



15 February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Re: The High Weald Academy Council

I am writing to inform you of some important changes to the way governance operates at The High Weald Academy. Governance forms an incredibly important part of school leadership and also for shaping the future of a school.

In response to changes in our local Academy Council and to strengthen this area of the academy's leadership and management an Interim Advisory Board (IAB) will take up the role our Academy Council has had, until now. We have seen great improvements at the Academy this year and our students continue to make us proud. The new IAB will work with Senior Leaders in offering support and challenge to secure the best possible outcomes for the young people we serve. Membership of the IAB:

IAB Member	Information
Jeanette Batten	Trustee for Brook Learning Trust
Martin Garner	Member and Trustee for Brook Learning Trust (IAB Chair)
Julia McGinley	Parent
Lindsay Roberts	National Leader of Education, Headteacher Goudhurst & Kilndown Primary School
Nicola Taylor	Education Director Brook Learning Trust

2017 DfE Governance Handbook defines the three main functions of governance for academies as being:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

The Trust Board of Brook Learning Trust will continue to retain overall responsibility and accountability for ensuring these three areas are fulfilled. It already delegates certain decision making activities to its committees, Standards Panel and local governance (IAB) and will continue to do so. The terms of reference for the IAB and its delegated responsibilities are captured in the scheme of delegation which is available to view on the Trust website.

The Interim Advisory Board will assume responsibility for the local governance of The High Weald Academy until Easter 2020 at which point it will undertake to recruit suitable candidates to form a new Academy Council. The IAB will work alongside the new Academy Council for the remainder of that academic year and the Academy Council will then begin its work without the IAB guidance from September 2020.

For further information about the role of the IAB or to express an interest in becoming an Academy Councillor in the future please contact the Clerk, Alie Bird, at [birda@brooklearningtrust.org.uk](mailto:birda@brooklearningtrust.org.uk) or 01580 721754 ext 277.

Yours sincerely,



Daniel Hatley  
**Executive Principal**