



23 March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Since becoming part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT), The Victory Academy and Holcombe Grammar School (HGS) have been working together very closely for the benefit of all students. Both schools' strong results contributed to TSAT becoming the top Trust in the country in 2017 for academic progress.

The Trust has been considering how the two schools can build further on this excellent partnership, and naturally this includes, since the decision of the Principal of Holcombe to step down in December, looking at sharing of skills and strengthening leadership. To this end, it has been decided that, whilst I will continue to be Principal of Victory, I have also been successfully appointed to perform a similar role for Holcombe, from September. I will therefore hold the title 'Executive Principal'.

This means I will continue to have day-to-day leadership of Victory, but that I will be supported in this by Victory's newly appointed Head of School, Maxine Hall (currently our school's Assistant Principal for Every Learner Achieves). A new Head of School has also been appointed for Holcombe, providing the same support.

I am very excited about the numerous benefits and opportunities that the new joint leadership structure will provide for your children. These include streamlining the two school structures to provide efficiency and clarity of purpose and vision; allowing for even greater sharing of expertise between the schools; widening opportunities for students; and offering a broad Sixth Form curriculum of academic and vocational qualifications.

Having a single Executive Principal across both schools will also enable joined-up strategic development. Janina Villalta, currently Victory's Vice Principal, has been appointed to lead on staffing and operations across Victory and Holcombe. Ross McLellan, Victory's Assistant Principal for Key Stage 3, will lead on curriculum and academic standards for both schools, developing a joint way of working and allowing the schools to operate in tandem and with a consistency in curriculum approaches and greater ability to support and offer educational improvements.

I am very clear that both schools should continue to have their own identities and individual strengths, with strong leadership within each school that encourages and facilitates decision-making in the best interests of students, and makes the most of the shared values for the benefit of both schools. Victory's vision based on the Arts, Naval and Thinking will of course be maintained and strengthened.



ASPIRE, ENDEAVOUR, ACHIEVE

www.thevictoryacademy.org.uk

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Chief Executive Officer: Mr S Gardner BA (Hons) MSc NPQH LLE

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The Victory Academy is a member of The Thinking Schools Academy Trust, whose registered address is c/o The Rochester Grammar School, Maidstone Road, Rochester, Kent, ME1 3BY. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company Number: 7359755



At Victory we have been on a rewarding journey– with your incredible support, we have transformed the school to become the top-performing high school in Medway. As well as a focus on high academic standards, Victory has recently been accredited by the University of Exeter as a Thinking School (teaching students to be creative and independent thinkers) and has been awarded Artsmark Platinum for our commitment to students’ cultural entitlement.

This journey is of course ongoing and I am delighted that I will continue to lead Victory. The Academy benefits from a dedicated and creative team of staff; of which you as parents and carers play a key part. In partnership, we work to ensure we support our young people to achieve their full potential. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support. I look forward to carrying on working with you as our school continues on its upward trajectory.

Yours sincerely

Mandy Gage
Principal



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