



14th July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As we busily plan for full opening in September, I am keen to share with you an important update regarding the future leadership of our school and the Wider Nova Education Trust.

As the founding school of the Nova Education Trust, and designated 'Outstanding' school since 2012, we have worked very successfully with a growing number of partnership schools; sharing expertise and resource to help secure the ambitious vision we have for our school. We have developed real synergy with colleagues both on the Nova Education Board and in other schools that has led to tangible, positive change for all children. Our determination to provide the highest quality of education for all children remains relentless and is supported in particular by our Local Governing Body and our current Executive Head and Vice CEO Ash Rahman, who will continue to work closely with us in the future.

During this time our work at Toot Hill School to create the most ambitious knowledge led curriculum for all students has developed well and has continued with particular focus during lock down. This serves to underpin the most wholesome of recoveries from the 14 weeks of school closure our students have endured and leaves us well poised to deliver the highest quality teaching and learning in classrooms on our return. This work has been highly commended as exemplar practice and we were accredited as one of only 14 lead schools in the country last Autumn term by NACE (National Association for Able Children in Education), in recognition of our ambitious curriculum planning and teaching and learning across the school.

Our Trust has always maintained that the educational partnership that exists between our schools provides an exciting opportunity to develop excellence for all children, in all communities. With this in mind, I am pleased to inform you that I have secured a position to lead on Curriculum Development across all secondary schools within the Trust, from September 2020, whilst taking on the Executive Headship of Melton Vale Sixth Form and Toot Hill School, where I will be based. This will mean I will work closely with the Senior Leadership Teams of both schools on strategic agendas, whilst I work in partnership with colleagues at other secondary schools as they develop their curriculum provision for all children. After 21 years at Toot Hill School I am very excited at the prospect of broadening my horizons and working with other schools, whilst following my passion for curriculum. I feel incredibly lucky to be able to do this whilst maintaining close strategic ties with this very special school and community.

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Executive Head Teacher: **Ashfaq Rahman** BSc(Hons), PGDip, PGCE, NPQH, NLE | Head of School: **Sandra Paley** BSc(Hons), PGCE, MEd

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As a school and a Trust we are totally committed to supporting all staff to develop to their full potential and as a result have a very strong team at both Senior and Middle leadership levels, coupled with the support and guidance of an experienced and determined Governing Body. I am therefore, delighted to inform you that Chris Eardley, Senior Deputy Head Teacher, will take up the position of Head of School from September 2020. Chris has worked at Toot Hill School for 14 years now, alongside myself, Ash Rahman and John Tomasevic. I trust Chris implicitly and look forward to continuing to work closely with him and our wider leadership team, in our pursuit of excellence.

It has been an absolute privilege to serve as Headteacher of Toot Hill School for 4 years - a position I have loved! Our ethos and aspiration makes our school a great one in which to work and learn, and I have years of cherished memories of our journey so far. Your support and feedback during this time has been invaluable in shaping both me and our school and I look forward to this continuing in the future.

I am sure that you will join me in congratulating Chris in his new role, as we all continue to work together on our ambitious journey to ensure the very highest quality of education for all of our children.

Both Chris and I are very much looking forward to welcoming you all back in September and will be in touch later this week with some key details to help you plan for your child's return to school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S Paley'.

Mrs S Paley
Head of School