

News from Fairfield High School



Fairfield High School welcomes appointment of new Principal

Following a rigorous selection process, Fairfield High School is delighted to announce the appointment of Edel Cronin

(pictured) as its new permanent Principal. Edel stood out as a candidate with exceptional leadership qualities and a deep commitment to both the school and Excalibur Academies Trust.

Edel brings a wealth of experience, having served in a wide variety of roles at Fairfield, including Vice Principal, Transition Lead, Achievement Coordinator and, most recently, leading the school as Interim Principal. Her dedication to fostering an inclusive and innovative learning environment aligns incredibly well with both the school and Trust's vision and values.

Nicky Edmondson, CEO of Excalibur Academies Trust, comments: "I am confident that Edel will take Fairfield forward in this new chapter of leadership, inspiring both staff and students alike. Edel is enthusiastic about working collaboratively in order to achieve great outcomes, and to uphold our commitment of preparing all students for their best possible future. Nick Lewis, my successor from September, also did a sterling job whilst Principal at Fairfield, and shares what a privilege it has been to lead a school with such a special and passionate community."

Edel Cronin adds: "I would like to thank the staff, students, parents and carers, governors and Trust for their phenomenal amount of support throughout this process and recent months I have been leading Fairfield. I am honoured to be chosen to represent this wonderful, diverse school and look forward to giving everything I have in order to ensure it continues to flourish."

Project Inclusion's Award Ceremony recognises Fairfield's Cashan Campbell for her pioneering work

As part of a project to share and highlight the importance of lessening exclusions across Bristol, Fairfield High School's Cashan Campbell was officially recognised in an Awards Ceremony at Bristol Beacon for her significant contribution to the research and educational experiences of African and Caribbean parents, and the impact this then has on their own children. The aim of this research,

led by Bristol University, is a CPD package to share with schools across the city to highlight the importance of inclusion, diversity, representation, equity and equality, in order to provide support and compassion to families, staff and communities.

Recognising that people of African and Caribbean heritage are often grouped together, but cultural dynamics and other areas mean they are different, Cashan's strand of education research has involved interviewing individuals to learn first hand about their experiences. Although the project is still months from completion, results have suggested that different communication methods with African parents, for example, plus the approach and timing of these approaches, all need to be taken into account.

Cashan Campbell, Assistant Vice Principal of Fairfield High School, explains further: "It's the relatively simple things like the introduction of the pastoral team at the beginning of the year, rather than at the stage when something goes wrong, which would help build essential relationships and expectations, and even prevent a student from reaching the stage of exclusion. I've also discovered that some parents feel more at ease seeing a photo of the member of staff before they actually meet them, for example; something that we can easily put into practice when parents arrive at reception."

"In addition, secondary schools predominantly have white leadership, which unintentionally leads to limited knowledge when it comes to interactions, welcoming, transition, language and so forth. All these things retraumatise families, even if they are second or third generational, which is why this research is so imperative."

The Awards Ceremony didn't only recognise educationalists, but the efforts of students, elders, artists, creatives plus many more, who are coming together with the same aim. Schools can use the outcome of Project Inclusion – the CPD – for facilitating training and developing an understanding so that when they hold events or meetings (for example behaviour or safeguarding), cultural differences are taken into account.



From left to right Ben Spence, Headteacher of Montpelier High School, Kay Sarpong (Community Governor at Fairfield High School and Principal at Brook Academy) & Cashan Campbell, Assistant Vice Principal of Fairfield High School