

February 27, 2019

**ANNOUNCEMENT: ANDY BIRD**

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Andy Bird, the former CEO of Fairfax Multi Academy Trust. He passed away in hospital in Burton upon Trent on Sunday 24th February, 2019 aged 45, following a short illness.

We send our condolences at this enormously sad time to his family, friends and his many colleagues.

Andy became CEO of Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust in July 2014 having previously been Head Teacher at Fairfax School from January 2012. His drive for school improvement saw the Academy achieve record-breaking GCSE results in the 2012/13 academic year.

Previously, Andy was Deputy Head Teacher at Cannock Chase High School, Vice Principal at Q3 Academy in Great Barr and Assistant Principal at The de Ferrers Academy in Staffordshire.

He was involved in several significant education programmes including being part of the Innovation Unit established by the Government's former Department for Education and Skills in 2002 as part of the White Paper 'Schools - Achieving Success'. This followed the Education Act 2002. He was also involved with the Schools, Students and Teachers network's 'Personalising Learning' work in conjunction with Professor David Hargreaves. Most recently, Andy was Interim CEO at Venturers Trust, Bristol - a post he took up in September 2018 after six years at Fairfax.

Simon Small, member and Chair of the Board of Trustees, Fairfax Multi Academy Trust, said: "Andy was a dynamic and inspirational leader who pursued the very best. He always put the students at the centre of his thinking and was as much an inspiration to them as he was to our staff.

"Throughout his time with Fairfax, no matter the role, he exhibited huge determination and energy. He was never afraid to try new methods and approaches. As CEO of the Trust, he was both challenging and supportive.

"His early death is a great shock to us all. On behalf of my fellow Trustees, I offer our deepest condolences to his family at this very sad time."

Chris Stevens, Interim CEO, Fairfax Multi Academy Trust, said: "We are all shocked by this very sad news. Our thoughts are with his family and his many friends.

"I had the privilege of working with Andy for several years both as Head of Academy at Bournville and as Director of Education at Fairfax MAT. Andy made a huge

contribution to Fairfax and it was his vision that resulted in the development of the Multi Academy Trust and our core values of excellence, dedication, ambition, integrity and tradition. Those values not only sum up the Trust – but Andy also.

“Andy will be best remembered for his huge and unbounding energy. He was in many ways, larger than life; an enthusiast whose stamina was infectious - and a strong believer in the way education and learning are the bedrock of a fulfilling life”.

