Letter from the Chief Executive Officer

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for the interest you have shown in the vacancy of Deputy Head Teacher at Portway Junior School, a school that is an integral part of the Odyssey Collaborative Trust.

I’m always delighted to be given the opportunity to share information about the Trust, and think that it’s important that prospective applicants have an understanding of the rationale behind the creation of Odyssey, as well as what this will mean for a Deputy Head Teacher in one of its schools.

The Trust was formed in November 2018 with the aim of promoting the best possible educational experiences and outcomes for its member schools. The ethos of the Trust is well described in its name, by adopting a collaborative approach, which gives a high level of autonomy to its individual schools, who also benefit from the structure of being part of a Multi Academy Trust. This ethos was the key driver that led the founding schools to come together and decide that this was the best way to achieve success for our schools. Each school retains its own Governing Board and its individual identity and uniqueness, but under the umbrella of the Trust, with all the ensuing benefits.

The Trust is based in the City of Derby, with six primary schools converting to become academies in March and April 2019. The Trust now has established leadership structures in place with nine Trustees and three Executives. The Trustees were chosen, principally because they shared the values that underpin the work of our schools, but also because of the particular skills and experiences that they bring to the Board, which they do with a huge amount of dedication, enthusiasm and hard work. The Deputy Head Teachers within the Trust work closely together, as a network, collaborating to ensure that good practice is shared, and to drive educational improvements across the Trust. This is strengthened in the Trust’s close collaboration with its Education Improvement Officer, Julie Ash.

The focus of the Trust’s work is facilitating improvements for the children who attend our schools, and this underpins every decision made by the Trustees. Improving our schools is the primary purpose of the Trust’s existence, with the Trust contributing a significant amount of its time and resources on supporting its schools, so that their pupils achieve the best possible outcomes.

The Trust continues to work closely with the Local Authority and other strategic partners, as it meets the challenges that are faced with the rapidly changing educational landscape.

It has been an exciting journey creating and moulding a new Trust, so that it can meet the needs of its schools and their staff and pupils. The next few years promise to continue in this vein and I look forward to welcoming a new Deputy Head Teacher into our Trust to join us and help drive future developments.

David Blackwell, Interim CEO, Odyssey Collaborative Trust