

4<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Last term, our Trust CEO, Julie Taylor, announced her decision to retire at the end of this academic year. Following Julie's announcement, we have been recruiting for a new CEO. I am pleased to share that this process was successful and we received a number of strong applications for the role. This is a real testament to the strength and stability of the Trust we have built together.

I am delighted to announce that following this process we have appointed Michael Gernon as our new CEO. Mick has 36 years' experience working in education in a range of transformational and innovative leadership roles in the UK and internationally. As an experienced and successful CEO, Executive Principal, and School Improvement Leader, he has led new, turnaround, and groups of schools in the UK and Dubai.

With extensive commercial and corporate experience as a Principal Advisor with KPMG's Government Advisory (UK), Department for Education Consultancy for new academies, four Principalships, and his current role as Chief Education Innovation Officer at the world's largest international schools' group, Mick brings an exciting and unique combination of outstanding educational, commercial, and technological leadership experience from across public and private sectors to TDET.

Over the course of the coming year, the Trustees and I will begin to develop our new strategic plan, which will define the direction of the Trust over the next five years. The appointment of Mick, bringing a fresh pair of eyes and a wealth of experience, will be central to this.

Mick will take on the role from September and I know that he is looking forward to meeting you all and to building on the superb work undertaken by Julie. Until September, Julie remains our CEO and I have no doubt that she will continue to be as active, passionate, and committed to the Trust as ever during this time.

I hope you will join me in welcoming Mick to the Trust and in marking this exciting new chapter in TDET's history.



Dr Richard Barnes  
Chair of Trustees, Thomas Deacon Education Trust