



**KING EDWARD VI
ASTON SCHOOL**

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**KING EDWARD VI
ACADEMY TRUST
BIRMINGHAM**

27th November 2020

Dear Parent(s)

We are pleased to announce that with effect from 1st January 2021 and on an interim basis until 31st August 2021, Mrs Amy Whittall will be the joint Headteacher of King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls and King Edward VI Aston School. The appointment commences on the departure of Ms Sarah Lewsey, the Acting Headteacher at Aston, who leaves to head a school in Coventry.

This follows the tragic death of Mr Colin Parker, who had been Headteacher at Aston since 2004. Mrs Whittall was formerly Deputy Headteacher at Aston, a post which she left to take up the headship at Handsworth. Mrs Whittall had worked closely with Mr Parker over a number of years and latterly they worked together to develop areas in which the two schools could collaborate as part of the King Edward VI Multi-Academy Trust.

With such a close connection to Aston, Mrs Whittall is ideally placed to not only maintain the progress that Mr Parker had made at Aston, but to continue to foster the close co-operation of the two schools. Her understanding of Aston means that she is uniquely qualified to take on this demanding role. Mrs Whittall will be dividing her time between the two sites supported by the Senior Leadership Teams at each school. In this she has the support of both Local Governing Bodies.

At a time when we are still mourning the loss of Mr Parker, we are comforted by the thought that he had huge respect for and confidence in Mrs Whittall and would certainly have approved her appointment, happy that his school was being placed in safe hands. This temporary appointment has been made pending recruitment of a new Headteacher for Aston to take up post with likely effect from September 2021.

Finally, we are confident that with the strong SLT and staff in each school, both schools will continue to flourish at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Dupree
Chair King Edward VI Aston School

David Wheeldon
Chair King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls

Headmaster: C. Parker *M.Hist, MBA, NPQH*

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