

3rd March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2024, Mrs Gregory stepped into the role of headteacher at Hawkley Hall High School following the departure of her predecessor. Mrs Gregory has done a stellar job continuing to improve the school and has immersed herself fully into the role, not least leading the school through an Ofsted inspection which resulted in an excellent report. However, Mrs Gregory's substantive role is Rowan Learning Trust Deputy Director of Secondary Education and the time is approaching when she will return to that role.

Behind the scenes, Trustees, the CEO Mr Rimmer and I have been working hard to find the right individual who will step into the post of headteacher at the school on a permanent basis.

We acknowledge that there has been some turbulence in terms of leadership of the school and we are keen to ensure that this is not the case moving forward. I must emphasise that the school has continued to improve during this period of change. The steady presence of The Rowan Learning Trust, the school senior leadership team and the hard work of all staff at school has mitigated against any risks that may have occurred due to leadership changes. In fact, Hawkley Hall High School celebrated an excellent set of GCSE results in summer 2024 and as I referenced already, received the external validation of its strengths from Ofsted in recent months.

I am now in a position to announce that The Rowan Learning Trust has recently appointed Mr McKendrick as Headteacher of Hawkley High School. I am thrilled to share that he will take up post on Monday 31st March and Mrs Gregory will return to her central Trust role. Of course, Mrs Gregory will be on hand to ensure that there is a smooth transition and will join me in working with Mr McKendrick to take Hawkley Hall High School from strength to strength.

Mr McKendrick is a current headteacher in our Trust and previously was my deputy headteacher when I was in headship. I am confident that he is the right person to step into this role and I know that he feels privileged to have the opportunity to join such a wonderful community.

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I am happy to state that I am very optimistic about what this appointment will mean to the students of Hawkley Hall High School. May I take this opportunity to thank Mrs Gregory for all that she has done and continues to do as headteacher at school.

Both Mrs Gregory and Mr McKendrick will write to you in due course.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rochelle Conefrey".

Rochelle Conefrey
Director of Secondary Education