

Message from Professor George Caird, Interim Principal of The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama

I am honoured and delighted to be joining Central as Interim Principal and to be working with you in the months ahead. These are exciting but challenging times and my aim will be to work with the School to ensure the best possible way forward and to assist in preparing for the arrival of the permanent Principal in 2021.

Whilst I am a trained and practising musician, I have always had a deep interest in Drama and Theatre. I have been a theatre musician (notably in a season at the RSC), have played for shows and opera and have been a lifelong theatregoer. In addition, I have worked in two conservatoires with Drama (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama) and have also worked with Dance and Circus Arts during my time in Rotterdam.

I have always demonstrated a commitment to fostering equality and diversity in all the institutions I have led as an important part of my overall philosophy and values. This will be an important journey for us all and my aim is to work hard with all students and staff to develop an inclusive culture where every student can maximise their potential. In this respect my colleague, Danielle Chavrimootoo, who is an inclusive teaching and learning specialist, will work with me during my time at Central.

In the months ahead I look forward to working with you and supporting all the amazing work that you are doing. I will give attention to the long-term strategy for the School and will prioritise the safety and activities of everyone during Covid-19, the implementation of the Anti-Racism Action Plan, the development of all programmes of study and the growth and financial wellbeing of the organisation as a whole.

Finally, I believe in an ethos which combines hard work, discipline and motivation with a sense of enjoyment and fulfilment. I wish everyone in Central an exciting year ahead despite these unprecedented times.