

June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to share some important news about a change in leadership within our Trust.

Sir Mark Grundy, Chief Executive Officer of Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust, has announced his intention to retire at the end of the 2025/26 academic year. This will mark the conclusion of an extraordinary 41-year career in education, during which Sir Mark has made a profound difference to the lives of thousands of young people.

Many of you will know Sir Mark not only as the founding CEO of the Trust, but also from his time as Principal of Shireland Collegiate Academy. Over the years, he has led our schools with passion, purpose and a deep commitment to ensuring that every child receives the best possible education.

Under his leadership, the Trust has grown to 12 schools across the West Midlands and is widely recognised for its innovative use of technology, commitment to high standards, and dedication to supporting every pupil to succeed. The majority of our academies are now rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted — a reflection of the high expectations and strong foundations that Sir Mark has helped to put in place.

In recognition of his contribution to education and technology, Sir Mark was awarded a knighthood in 2006. We are delighted that even after his retirement, he has agreed to remain involved with the Trust one day a week in an advisory role to support a smooth and effective transition to new leadership.

The process to appoint a new Chief Executive Officer will begin in July 2025, and we are committed to finding the right person to take the Trust forward while building on everything that Sir Mark has helped us achieve.

On behalf of the Trust Board, I would like to thank you for your continued support of our schools. We look forward to keeping you informed as we move into this next chapter for the Trust.

Yours sincerely

Michael Conway Jones
Chair of the Trust Board
Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust

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