

4 September 2020

Dear CLIC Community,

It is with enormous pride and excitement that I write my first letter as the new CEO/Executive Headteacher at the CLIC Trust, having joined the team on 1st September 2020. I feel honoured to have the opportunity to lead this wonderful Trust and to build on the current successes even further.



Since my very first visit to the CLIC schools in March 2020, throughout the recruitment process for the post and during every meeting, conversation and visit since, I have felt a real connection to the Trust.

On my visits prior to lockdown, I was so impressed with the children's behaviour, manners, attitudes to learning and quality of work and with the dedication of the whole team to strive for excellence. It is also exciting to see the commitment to collaboration that is so evident in CLIC and to lead towards the Trust vision of 'Together, we make the difference.'

I have worked in primary education for 20 years. I started my teaching career in Wigan Local Authority, working in two schools during my seven years there, teaching in Early Years, Key Stage 1 and lower and upper Key Stage 2 and spending my last two years there as an AST (Advanced Skills Teacher) supporting schools across the area. I then moved to Cheshire East Local Authority, where I was Headteacher of two primary schools. My most recent post, was as Director of Education for the Aspire Educational Trust (a Trust of 11 primary schools across three Local Authorities in the North West) and Director of the Aspirer Research School. My absolute passion is primary education and I am committed to securing the highest standards of teaching and curriculum and the very best possible outcomes for pupils.

Outside of work, my love is my family. I like nothing more than spending time with my husband and our two young children (an eight-year-old son and three-year-old daughter) and I enjoy spending time outdoors as much as possible (walks, bike rides and playing with my children).

I am really looking forward to meeting the whole CLIC community – pupils, parents/carers, staff, governors and board members, and the wider community of each school – and shall be in the schools regularly getting to know you all. I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to everyone that I have met so far; I have already been made to feel very welcome.

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jo Ashcroft', set against a light grey rectangular background.

Mrs Jo Ashcroft
CEO/Executive Headteacher