



Barby CE Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The Academy Governance Committee (AGC) met this morning and during the meeting the Governors reviewed feedback received following last week's announcement of the future change of headteacher. The Governors wish me to communicate their response.

We are grateful to all who have written and spoken to us to give their feedback. Your interest in and concern for the school is much appreciated.

As Chair of Governors I am sorry for what has been lacking in communication and commit myself to strive to improve our communication with parents. For clarity, I serve in this capacity because of the lack of community and church governors from the Barby and surrounding villages. As we progress along the pathway out of lockdown I will be working to strengthen the engagement with local community and church to the end that local people are populating the Academy Governance Council as soon as possible. Meanwhile I will exercise my responsibilities with integrity.

Barby's AGC we want to acknowledge and endorse the expressions of appreciation and gratitude toward Sally Beaton for her dedicated work at the school. Many of you have recognised the improvements made. Mrs Beaton is as committed as ever to continue to improve the school right up to her departure at the end of the school year.

We fully accept that when something is working well there is reluctance to see it change. Much of the feedback has been out of concern that the change of headteacher will disrupt the good work that Mrs Beaton has done. The Governors have received assurances from PDET's senior leadership that there is a commitment to secure and build on improvements made under Mrs Beaton's headship and there will be continuity through this transition.

PDET CEO assures us of the Trust's commitment to support the leadership at Barby: 'PDET's aims are advanced when each academy within the Trust is delivering effective all-round education so that each child may reach their God-given potential'. All of us seek the future stability of leadership at Barby.

The basis of Mrs Beaton move from Barby has been questioned. As is perfectly normal, she has a right to apply at any time for advertised posts at other schools or academies, whether within or outside of PDET, to be interviewed and selected on the basis of her merits. She is a professional and committed to doing her job as well as she can wherever she serves. We are grateful to her for her service at Barby, convinced that she has made a major contribution towards the improvement of the school, and that during the most extraordinary of years.



The same process of advertising and selection has applied by PDET to the filling of the pending vacancy at Barby. This has been executed rapidly so that there would be certainty and continuity.

The governors met Mrs Suman Bedi today (on Zoom) and have heard of her work at Collingtree CE Primary School (also a PDET academy) where she has served for six years in total and as Head of School for three years. The situation there at the time she joined has striking parallels with that of Barby so she comes with relevant experience. She has proved herself effective in managing major improvements, something recognised when the school received Ofsted 'Good' in March last year. She has also been effective in building the school's relationship and reputation with the local community.

We are convinced that she 'has what it takes' to build on the foundations of Mrs Beaton's work and continue the transformation of Barby CE Primary School. She will take up the appointment as the permanent headteacher at Barby in readiness for the beginning of the school year in September 2021. She comes with a determination to bring stability to the school, to the benefit of both children and staff.

We shall be seeking opportunities – within the scope of the COVID regulations – for parents to meet Mrs Bedi during the weeks following the Easter school holiday. We very much hope you will extend a welcome to Mrs Bedi as she prepares to take up the post of headteacher at Barby.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Gordon Temple
Chair of Governors

Wishing you all a Happy Easter

