

The Crabtree Academy Trust

Crabtree Lane, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 5PU
Executive Headteachers: Mrs Sally Patrick & Mr Andrew Emeny



Crabtree Infants' School
Head of School: Miss Soli Vela
Tel: 01582 623597
admin@crabtreeinfants.herts.sch.uk

Crabtree Junior School
Head of School: Miss Emma Simmons
Tel: 01582 623501
admin@crabtreejm.herts.sch.uk

Leadership Update

12th October 2018

Dear Parents,

We hope you and your children have settled in to the pace of life in a new school year across Crabtree Infants' and Junior's. We are pleased to report that we have successfully recruited an Executive Headteacher to lead the Trust from January 2019.

Stuart Pope will be joining us from the Burnt Mill Academy Trust in Essex, where he is currently the Executive Headteacher of their Primary schools. In addition to bringing experience and expertise as an Executive Headteacher, Stuart is a Local Leader of Education, leads the provision of Special Educational Needs and Disability across his Trust and has been instrumental in working with Essex Local Authority to improve the provision for pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health challenges. We have been impressed by Stuart's passion for education, his focus on delivering the best for all children, and his ability to grow and support staff. For those interested in reading about his philosophy and achievements, he has contributed a chapter to the Primary Education section of the 2018 Parliamentary Review (available [here](#)).

As outlined in our letter at the end of the Summer term, Stuart will step into our new leadership structure, where the Executive Headteacher function this term is served jointly by Mrs Patrick and Mr Emeny. Miss Vela is Head of School at the Infants' School and Miss Simmons Head of School at the Junior School.

From January, Stuart will be regularly present at school events including spending time interacting with the children and with you as parents. He will have overall responsibility for both schools, overseeing the leadership team, managing the operational activities and driving the strategic direction of the Trust and the Schools. In time, and subject to capacity, we expect the Executive Headteacher to also spend time within the wider school community, assisting other schools, developing best practice, providing valuable career development opportunities to Crabtree staff and generating income to support activity at Crabtree.

Thanks and best wishes

Chris Rule and Phil Kendall
Chairs of Governors, Crabtree Infants School and Crabtree Junior School