

17th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of what can only be described as an unbelievable and extremely challenging term, on behalf of the Governing Body I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support. Your children have shown incredible resilience, focus and commitment to their studies and have demonstrated real maturity in their approach to the ever changing situations they found themselves in. They have been a real credit to yourselves and the school, for which I would like to pass on the Governing Body's thanks.

As you will be aware Karen Johns, our current Headteacher, is retiring at the end of this term. Karen has been at the school for a number of years initially as a Science teacher before becoming a member of the Senior Leadership Team and ultimately taking up the Headship 8 years ago. Karen will be greatly missed by staff and students alike however I am sure you will all, along with the Governing Body, want to wish her lots of luck and happiness as she enters into this next exciting phase of her life.

It gives me great pleasure therefore to inform you that Karen Hand has been appointed as interim Headteacher with effect from January. Karen has a wealth of experience and joined Stopsley in October as a Deputy Head having previously worked at The Compton School for 14 years and a member of the Senior Leadership Team for the last 10 years. Since joining us, she has been a great asset and has been working very closely with Pam Whiting and the rest of the Senior Leadership team to ensure your children are safe and receiving a high quality education experience in the midst of a pandemic. I am sure you will all want to join me in congratulating Karen on her appointment and supporting her as she takes on this new role in the Spring Term.

I would also like to thank you all for ensuring your children are adhering to and following the guidelines as they are issued from the school in light of updated guidance from Public Health and the DfE. The safety of our staff and students is paramount to us and can only be achieved if we all obey the ever changing rules. This will be even more important as we approach the holiday season to ensure we can all return safely on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

On a different note, as you will all be aware, the school's Governing Body recently undertook a consultation process on whether Stopsley High School should apply to convert to an Academy. In making this decision it was key for the Governing Body to decide if it was in the best interests of the school for both current and future students, staff and the wider community as a whole. Having reviewed all the feedback and comments received from parents, staff and other stakeholders, the Governing Body unanimously voted in favour to apply to the Secretary of State for an Order to Convert to an Academy.

The Governing body would like to thank those of you who took the time to contribute to this process and for all comments and feedback received. As a Governing Body, we are confident that this decision will not change the ethos and values of the school but will provide it with greater opportunities to further improve and develop.

Finally, on behalf of the Governing body I would like to wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday and thank you again for your ongoing support.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Toni Chivers', written in a cursive style.

Toni Chivers
Chair of Governing Body