



Castlebrook High School

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Academy Principal: Mrs S. Armstrong BA (Hons), NPQH

Academy Councillors' Statement 18th May 2017

Dear Parent/Carers

The Acting Principal, Mrs Sue Armstrong has been made substantive Principal of Castlebrook High School after a rigorous appointment process involving four strong outside candidates. The decision was made by the Academy Council – previously called the Governing Body – and fully endorsed by Jo Morgan, chief executive of academy sponsors the Shaw Education Trust.

Jo Morgan, who is a National Leader of Education, said: “We have every confidence that Mrs Armstrong will lead this wonderful school into an incredible future, securing the very best educational outcomes for all our young people.”

Mrs Armstrong, who is an English teacher, joined the school as deputy head 10 years ago and became Acting Head 18 months ago during the head’s absence through illness.

Castlebrook became an academy following the Ofsted report in April last year. The inspection took place during a period in which the school faced considerable challenges not least of which was the long-term absence of a significant number of teachers.

Despite these challenges, Castlebrook’s long-established commitment to improving outcomes for learners was rewarded only months later. The 2016 GCSE results were the best for several years, and 60 per cent of learners achieved five or more passes at grades A*-C grades, including English and Maths.

Mrs Armstrong said: “We have a clear aim to become an outstanding school, and have put in place strategies to achieve this sooner rather than later. Chief among these is a clear focus on high quality teaching. We also look forward to moving into our £12 million new school building, which will provide an excellent environment for learners and staff and create a real landmark for the local community. Work on the school will begin this summer and it should be completed by February 2019.”

Ray Boucher, chair of the Academy Council, said: “We are immensely proud of this school. We were delighted to be able to appoint Mrs Armstrong as Principal. She has given outstanding leadership during a difficult period, and is well equipped to lead Castlebrook into an exciting future.”