

April 2019

Dear families

On behalf of Dixons Academies Trust, I am writing to announce that Mr Dreher will be retiring at the end of this academic year.

Mr Dreher joined Dixons Allerton Academy in its first year and has shown incredible commitment and drive in serving staff and students over the last 9 years.

Dixons Allerton is unrecognisable from the school we inherited and, due to Mr Dreher's inspirational leadership, is well placed to cement its position as one of the best schools in Bradford. This year, Dixons Allerton topped the local performance tables at Post 16 and was placed in the top quarter of schools nationally for student progress at GCSE. In primary, 95% of students passed the phonics screening check last year – a wonderful achievement.

Our most recent Ofsted report will be released very shortly and we look forward to sharing it with you. The report will be the best in the school's history and a great way for Mr Dreher to end his career.

No one has worked harder than Mr Dreher to transform Dixons Allerton and he can be very proud of all he has achieved. I am sure you will join me in thanking him for everything he has done for our school community. He will be sadly missed, but we wish him the very best for his well-deserved retirement.

I am delighted to inform you that, from September, Ms Skelding will take up the position as Principal of Dixons Allerton.

Ms Skelding is an exceptional Principal who joined Dixons Academies Trust in April 2018 from Feversham College. She has over 20 years' experience teaching in Bradford and has spent the last 10 years in Principal roles.

Under Ms Skelding's leadership, Feversham College consistently ranked as one of the best schools in the country for students' achievement and one of the most popular schools in the region.

Most recently, Dixons Trust assigned Ms Skelding to Dixons Cottingley in order to accelerate its progress in its first year as a Dixons academy. Through her impressive leadership, the culture at Dixons Cottingley is being transformed. Ms Skelding is unrelenting in her commitment to improving educational standards and life chances of students regardless of their backgrounds or starting points.

I know you will be sorry to see Mr Dreher leave; however, I have every confidence that Ms Skelding will work tirelessly to ensure Dixons Allerton continues to rank as one of the best schools in Bradford. She has already started to work with Mr Dreher to ensure the transition is as seamless as possible.

There will be an opportunity to meet Ms Skelding at an evening for all current parents next term. At the same meeting, I will update you on the academy's performance, current successes and priorities for further improvement. I look forward to seeing you then.

Finally, thank you for your continued support. I'm really proud of our students and staff at Dixons Allerton and our success is testament to the commitment our whole community has shared.

Yours faithfully



Luke Sparkes
Executive Principal

