

22 October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Introduction to United Learning

We are very pleased United Learning has been chosen by the Governing Body of Sale High School as their preferred future partner. As a Group with a strong track record of supporting schools in the Greater Manchester area, we are excited about the opportunity to work collaboratively with staff and students to help build on recent successes.

Our initial discussions with the governing board and your Headteacher, Adam Rogers, have been extremely positive and we look forward to continuing these with parents and staff as we conduct our due diligence.

There are over 100 schools in United Learning; each with its own identity and ethos that chime with the community it serves – context matters, and one size does not fit all. Our Group includes co-educational and single sex schools (for both genders) as well as all-through, secondaries and primaries. Many of our schools have existed for decades and have a strong legacy, others are entirely new and have developed their own character and identity.

We have had a strong presence in the Greater Manchester area for over twenty years; our schools include William Hulme’s Grammar school, Manchester Academy, Stockport Academy, Salford City Academy, The Albion Academy, Irlam and Cadishead Academy and The Lowry Academy. Each of these schools has its own very specific identity and ethos but is strengthened by the support and collaboration it receives as part of our Group. We provide our schools with central resource and support – both educationally and in wider functions – but this support must be tailored to meet the needs of individual settings, because schools join us at different stages of their improvement journey. We challenge colleagues when we think there is room for improvement; equally, where practice is already strong, our role is to encourage and maintain high standards, so schools continue to thrive.

Our approach offers a range of models for collaboration bringing benefits to staff and students: opportunities for professional development and progression for staff through strong local and national networks at all levels; opportunities for students that go beyond what any single school could offer – for example, programmes bringing students from different schools together to challenge themselves in new ways; and Group-wide musical performances in major venues like the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester.

Our Heads run our schools and make decisions in the interests of what is right for children and young people. We are united in putting children first; but our scale gives us significant capacity to get behind schools and support them to succeed.

As a group, we have four strategic aims:

- **Great places to learn** – because of the educational quality of our schools, their development of the whole person and the preparation they offer for life, the pastoral care they offer and the quality of the environment and relationships.
- **Great places to work** – because our schools offer an excellent professional experience, high quality relationships with students and other colleagues, excellent professional growth and opportunities and a high-quality working environment and resources.
- **A great Group to join** – because of the quality of support we offer schools with compliance, the ‘back office’, education and school improvement and the high-quality collaboration between schools.
- **A great contribution beyond the Group** – because United Learning has a commitment to local communities, the national education system, and the wider world.

Over the next few months, we will be completing our due diligence of the school so that it can join us either towards the end of this academic year or at the start of the next one. We look forward to our colleagues spending more time in the school during this process.

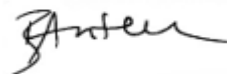
We appreciate that parents may have questions they wish to ask us about United Learning and what it means to be part of our Group. We are therefore looking forward to meeting with parents on **Monday 4th November** at Sale High School to tell you more about us and our approach to working with our schools. The school will confirm the time of the meetings in due course.

As you will understand, it is still relatively early days in our understanding of your school so we may not be able to give you full answers to some of the very specific questions you may have. But we hope that, in meeting you during the due diligence phase, we will be able to assure you of our commitment to Sale High School and its future.

Yours sincerely



Sir Jon Coles
Chief Executive



Ben Antell
Director of Secondary Academies