March 2018

Dear Applicant

After 7 incredibly fulfilling years as principal of Dixons City and a previous 3 years as Head of School, I will be taking up a full-time position as Executive Principal with the Dixons Multi-Academy Trust in September 2018.

This school holds a very special place in my heart and is incredibly well thought of in Bradford and the surrounding area. It is though undoubtedly time for the academy to enter the next phase in its history. I am excited at the prospect of working with an innovative and creative leader who will cherish the staff and students and do whatever it takes to further improve the school for the benefit of all. Having secured acknowledgement that the school may be outstanding under the latest framework (see latest Section 8 letter), the academy is in a strong position and is ready for new leadership.

Established in 1990 as one of fifteen City Technology Colleges, Dixons City has a long history of innovation and independence. It is the original flagship Dixons school and now works closely within the Dixons Multi-Academy Trust of 9 (soon to be 11) schools.

We work closely together to share best practice and converge around what we call our ‘non-negotiables’ (see attached). We do not though run entirely identical schools and we believe that leaders of successful schools should be afforded the autonomy to innovate and develop their school as long as it fits within our brand and does not deviate from our 6 core principles (see the Job Description). The successful applicant will be line-managed by me, however, they will undoubtedly be the leader of this school and will have responsibility for its day to day health and continued improvement.

The Dixons mission is to:

Challenge educational and social disadvantage in the Bradford and Leeds region.

We establish high-performing non-faith academies which maximise attainment, value diversity, develop character and build cultural capital. By the age of 18 we want every student to have the choice of university or a high quality apprenticeship.

Our Trust and our schools are strongly values-driven and the successful applicant will be able to demonstrate that they believe that while the core purpose of schools is first and foremost about doing whatever it takes to deliver great results, it is also about developing young people with a strong social conscience who can work successfully with others.

This is a brilliant opportunity for a highly aspirational and committed leader to work within a Trust that supports and challenges in equal measure.

I look forward to meeting you.

Shirley Watson
Executive Principal