



**Introductory meeting between parents and Executive Headteacher, Jo Coton**

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014, Abbotsweld Primary School

Present: Parents/Carers, Jo Coton (Executive Headteacher from 1 Jan 2015), Maxine Evans (Chief Executive, NETAT), Takako Yeung (Director of Operations and Development, NETAT), Ruth Bird (Chair, Interim Executive Board), Fran Johnson (IEB), Tosca Boothman (IEB), Stephen Rodwell (Academies Officer, NETAT)

What follows is a summary of the meeting between Jo Coton, the parents of children at Abbotsweld Primary School and NET Academies Trust (NETAT).

- Jo Coton welcomed parents to the meeting. Jo will be the Executive Headteacher for the three Harlow academies – Abbotsweld, Latton Green and Longwood - from 1 January 2015. Initially, she will be based at Latton Green Primary School. Jo's biography is available via the following link: <http://www.netacademies.net/news/?pid=24&nid=6&storyid=4>
- NET Academies Trust informed parents that Charmaine Ward has been successfully appointed as Interim Head of School for Abbotsweld. Charmaine will take up the position from January.
- James Hollinsley will be based at Longwood Primary School as the Head of School, Achievement and Progress Lead. James will also be responsible for achievement and progress across the three Harlow academies. His biography is available via the following link: <http://www.netacademies.net/news/?pid=24&nid=6&storyid=5>
- Questions were raised as to how Jo intends to split her time across the three schools.
  - Jo will initially base herself at Latton Green, though she will travel to both Abbotsweld and Longwood as required. The Head of School will be the permanent leadership presence at Abbotsweld.
  - Jo will organise a parent forum in the first half term so that she can meet with parents.
- Parents asked about the support that would be in place for teachers.
  - It is important that all staff feel that they have the necessary support in place to be able to do their job successfully.
  - Jo aims to encourage a low turnover of staff by making current employees feel valued. To achieve this, staff will be given frequent opportunities for training, and their ideas and opinions will be continually incorporated into plans going forward.

- Staff from the three Harlow schools will also be able to collaborate on group CPD, training and lesson planning.
- A common question from the Latton Green and Longwood parents meetings was whether current staff would be required to move to either of the other two Harlow academies.
  - Current staff contracts and terms and conditions will be transferred over to the new employer, NET Academies Trust, on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015. Therefore, staff will not be relocated to either Latton Green or Longwood.
  - Any new contracts signed after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 will be more flexible, and could mean that these staff members are required to work across more than one Harlow academy.
  - Any changes to current staff contracts after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 will be made in full consultation with staff. Jo aims to work with Abbotsweld to consider the current staffing structure.
- Parents were thanked for their attendance and contributions and invited to send any further comments or questions to Takako Yeung:  
[takako@nationaleducationtrust.net](mailto:takako@nationaleducationtrust.net)