



14th October 2026

Retirement of Three Counties Academy Trust CEO

Dear Staff, Pupils and Parents/Carers,

I am writing to let you know that I will retire from my role as CEO of Three Counties Academy Trust at the end of the 2026/27 academic year, with my final day in post being 31 August 2027.

One of the great privileges of leading Three Counties Academy Trust has been working with schools such as Stoke Prior: small rural schools with a strong identity, close relationships and a very important place within their communities.

Throughout my involvement with Stoke Prior, I have been continually reminded that the strength of a school is not measured simply by its size. It lies in the quality of its relationships, the ambition for its children and the commitment of the people who work within and support it, no school exemplifies those strengths better than Stoke Prior.

I am proud that Three Counties Academy Trust has sought to protect that individuality while creating the benefits of genuine collaboration between schools. Our intention has never been to make our schools identical. Rather, it has been to ensure that each can draw upon the expertise, capacity and friendship of a wider family while remaining recognisably its own school, and I believe strongly we have achieved that together.

I have greatly valued working with the staff, governors, families and pupils of Stoke Prior. Thank you for the welcome, support and trust you have shown me and my colleagues. I am especially thankful for the dedication shown by your Headteacher Mr. Lewis, none of what has been achieved would have been possible without his hard work, openness and commitment.

There is still almost a full academic year before my retirement, and my focus remains firmly on the work ahead. I will continue to serve the school and the wider Trust with the same commitment until my final day, while Trustees make and communicate the appropriate arrangements for the future.

Today marks the start of the formal process of appointing my successor, rest assured the Trust Board have this well in hand and we will share more details with you when that process has concluded, most likely by the time we break for what will be a well-earned Christmas break.

When I eventually step away in August 2027, one of the things of which I will be most proud is having played a part in Stoke Prior's journey. Thank you to everyone who has shared that journey with me and, most importantly, to the children who continually remind us why our work matters.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of playing a part in your school's story.

Yours faithfully,

Martin Farmer
CEO Three Counties Academy Trust