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21 February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you that yesterday evening the Trust Board of Hope Learning Trust, York, voted to take the Graham School into the Hope family. This conversion, which has been delayed several times, will take place on the **01 March 2019**. This means that when your child returns from the half-term break they will be educated within Hope Learning Trust.

The Trust Board have taken a great deal of time in considering the way forward as they wanted to be reassured that when the Graham School joins Hope we have the resources to support the school on its journey to Good. In the end the trustees voted unanimously to welcome the Graham School and were asking the leadership team to reassure them that we can address the urgent issues the school is facing. Securing substantial financial support from the Department for Education for the buildings at both schools has been central to this and having been granted just over £3.4 million, we are pleased to be able to plan now for the required changes at both the Graham School and George Pindar School. You will begin to see changes over the coming months.

At Hope we have no “magic bullets”, we just follow good educational practice and tested strategies which will over the next three years see the school begin to take its rightful place as a leading educational institution in Scarborough. Hope wants to respect the history of the schools and realises that we are only custodians of a much larger story. We want to celebrate all that is good at Graham School and endeavour to address the urgent issues, including providing an Alternative Provision for students for whom mainstream provision is not appropriate.

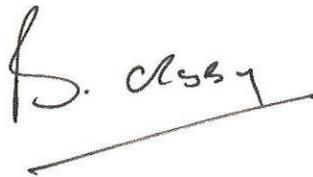
We already have members of our school improvement team working with many departments improving and developing standards in the classrooms; this will continue and grow further, now that academisation is formally in place. Hope also wants to use our Teaching School to provide a pipeline for trainee colleagues entering the profession to provide your child with continuity in the classroom.

The school will either thrive or fail depending on the support and strength of all key stakeholders; parents, children, staff and governors; building and forging strong links across our whole community will be essential to success. As part of this we will shortly be inviting you to a parents’ information evening where we can share the vision for the school moving forward.

You will also be pleased to hear that one of our key priorities was to appoint a full-time Principal to the school and to this end we have appointed **Emma Robins** to the post of Principal effective from after the Easter break. We are delighted to have been working with Emma already as Acting Headteacher, she has a passion for the Graham school and the young people of Scarborough.

Hope vision is to have schools where we are “*servicing others, growing together and living life to the full*”. These ten words are powerful as they create the environment for academic excellence and the development of the whole child, both of which have equal priority in our minds. We hope to meet you as a staff soon after the half-term break and share more about the vision for what we want to achieve.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Crosby". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Brian Crosby  
CEO, Hope Learning Trust

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Dowds". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Helen Dowds  
Executive Principal