

September 2019



Friday 13th September 2019

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to the new academic year at NET Academies. After the summer break, it has been a pleasure to see the children back to school this week and to welcome the new reception children.

The term has started well for our five Harlow schools. At the beginning of term we delivered our annual NET conference at Jerounds Primary School which was attended by all staff across our schools.

Our guest speaker was Colin MacLachlan, a former SAS soldier with over 25 years of security and risk related experience. Colin talked about the importance of 'being the best he could be' and how skills such as leading others, resilience and teamwork were all important in his work. He related the events in his high profile career to some of the challenges that staff are faced with in teaching, offering ideas for how he overcame his own personal challenges.

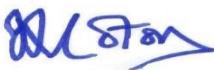
Following Colin MacLachlan's motivational talk, James Hollinsley, head at Longwood Primary Academy, spoke to NET staff about 'shaping futures' with a focus on how we supporting the disadvantaged children in our schools. Staff left the conference energised and motivated looking forward to the academic year ahead!

At NET Academies we believe that staff wellbeing and collaboration leads to pupil wellbeing and development. With our TES 'employer of the year' status for Longwood Primary Academy we ensure that our staff development and support programme is shared across our schools. We value our staff and know that it is important to invest in and retain our teachers to ensure that our children receive the best teaching.

We are very proud of our Place2Be community award celebrating the high level of awareness and engagement across all members of staff; engagement with and involvement of parents/carers; engagement with and involvement of pupils/students; proactive efforts to develop children and young people's resilience – both in and out of the classroom; targeted support on site for those identified with mental health needs and proactive efforts to support staff wellbeing.

Best wishes for the new school year.

Jo Coton



Executive headteacher/CEO



Here are a few examples of how staff describe their working life at NET academies:



'The feel of the school is warm to everybody who enters. From the day of my interview I felt a positivity in the school ethos. The enthusiastic approach to improving and enhancing learning and holistic child wellbeing has shone through to visitors on many occasions. Children feel a sense of worth within the school and a closely knit staff allows children to have a 'family-like' feel in a special place in their lives. The school sets an emotional connection to every child, which embeds in their learning and will continue to influence their education and wellbeing further in their lives.'

Laura Hiscock – Class Teacher – Longwood Primary Academy

'I enjoy working for NET as it constantly evolves to ensure we are at the forefront of educational change. Staff are given lots of opportunities to develop through continued professional development and by being part of innovative working parties. In turn this creates a wonderful environment for the children in our care.'

Natasha Nee – Deputy Headteacher – Abbotsweld Primary Academy

'It's great to work for an academy trust that actively promotes staff sharing good practice and building strong relationships between their schools to achieve the best for not just the children but for staff also.'

Carl Hills – Office manager – Abbotsweld Primary Academy

'I have always felt valued working for NET and listened to when I have ideas, whether they be about CPD or how to bring the schools together. I have never felt that I am not part of a team, within the school I work at or the wider community of the whole trust. The beauty of working for NET is the sharing of ideas. School trips, lessons, personal development have all been enhanced because of the ideas and experience of a larger group. We are a family.'

Emma Crossingham – HLTA – Katherines Primary Academy



'Since starting with NET Academies Trust, I have been provided with a wealth of CPD opportunities, affording me numerous professional and personal rewards. Moreover, this training has given me the enthusiasm and confidence to drive forward continuous improvement; resulting in both a positive culture and climate change among my colleagues and wider school community.'

Brad Smith – Class Teacher – Jerounds Primary Academy

'I am thankful for the opportunities and support that Net Academy has given me to study and fulfil my dream of becoming a class teacher. I would not have been able to achieve this without their support.'

Tracy Devonshire – Trainee Teacher – Latton Green Primary Academy

