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27<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

As you are aware Mrs Barclay has been on maternity leave since October 2019 with Mr Syed, Vice Principal, standing in as Acting Principal during the period of her absence. I am writing to you to congratulate her on the birth of her baby daughter and to confirm that she will be returning from her maternity leave on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2020. This follows a number of weeks where she has been using her Keeping in Touch (KIT) days to ensure a smooth handover.

I would like to thank Mr Syed for his hard work in his Acting Principal role. He has done a sterling job in Mrs Barclay's absence. He with the rest of the staff have continued the work to ensure that Padgate Academy moves to become a 'good' and then an 'outstanding Academy and I know that Mrs Barclay's return will only strengthen the team.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Moorcroft, our Director of Quality and Standards and colleagues from across TCAT who have been working with the Padgate team to help drive up standards since the academy joined TCAT.

You will also be aware that there is extensive building work taking place funded through a Department for Education grant primarily focusing on the building 'envelope' including roofing, windows, fire safety and electrical and gas works. I would like to thank the site team and the central Trust team who have been managing the building programme since September 2019. I would also like to thank all the staff and students for continuing to work and study hard whilst the building work goes on around them in what has been at times a challenging environment. We anticipate that these works will be completed by the end March.

The Challenge Academy Trust will continue to provide support for the academy for the foreseeable future as it continues its journey of rapid improvement and we will continue to update you with developments.

Finally, I would like to give you my belated wishes for a happy and healthy 2020.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Grant  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
The Challenge Academy Trust