



13th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

A new future for the trust

As respectively Chair of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the trust that runs our family of 5 schools, we are writing to let you know that in the week commencing 31st May we are changing our name to North Star Community Trust.

After just over a decade in existence, we feel now is a good time to renew and refresh our vision, mission and values, as we embark on the next exciting stage of our future providing education to over 2,500 pupils.

We all know that the future is going to be very challenging and we need to work together as never before on behalf of the children. Last week we were delighted by the news that our secondary academy, Heron Hall, had reached the final of the UK's 'Secondary School of the Year' competition. We are doing everything we can to make all our primary schools the very best they can be and get our pupils to where they need to be.

Creating a clearer and stronger identity for the trust



We have achieved so much since we started as a single school in 2010 and in what is, hopefully, now the wake of the pandemic, it is time to strengthen what we stand for and to do this in a more coherent way as a trust.

We want to stress more than ever that we are a special group of schools bound by a common purpose, where children can achieve their maximum potential and where parents feel fully supported.

With the establishment in 2018 of our Community Outreach team, which is now running so many successful programmes, we want to highlight to potential families thinking of joining us that we are

committed to creating a genuine community hub across our schools, with lots of help and assistance for families if they choose a place at one of them.

We need to continue to attract new pupils in significant numbers so we can maintain the very strong level of financial resources we have been able to invest in the schools. Pupils numbers across our side of the borough are in decline.

Having a clearer, stronger identity as a trust will help us to achieve all of this.

What matters the most, of course, is the quality of teaching and learning in our schools.

This won't change - but we also need to do everything we can to make choosing one of our schools the first choice for families by making them as attractive as possible, in every way possible.

Removing barriers

North Star Community Trust will also help us to move away from the current confusion that we are 'CHAT Academies' or 'Cuckoo Hall Academies Trust' and the additional confusion caused by the Trust and one of the schools having the same name.

We need to ensure, as school numbers in the borough decline, that there are no barriers to families selecting our schools and for the best new staff to want to come and join us.

Does this change my school in any way, such as having different processes and procedures?

No. The 5 schools are a part of exactly the same trust - it is just that we have changed our name as an organisation.

What will be happening?

The trust, which manages your school, will become North Star Community Trust, a logo will accompany the new name. 'CHAT Academies' and 'Cuckoo Hall Academies Trust' will be names that will no longer be used. You will notice school staff email signatures and email addresses will be changed. There will be new signage across the schools, changes to web sites and social media to reflect the new name and the schools being a part of North Star.

If email addresses are changing, how will I be able to email the school or teachers?

You can still email your school using the 'old' email addresses as they will automatically be redirected to the new ones.

Are the names of the 5 schools you manage changing or the school logos and websites?

No. They all stay the same. On the school websites the references to 'CHAT Academies' and 'Cuckoo Hall Academies Trust' will be removed.

Will I need to buy new uniforms items?

No. Items with your school logo will not change.

Why did you choose the name North Star Community Trust?

The name was chosen after consultation with the schools, including involving groups of pupils. On one level we like the idea that every single one of our children has a talent to make them a star in their own right. We wanted to highlight the role schools are schools are fulfilling at the heart of the 'community'. A 'North star' also sets a course and a clear direction for everyone involved in the trust - especially for the children in both academic achievement and becoming citizens of the future.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donald Graham", written in black ink on a white background.

Dr Donald Graham
Chair, Board of Trustees

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marino Charalambous", written in black ink on a white background.

Marino Charalambous
Chief Executive Officer