**Message from the Chair of Governors**

Dear Applicant

Thank you for expressing your interest in putting yourself forward for consideration as our next Principal. We are delighted that you are considering making an application.

We are looking for a proven exceptional leader who can inspire us, challenge us and take us forward rapidly in our journey towards being a good then outstanding Academy.

The successful candidate can expect to find an Academy where everyone is welcomed, valued and cared for. Our staff are loyal and dedicated, with many having been with us for much of their careers. Our students are enthusiastic, polite and friendly. Governors and parents are engaged, supportive and know the Academy well.

Our Academy has its challenges and we are taking action to improve rapidly. As you will know, our Academy was judged to Require Improvement following an Ofsted inspection in February 2017. In our view, this remains the case because the pace of progress in improving outcomes for students is slow. This is especially the case for boys, higher prior attainers (which, this year, make up 50% of our Y11 cohort) and disadvantaged students; the gap in outcomes between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students grew in the most recent results.

We are making clear our expectation of high standards; boundaries are being clarified and enforced and our young people are responding well. We have high ambitions as to what our young people can achieve and the role we can play in our local community.

We are therefore seeking a leader who will have high aspirations for, and expectations of, everyone in our Academy and who will foster a culture of respect where achievement is celebrated. Our next leader will be an excellent classroom practitioner able to drive up standards in the quality of teaching and learning by ensuring a rigorous, stimulating and challenging curriculum for all.

If you are able to demonstrate how you can create a vision and embed a culture which reflect our values and aspirations and are motivated by the prospect of bringing about rapid improvement for all at our Academy then we would be delighted to consider your application.

We would like to welcome you into our Academy w/c 4 March 2019 for a visit so that you can find out more about us and whether Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy is right for you as the next step in your own career.

**Mr Chris Smith JP**

Chair of Governors 