



**SOUTH ESSEX
ACADEMY TRUST**

> collaboration > challenge
> perseverance > innovation

1st December 2023

To all of the staff and parents/carers at Winter Gardens Academy,

I am pleased to inform you that, after a competitive interview on Wednesday, the Trustees of South Essex Academy Trust have appointed Miss Katie Herbert as the permanent Headteacher of Winter Gardens Academy.

Katie has been a leader at the school since 2015 and was instrumental in moving the school from Inadequate to Good with Outstanding Leadership and Management and Early Years. As Acting Headteacher she has dealt fantastically with the urgent closure of the Infant building due to RAAC and I know from first hand conversations how grateful you have been for her effective communication and organisation over this issue which has impacted the whole school community. On this point, I, and the Trustees, are absolutely delighted that we are able to re-open the Infant building next week. I personally, am so excited to visit the school and see the children back in their classrooms and learning spaces!

I know you will join me in congratulating Miss Herbert on her appointment as Headteacher and wish her the very best as she continues to lead the Winter Gardens Academy community with drive and passion.

Best wishes,

Catherine Stalham

CEO



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South Essex Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 7681226.