



Elstow School

12<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Dear Parents & Carers,

We are pleased to be able to announce today that we have made a strong appointment to replace Mark Lehain as Executive Principal.

The process to appoint Mark's successor was extremely robust, with Trustees and BFS staff involved at each stage; we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who assisted us along the way.

Appointing people to run schools is never easy, but we were delighted with the quality of the applications we received, from across the country as well as locally.

We held interviews with over two days in the week before half term, having called in a variety of talented candidates. We knew we had to appoint someone who could build on the good work so far at BFS, but also take things to the next level, and grow our family of schools to the benefit of students and their families.

**As such, we are delighted to be able to confirm today that Stuart Lock will be joining us from Cottenham Village College**, an extremely successful school in Cambridgeshire. We are grateful to Cottenham for agreeing to release him early, so he will take over from Mark on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Stuart is a very experienced school leader, having worked in a number of different roles in a variety of schools. Most importantly for BFS families, he understands the things that make us unique and high-performing, such as our knowledge-rich curriculum and high standards of behaviour. He also knows how he can make things even better for our students at BFS and across our Trust.

We know that families will want to get to know him as soon as possible, and we know that he is keen to meet with members of the school family too. With that in mind, we will organise some times to allow this, and he will be writing to introduce himself properly in the near future too.

All-in-all, this is a very exciting time for Bedford Free School, and we look forward to sharing more about our plans for the future very soon.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Arden".

Liz Arden  
Chair of Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Syson" followed by a horizontal line.

Nigel Syson  
Chair of BFS Governors