



The Northumberland Church of England Academy

JOSEPHINE BUTLER CAMPUS

Inspiring achievement
Encouraging compassion

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Executive Director: Andrew Day BA (Hons); H.Dip.Ed (PG); MBA; FRSA

JB/LDA

5 February 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing, as your Chair of Governors, to update you on developments at the Academy.

Andrew Day, Executive Director, will be leaving us at the end of this half term. I would like to take this opportunity to record the Governors' thanks to Andrew for all he has done, in particular the passion and enthusiasm underlying all his work with us. I am sure you will join me in wishing him every success for the future.

Our recent Ofsted Report recognised very strong performances in our Primary and Centre phases but also pointed to challenges in the secondary phase which I thought you should understand how we plan to address with urgency.

As you will be aware from the consultation carried out in the summer, the Academy is currently changing its structure from a Single to a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). The benefits of this process were explained in the consultation documents. Our current structure as one school from age 2-19 years is very unusual now and means we do not benefit from some of the educational and financial advantages of a MAT structure. This change will have no detrimental impact on your children's education and they will not experience any significant change on a day to day basis.

We will also ensure your children continue to have a smooth transition through the different phases of the Academy although there will, as a result of the change, be a need to submit an application for a place at secondary level which we will of course support with as needed. This change gives us the opportunity to refocus on secondary performance and ensure we give the children across all phases the best possible chance to achieve their full potential.

To achieve this, the current Heads of Primary, Secondary and the Centre, will take even greater responsibility for their own phases. In Melanie Hinson, Steve Gibson and Sara Wild we have a great team in whom we have real confidence and whose contributions were recognised in the Ofsted Report. It is our intention to provide them with additional support from a National leader of education to ensure we learn from best practice elsewhere across the region.

Let me assure you that I and the other Governors are absolutely focussed on ensuring we offer the best educational environment for your child and also that we do so in keeping with our LIGHT values which are so important to us.

We will present our plans so you can come into the Academy and ask any questions you may have once the move to a Multi-Academy Trust is completed, which we expect to be by the end of February.

If before then you have any queries or concerns you wish to raise please do not hesitate to contact either me or any of the Governors through the Academy.

With kind regards

John Brearley
Chair of Governors