

SJT/caw

28 April 2022

Dear Colleague

Many thanks for displaying an interest in the role of **Deputy Chief Executive Officer** at The GORSE Academies Trust.

It goes without saying that the process of appointing to this role is of great importance to all of us within the trust. The successful candidate will be responsible, along with myself, for the strategic and operational running of one of the most successful educational trusts in the country. We employ over 1,500 people and teach close to 11,000 children and young people. Our annual turnover is now close to £70million.

It is important for me to make clear that it is not my intention to step down from the role of Chief Executive Officer in the near future. On the contrary, it is the view of trustees that it is essential to develop this new role to work alongside me and other senior colleagues over the coming years to ensure that every aspect of our work is understood and influenced by more than one person. We do expect the successful candidate to be a future Chief Executive Officer of an educational trust in their own right. It may well be that at some point in the future this is The GORSE Academies Trust.

Our trust is exceptionally well viewed by all key stakeholders nationally and regionally. We enjoy an excellent relationship with our local authority, with our Regional School's Commissioner and the Department for Education more widely. Though the last Department for Education Performance Tables now go back to 2019, that information shows that when one combines primary, secondary and post-16 progress data we are the highest performing multi-academy trust in the country, particularly regarding the performance of disadvantaged pupils. We also operate the largest School Centred Initial Teacher Training programme in the country; GORSE SCITT was judged by Ofsted to be Outstanding in all areas of its work in 2018 and forms an aorta of brilliant teachers to our schools and our partner schools across the city region.

As a trust we are not driven by the spur of growth, for growth's sake. We remain committed to focusing our work on the Leeds city region and you can get from any one of our schools to another in less than 30 minutes. This is essential to us because we are a tactile organisation which revels in the opportunities provided by partnership, conversation and dialogue. For us, growth has been managed with extreme care. We have combined the sponsorship of a small number of Inadequate schools with the opening of 3 free schools recognising that the challenge of the former is considerably greater than the challenge of the latter. We have, as an example, recently sponsored John Smeaton Academy which in 2019 was Leeds lowest performing secondary school. It will not be our intention to consider the sponsorship of any other secondary schools until such point that John Smeaton Academy is at least a very good school.

We do have a small number of exciting new initiatives already approved and committed to opening. In September 2023 Leeds Mathematics School will open in the city centre in formal partnership with the University of Leeds. We also have approval for a new primary school, The Terry Elliott Academy, which is due to open in September 2024 immediately adjacent to John Smeaton Academy.

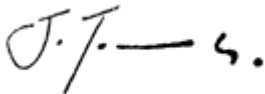
The role of Deputy Chief Executive Officer is a new one within our trust and with the board I am content to develop the details of the role around the successful candidate. That being said, it is our view that the successful candidate will take a lead on strategy and performance across all schools as well as direct involvement in trust strategy on growth and new projects. We anticipate that the successful candidate will work very closely with our trustees and local governing bodies and continue to ensure that our external relationships are exemplary. Our new Deputy Chief Executive Officer will need to be an exceptional ambassador for our trust.

If, having read through the application pack, you do decide to put forward an application then we would love to hear from you.

As well as completing the application form provided you will be asked to write two separate statements, each being no more than two sides of A4 paper. The first should set out your experience and achievements which are relevant to this post. The second should set out how, as DCEO, you would see The GORSE Academies Trust developing over the course of the next five years.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Sir John Townsley
Chief Executive Officer