



CHIEF EXECUTIVE - MARK LACEY



I am writing to introduce myself as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust (DSAT). I am joining DSAT after nearly 12 years as a Headteacher in Bristol and the Chair of a Learning Partnership of 9 schools. It is my privilege to be joining this group of schools at such an exciting stage of development. I am grateful to my predecessor, Andy Guest, other colleagues at DSAT and within the Diocesan Board of Education for all the progress that has been made so far. There remain many challenges and opportunities for the future and I am sure that together we can build stronger and even more exciting learning communities for our children. Our vision is to go 'Beyond Expectations for all of God's children' – this is what I have bought into in applying for this role and I look forward to helping facilitate this across our academies.

Given the distinctive Christian ethos of our academies and the wider trust, clearly this is about much more than simply academic achievement – we want the very best for our children in terms of their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. As a committed Christian, actively involved in church work, and as a father of four of my own children, I can assure you that these aspects will remain at the heart of everything that we do.

I would like to give a special welcome to the school communities at The Trinity in Devizes and Marden Vale (formerly St Dunstan's) in Calne who have recently joined the DSAT community. It is exciting to see the growth of our trust and I will be visiting a number of other schools, interested in joining us, in the coming months. I am sure that these academies will play a vital role in our shared learning journey. These are exciting but sometimes uncertain times in terms of our wider school system – at DSAT our aim is to provide certainty and stability in the midst of this wider context.

During my first three weeks in post, I will be visiting all seven of our academies across Wiltshire and Dorset. I will be spending a full day in each academy in order to gain a greater understanding of each setting. During these visits, I will be hoping to meet a lot of people, including parents and carers. Please do come and make yourself known – it will be good to meet you, although I will not guarantee remembering everyone's name first time around!

It is my aim to issue a termly newsletter to keep you up to date with the work of DSAT as a whole and to share stories of what is going on across our partnership. As always, please keep in touch with the staff and principals in our academies in the first instance but I am here to help where appropriate. Be assured of my best efforts, hard work and prayers in achieving the highest possible expectations for all of our children.

Best wishes,

Mark Lacey
CEO, Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust
www.dsat.org.uk