



Leadership changes for September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to update you about the leadership changes at Victoria for this September.

Headteacher update

Mrs Kernohan-Neely has recently confirmed that she will sadly not be returning as Headteacher at Victoria and will be leaving the school at the end of this term. Due to health reasons, she will not be returning to the school before then. Mrs Bennett, as Interim Headteacher, and Ms Nelson, as Acting Deputy Head, will continue to provide leadership for the remainder of this term.

The Governors are proud of what the school has achieved in the three years under Mrs Kernohan-Neely's headship, particularly the universally 'Good' assessment by our Herts Improvement Partner earlier this year; and the 'Good' judgement we achieved in the Church (SIAMS) inspection in 2015. We wish Mrs Kernohan-Neely and her family the very best in the future.

New Head of School and leadership team from September

As mentioned in our announcement on 5 May 2017 of Mr Halls being appointed as Executive Headteacher for both Victoria and Thomas Coram, we can now announce the full leadership team for September.

Mrs Caroline Crozier has been appointed Victoria's Head of School for September. Mrs Crozier is currently the Deputy Head at Greenway School. She has 12 years' experience in the primary school sector in Berkhamsted, including teaching or leadership roles at Swing Gate, Westfield and Greenway schools.

As we announced in March, we have also recruited an Assistant Headteacher. Ms Laura Bradford will be starting in September as well. Ms Nelson and Ms Lomax, existing Victoria teachers, complete our senior leadership team.

Finally, providing overall strategic leadership and direction will be Mr Halls, who is officially taking up his new post as Executive Headteacher next term.

Mrs Bennett will be finishing as Interim Headteacher with Victoria at the end of this term. She has provided much needed help and support for the school, and we are very grateful for her commitment to Victoria.

The Governors look forward to formally welcoming Mrs Crozier and Ms Bradford in September, and to working with the senior leadership team to ensure we continue to provide a consistently Good level of teaching and learning for our pupils. You will have the opportunity to meet this full leadership team once they are in place early next term.

Thomas Coram leadership changes in September



At the same time that we were recruiting for the Head of School post at Victoria, Mr Halls and Governors were also interviewing for a Head of School and Assistant Heads at Thomas Coram. Mr Halls is pleased to announce that Mrs Jackie Cutler has been appointed Head of School, and Mrs Lisa Williamson and Mr Andy Phelan have been appointed Assistant Heads. They are all existing staff at Thomas Coram and will take up their new roles next term.

Victoria and Thomas Coram collaboration

We now have a very strong leadership team in place for Victoria and Thomas Coram from this September, led by Mr Halls. Preparation work has already started this term on how this team can work together more closely for the benefit of the children at both schools.

Both governing bodies strongly believe in and are committed to the ongoing provision of Church of England primary school education in Berkhamsted.

We are currently analysing the further collaboration options available for Victoria and Thomas Coram under this new leadership structure. Once we have discussed these with the Diocese and the Local Authority, Hertfordshire County Council, we will put forward our proposal to staff, pupils, parents and carers and the wider community before any final decision on direction is taken.

If you have any further questions, please in the first instance contact the school office. If it can't be answered by the school leadership team, they will pass your query on to the Governors.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Jenkins'.

Jenny Jenkins
Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governors at Victoria