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Dear parent / carer

**RE: leadership update at Horsmonden Primary Academy.**

Following a rigorous selection process, we are delighted to inform you that Mrs Hayley Sharp has been appointed substantive Principal at Horsmonden Primary from 1st December 2019. Mrs Sharp has been a member of staff at Horsmonden for the past five years and is well known to parents and the community. Her appointment offers considerable continuity with current ways of working. She will report to Mr Scott Opstad, Executive Principal for Horsmonden and nearby Paddock Wood Primary.

At the same time, we are delighted to inform you of another appointment to the senior team which adds capacity to the academy as it moves forward. From 1st June 2020, Mrs Charlotte McLeish will join Horsmonden as Vice Principal. She is currently Assistant Principal at another Leigh Academies Trust (LAT) school recently judged outstanding for leadership and management by Ofsted. She will begin to work with Horsmonden later in Spring 2020 and I know she is keen to introduce herself.

Meanwhile, Miss Charlotte Barnden, Assistant Principal, will be focusing more on her new position as Principal Designate of Bearsted Primary Academy which opens in September 2020 to become LAT's 26th school. As such, Year 6 will have a new teacher from January, Mrs Evie Blackhall, who joins Horsmonden following several successful years of service at Paddock Wood Primary. To ensure a strong handover, Miss Barnden will continue to provide additional support to Year 6 until Easter.

Horsmonden is going from strength to strength, but there is still much to do. We are sure that these new appointments will continue to strengthen the school for the benefit of pupils, families and the wider community. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the academy.

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs D. A. Biggenden**  
**Academies Director**