

Haywood Academy

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Principal: Mr Mike Dawes



part of the

City Learning Trust

Wednesday 28th February, 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is my absolute pleasure to introduce myself as Haywood Academy's Principal. It is both a great privilege and a huge honour to be here and I look forward to getting to know you and your child(ren) well in the coming months.

I was born and educated in Stoke-on-Trent with a family heritage of miners and pottery workers. It's said that in Stoke-on-Trent we don't shout about our city as we should, but we certainly have lots of personality, bags of pride, a rich cultural heritage and hardworking and caring communities. In my opinion Stoke-on-Trent is a wonderful place to be educated, to live and to work.

Yesterday, Mr Ward explained that I have worked at Haywood before. I started here originally in 2001. First, I worked to lead the PE team and before I moved on to work within the City Learning Trust in 2017, I held responsibility for many areas including curriculum, teaching and learning and student performance as Deputy Head. Since 2017, I have been Associate Head at Trentham and since 2019, Principal of Mill Hill Primary Academy. During all of that time, I've served as an Ofsted Inspector and from my unusual position of having worked across both Primary and Secondary sectors during my career, I have been able to see best practice right across the country and bring that back into my own schools. For those of you not aware, Mill Hill Primary was visited by Ofsted in December and was graded as Outstanding in every category.

We're going to achieve the same at Haywood and the children who come here are going to achieve their absolute best, every single day. I am determined that this academy delivers an education that reflects our values. Working together, demonstrating commitment to being our best selves and respecting one another is key to this in the first instance. We want our young people to achieve great things.

To do this, I need to ask for your help and support in the next few weeks. I have met all of our children in assembly today and made it clear that in order to unlock all of the opportunities we have available for them, for them to achieve great things, I have very high expectations for levels of:

- Student behaviour;
- Their work ethic;
- The way they talk to staff and to one another - above all else, we will always be kind to each another.

I have asked students to make sure that when they arrive at school



tomorrow, that they are on time, proudly wearing their uniform, in possession of all of the right equipment for lessons and with the right attitude. Please support with this as far as you can and we'll take it from there.

As I said at the beginning, I look forward to getting to know you all in the coming months. But, as I'm sure you will understand, my focus in the immediate will be in ensuring that every part of the academy is working as I expect it to. You should know that I have very high expectations as I want the very best for our children as I know what they are capable of great things.

I will be in touch again soon and I hope to see parents of Year 9 at the upcoming parents evening on March 14th. In the meantime, if you would like to get in touch, please use the contact us button on the website.

I look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A Mills". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs Adele Mills
Principal

