

26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all had a good half term and that your children are looking forward to returning to face to face teaching soon. I know I speak on behalf of the entire Trust when I say that we cannot wait to have them back in the classroom.

In September, I will reach a certain age milestone, and after 38 years as a teacher and leader in education I have decided that now is the right time for me to retire and begin the next chapter of my life, spending more time with my family.

The Trust is currently in the second year of its three-year strategic plan. Therefore not only does the time feel right for me, but it will also allow the Trust to recruit a new CEO to help shape, and then lead, a new strategic plan as the Trust enters the next stage of its journey.

Trustees have been aware of my intention to retire during the current three-year plan for some time to allow a new CEO to takeover and see the Trust through the next phase.

I will not be going anywhere soon and will continue as CEO until a suitable replacement has been appointed. However, I wanted you to know of my decision as the formal recruitment process begins.

I am very proud of what TDET has achieved since the Trust was formed in 2016. We always wanted to create a Trust that was a partnership of schools that worked together, united by our common values. This year, faced with the challenges of Covid-19, it has been demonstrated to me that this partnership is growing stronger and stronger.

While I will be sad to leave and will miss our wonderful staff and children, I am confident the Trust has strong values, excellent leaders, committed employees and partnerships which will enable it to continue to be successful for many years to come. TDET is safe in their hands.

I know that the Trustees will be in touch with you regularly over the coming terms to update you on the recruitment process.

Thank you for the support you have shown me and my colleagues during my six years as CEO of Thomas Deacon Education Trust.

Kind regards,

Julie Taylor  
Chief Executive Officer