

September 2021

Dear Families

It is my pleasure to invite you all to **John Smeaton Academy's Open Evening** from **6.00pm** on **Thursday 7 October 2021**. This will be our first Open Evening since becoming part of The GORSE Academies Trust; a trust which is widely regarded as the highest performing trust in the country and is respected nationally for its ability to rapidly transform schools into truly Outstanding provisions for the benefit of students and their families.

We know from the enquiries we have already received that there is excitement in the community and more widely about the changes that are taking place at John Smeaton Academy. There is no doubt that the school is already increasing in popularity and so our Open Evening really is an event that prospective students and families cannot afford to miss!

Choosing the right secondary school is essential for the future life chances of a young person. As an experienced Principal having led the highest performing school within Leeds and overseen the exceptional performance of six academies within my Executive Principal role, I am well placed to share with you why I know you can put your trust in John Smeaton Academy to deliver on its promises.

The rapid transformation has already started and our students are thriving as a result: on Thursday 7 October you will have the opportunity to learn about the significant changes that have already taken place and that are enhancing the educational experience of our students every day. Sir John Townsley will also be present on the evening and, as you may be aware, he has a strong connection to John Smeaton Academy having started his career in the school which was, at the time in the 1990s, a respected provision within the east of Leeds. Together, with our team of experienced professionals, and working in partnership with our governors, students and their families, we are determined to ensure John Smeaton Academy becomes a shining beacon of excellence within Leeds and across the country. This will happen rapidly and it is an exciting time for any young person to join us.

Supporting our students to 'Secure the Gift of Choice' is our passion. It is imperative if they are to truly have the ability to *choose* their destination and employer. Without a choice happiness is hindered and there is no doubt that at the root of our everyday actions is the desire to feel fulfilled and happy. At John Smeaton Academy we support students to find their passion through the ability to engage in a wide range of exciting enrichment opportunities as part of our Enrichment++ programme. Opportunities that, are all too often sadly reserved for students in private education. Not in GORSE! Within the trust, as an example, our students are able to enjoy rowing on the water as part of the GORSE Boat Club, they are able to learn the art of Karate under the tutelage of an experienced team of Senseis or develop their volleyball craft alongside having the opportunity to work with the Leeds Volleyball Association. Furthermore, as part of our unprecedented Trinidad Legacy Programme students can gain access to parts of Trinidad that are only available to scientists and conservationists. All of this and more alongside what you

may consider to be the more 'traditional' avenues on offer in terms of our Performing Arts, Literature, debating, Technology and Art programmes.

We know how important it is for parents/carers and their children, to choose a secondary school which has incredibly high standards and aspirations for all its young people. Join us on Thursday 7 October at 6pm to ensure you are able to Secure the Gift of Choice for your child.

Yours faithfully



Mrs L Griffiths
Principal