

9th December 2022

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Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of Farlingaye's Governing Body and EAST's Trust Board, we are pleased to share that we have appointed Peter Smith as Farlingaye's new Headteacher from September 2023. Many of you will know Peter from his existing role as a Deputy Headteacher at Farlingaye.

We are delighted that following a rigorous recruitment process, Peter Smith was selected to lead Farlingaye following Dr Sievwright's retirement at the end of this school year. The recruitment process was demanding and underpinned by extremely high expectations. Following extended advertising at a national level, we received applications for the role from across the country. From these, we invited a shortlist of five candidates to Farlingaye this week for a 2-day selection exercise. This strong shortlist comprised of experienced Headteachers and Deputy Headteachers.

Over the two days, the candidates each completed 15 activities designed to assess their capabilities across a wide range of areas relevant to the role. These included interviews on Leadership, Teaching & Learning, Curriculum, Pastoral Care, Behaviour and Safeguarding. Interviews included students, staff, governors, the school Leadership Team, and EAST's Chair and CEO. Furthermore, candidates completed challenging written tasks on strategic approaches to using data and financial leadership. Throughout the process, they also led a Key Stage 3 assembly, taught a Key Stage 4 PSHE lesson, and delivered a presentation on their vision for Farlingaye to the staff and the Headteachers of local primary schools. Each candidate was assessed in each activity with detailed feedback provided to the selection panel.

Final interviews took place with the selection panel. The panel comprised the EAST Trust Board Chair, Stella Mackenzie, EAST CEO, Angelo Goduti and four members of Farlingaye's Governing Body: June Cowles, Richard Litchfield, Jeremy Steventon-Barnes (Chair) and Matt Teeling. The panel was supported by an Independent Professional Advisor with substantial experience working with Headteachers and Governing Bodies across the region.

Amongst a strong field of candidates, Peter consistently impressed and inspired us all and was our clear unanimous choice.

Farlingaye is an amazing school, and we believe that Peter has the vision, drive and ability to take Farlingaye forward to be a "beacon of excellence" (a challenge from our Ofsted inspector back in March which Peter and the governing body have taken to heart). We hope that you will join us in congratulating and supporting Peter as he takes on this exciting challenge.

Thank you and best wishes,

Angelo Goduti

Jeremy Steventon-Barnes

Stella Mackenzie

CEO
East Anglian Schools Trust

Chair of Governing Body
Farlingaye High School

Chair of Trust Board
East Anglian Schools Trust