

To All Parents and Carers
Woodlands Academy

19th July 2022

Goodbye and Thank You!

You will have seen from the letter that Mrs Magan has sent to you all, that she has decided not to return to school after the birth of her daughter, Sienna. This has not been an easy decision for her to make, as she is so committed to seeing Woodlands achieve the vision for the next 5 years but she has decided that she has to put the needs of her family first. We want to thank Mrs Magan for everything she has done for Woodlands Academy in the six years she has been with us and wish her and her family all the very best for the future.

Leadership Structure

After Mrs Magan indicated to us that she would not be returning to school, the Trustees and Governors reviewed the leadership structure for Woodlands Academy as a one form entry school and agreed that this should be 1 Headteacher, 1 Assistant Headteacher and 2 middle leadership posts (in addition to their classroom teacher responsibilities) for the EYFS Lead (as now) and a Curriculum Lead.

Congratulations!

We then set about seeking our new Headteacher and we are delighted to announce that Ms Hasker has been appointed as the next Headteacher of Woodlands Academy from 1st September 2022.

Ms Hasker has been Acting Headteacher (and SENCO) since October 2021. She also spent 6 months as Acting Co-Head with Mrs Magan in 2020/21. Prior to these acting roles, she was our Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion and SENCO. Following an internal advertisement, she applied for the permanent position of Headteacher (and SENCO). The recruitment panel consisted of 3 Governors, the Vice-Chair of the MAT Trustees and the Executive Headteacher, advised by our school improvement partner from the LA.

We devised an assessment process to test for the skills and knowledge required of a Headteacher including activities such as data analysis, a presentation on the future vision for our school, a finance task and an in-tray and HR exercise and a formal interview. We were unanimous in our strong recommendation to the Governing Board and the MAT trustees, that Ms Hasker should be appointed as Headteacher (and SENCO) and both the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees have ratified this decision.

Once we had appointed Ms Hasker as Headteacher, this left a vacancy for an Assistant Headteacher and we are delighted that Ms Moxom has been successful in her application to become our new Assistant Headteacher from September 2022. Ms Moxom has been Acting Assistant Headteacher since October 2021. She too had to undertake a rigorous assessment process including a

presentation task, an in-tray exercise and a formal interview with a panel consisting of Ms Hasker, G Wadwa, the Executive Headteacher and me as the Chair of Governors.

Mrs Sherborne will continue to be our EYFS Lead and she has had a very busy year training to also lead our Forest School provision. Ms Chatrath applied for the Curriculum Lead position, having been given this responsibility on a project basis for the past year. She underwent a rigorous, formal interview with Ms Hasker, Mr Thacker, Deputy Head of Curriculum at Featherstone High School and me as Chair of Governors and we are delighted that she was successful in her application and will take up the post of Curriculum Lead on a permanent basis from 1st September in addition to teaching Year 2.

The leadership team have all been instrumental in driving the improvement in pupil outcomes and delivering our vision that by “working together we achieve”. They understand the journey that the school has been on since we became an academy in 2016 and are passionate about leading the school on the next stage to becoming an outstanding school which meets the needs of the local community.

We know that you will join with us to congratulate them all on their appointment and we look forward to working with you and the whole team at Woodlands, working in partnership with the MAT, to make our vision a reality.

Shirley Kenworthy-Wright
Chair of Governors, Woodlands Academy.

Gerry Wadwa
Executive Headteacher GUMAT.