



23rd June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you with information about the Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership Trust Chairperson, Stuart Warrener. Stuart has been the Chair of the Trust Board since it first began and prior to this, was the Chair of Governors at Norton Hill and Somervale Schools. In total, Stuart has been involved in school and Trust Governance for over 16 years.

Stuart has presided over a Trust that now has an income in excess of £100 million, with assets close to £500 million, with 28 schools, 13,000 children and over 2000 staff. As the Trust Chair, he is responsible with other Trustees and myself, for everything related to the Trust. Most Parents and Carers will not realise quite what goes on behind the scenes of a large Multi-Academy Trust, but it has many similarities to that of a large business or charity. As such, the commitment of Trustees and particularly the Chair, is very significant.

Parents and Carers may also be surprised that the Trustees are unpaid volunteers, yet are taking on the responsibility for multi-million pound organisations. I have calculated that Stuart Warrener has given approximately one and half years of working days reading documents, making decisions about all manner of issues, supporting parents and staff and of course, ensuring the Multi-Academy Trust improves schools. That is an incredible gift to give to schools and their communities and I am personally very grateful for the time and support I have received from Stuart over many years.

The Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership Trust is one of the most successful Multi-Academy-Trusts nationally. We have very high pupil outcomes from Reception to A level, have never seen a school drop an Ofsted grade in ten years and have supported inadequate schools to improve and provide a good level of education. On top of that, the Trust has been responsible for building a new primary school, improving existing school facilities, as well as ensuring teachers and support staff are the best they can be. Safeguarding of children and SEND provision is always graded 'good' or better in our schools and whilst we are not perfect, the record of the Trust is impressive by any measure.

In his working life, Stuart Warrener was the president of a large multinational company in the entertainment industry. He travelled constantly, struck multi-billion dollar deals with retail companies and was what we would describe as a real 'high-flyer'. His children went to state schools in this Trust, because he believes that all children should be able to attend good or better schools regardless of their postcode or the wealth of their parents/carers. He has been a great advocate of schools and the work we do and he will be greatly missed as a Trustee.

In the new academic year, we will appoint a new Chairperson from existing members of the Trust Board and when that person has been appointed, I will of course notify all staff, parents and carers. For now though, it's a very big thank you to Stuart for all that he has done for our schools, children and communities.

Kind regards

Alun Williams
CEO

