondary academies and I wish them every success for the future.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Mrs G Booth Executive Headteacher