

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are well.

We have previously written to you to let you know that Sutton House Academy is to transfer to a new academy trust because Parallel Learning Trust (PLT), which it is currently part of, is to close and to ensure that the school continues to improve.

PLT's Board of Trustees had identified a strong and successful trust, the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, as the provider that the school would join. However, this transfer will now not happen and so Trustees have been considering alternative trusts for Sutton House to join.

We are writing to you today to let you know that the Board has selected Fortis Trust as its preferred trust for the school to transfer to. This decision was based on what is in the best interests of the pupils, their families and the staff at the school. Fortis has therefore been invited to undertake due diligence. If that is completed to the satisfaction of all parties, and if the Department for Education approves the transfers, then Sutton House Academy would join Fortis at some point next academic year.

The Board was impressed by Fortis and agreed it is the right "fit" in terms of ethos, culture and vision, as well as being a strong, well-run trust. Fortis leads a special needs school for more than 400 children and young people aged four to 19, and an institution which supports young people with special educational needs and disabilities in Medway, Kent and the South East to find permanent and purposeful employment.

We know that this change means a delay in the transfer process but we know you will agree that getting this right for your children is the most important thing.

As always through this process, we will continue to keep you updated as this matter progresses, but please of course let us know if you have any questions in the meantime. Thank you as ever for your support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Alvis".

Jon Alvis  
Chair  
Parallel Learning Trust

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Barry".

Angela Barry OBE  
Interim Chief Executive  
Parallel Learning Trust