

PRESS RELEASE: New CEO gets cracking at Dartmoor Multi-Academy Trust

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Highly-regarded education leader Dan Morrow began his role as CEO of Dartmoor Multi-Academy Trust earlier this month

Dan Morrow is the new CEO for Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust (DMAT), a family of 17 Primary and Secondary schools across Devon.

Dan, a highly-regarded education leader with a national reputation, joins DMAT having previously been the Trust Leader and CEO for Woodland Academy Trust, an educational charity serving several thousand children in South East London.

The new CEO has kicked things off quickly to do everything possible to support their pupils during these difficult times. Since the beginning of January, DMAT have greatly increased their remote learning provision for all pupils and have been working closely with the Department for Education to provide digital devices to disadvantaged pupils so they can fully access their remote learning.

The Trust has also partnered with Vodafone to provide SIM cards to pupils who do not have broadband access at home. The SIM cards will help pupils get online using their phone or tablet.

As well as tackling the current challenges presented by COVID-19, Dan is working with his team on developing long-term plans for the Trust and the communities they serve. Dan is a strong believer in breaking down barriers and providing pupils with opportunities to fulfil their ambitions and achieve their potential. As they look towards the future, they want to ensure that they are thinking about ensuring a positive and sustained impact for their pupils and communities.

Already work is underway to strengthen the engagement and provision for the whole community and the Trust have launched an exciting new initiative called fellowship passports, which will provide pupils with a clear framework for how

they can continue to be motivated and committed to their learning.

The Trust's schools are also benefitting from other recent key staff appointments. Ed Finch, Rebecca Mullins and Gareth Smith began their roles as Trust Champions this month.

The new Trust Champions joined the Trust's Educational Services Team and are now working across senior leadership and respective local school improvement teams to boost educational provision and opportunities for pupils. The team are supporting at the frontline of operations whilst also helping to craft a framework of resources and support for children and families within DMAT and across the community more widely. Veronica Lloyd-Richards will also join the Trust as a Trust Champion later in the year.

Dan Morrow, CEO of Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust, said:

"I have spent a lot of time in Devon previously and have always been stunned not just by the beauty of the landscape but also by the strength and bonds of community. I wanted to find a role that I can really invest in and one in which positive change could be made as a community, therefore the opportunity to work in Devon really is a privilege.

"It has been a challenging first few weeks of term for everybody, but I cannot explain how proud I am of the manner in which every pupil, staff member and parent has conducted themselves. They are a testament to themselves and the Trust. Together I have no doubt we will overcome these difficulties and come out the other side stronger."