

9 March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very pleased to share the news that Dr Catherine Cusick has been appointed as our new Principal at Longsands Academy.

Dr Cusick is an extremely experienced senior leader having worked in leadership positions over the last ten years in both Essex and Hertfordshire, most recently as Deputy Headteacher at The Ongar Academy, in Essex, where she supported the headteacher in implementing new pastoral and behaviour systems. She will take up the role following the Easter holiday.

It is clear to us that Dr Cusick is exactly the right person to continue to build on the good foundations in place at Longsands, and we are confident that under her leadership, the academy will continue on its clear path to excellence and deliver on our mission to give every child a brilliant education.

Dr Cusick has a very clear vision for the school. She passionately believes that school and education can transform young people's lives and throughout her career has been motivated by a desire to ensure that all students can be the best they can be and leave school ready to lead full and rewarding lives.

Dr Cusick is keen to ensure that every activity at Longsands is characterised by the highest expectations of students so that everyone can learn, behave and achieve great things at school and beyond. In the coming year, Dr Cusick will be focusing on embedding existing approaches to teaching, learning and behaviour so that everyone is clear about what Longsands represents and how, together, we can achieve excellence.

In order to ensure a smooth transition, Longsands' Interim Principal Geraint Brown, will continue to be based at the academy into the summer term.

We know that Dr Cusick is looking forward to meeting you all in due course and working in partnership with families as we continue in this next exciting phase of the academy's journey.

Yours sincerely,

**Richard Tutt**  
**Director of Secondary Education**  
**Astrea Academy Trust**

**Jo Myhill Johnson**  
**Regional Director**  
**Astrea Academy Trust**