



13<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing as Chair of Trustees for The White Horse Federation to share the exciting news that we have appointed Dr Dan Nicholls as our new Chief Executive of the Trust. The process to find our new leader was robust and highly competitive with an impressive field of candidates, and we are very pleased to have appointed someone of Dan's calibre.

Dr Nicholls is a highly respected figure in the education sector, and particularly so in the South West. Currently Deputy CEO at the Cabot Learning Federation (CLF), which has 34 schools across Bristol and the South West, Dr Nicholls is an extremely experienced leader. He was previously Executive Principal for secondary academies, and prior to that Principal of Bristol Brunel Academy for three years. Before this, he was Deputy Head at Devizes School, which is of course part of The White Horse Federation.

At Cabot Learning Federation Dan has overseen and led education across primaries, secondaries, post-16 and special schools. He is also a respected educationalist through his sector working, system leadership, writing and presenting on leadership, teaching and disadvantage.

Dr Nicholls will be formally taking up post on 1 September, and I know he is looking forward to setting out his vision for the trust and our schools once he has joined the team.

I also want to take this opportunity to put on record the board's sincere gratitude to Mr Simon Cowley. Mr Cowley has been doing an excellent job leading the trust day to day over the past few months, leading with a calm and reassuring authority.

During the recent period of uncertainty, the trust has benefited significantly from Simon's knowledge and understanding of our schools and the respect he has from the whole White Horse community cannot be underestimated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Gibson', is written over a thin blue horizontal line.

Ninna Gibson  
Chair of Trustees