



GFNS Schools

29.11.24

Dear Parents and Carers

Mr Chris Parkhouse – Interim Executive Head

The governors and Trust have been working to identify a highly experienced Executive Head to lead the three schools in the federation once Mrs Acheson has left at the end of December. We interviewed Mr Parkhouse earlier this term and have offered him the role, subject to all the usual checks, for the rest of the academic year.

Mr Parkhouse has already been into all three schools and had conversations with Mrs Acheson and Mrs Barker. He will meet the rest of the staff this half term and we will also provide an opportunity for all parents to meet with him once he has started his role. The governors and Trust will continue to discuss what the options are for the longer term to ensure we have quality provision across all three schools, but the significant matter of leadership after Christmas is secured.

Mr Parkhouse has been in teaching for over 20 years and for a significant proportion of that time has held leadership and senior leadership positions. He was Deputy and then Head at Grove Road Primary in Harrogate and then went to be Executive Head over four rural primary schools, three of which were church schools, in the Wharfedale area. He has been running his own consultancy business for a couple of years, working in LA advisory work as well as coaching and mentoring Heads and Exec Heads.

In interview, Mr Parkhouse was clear about his desire to support the good work already underway across the three schools and to enhance the opportunities for all children and staff across the federation. He will play a full and integral role in supporting staff to access training and CPD opportunities and to ensure all children experience quality teaching and learning across all schools and in all classrooms. And in all this change, Mrs Barker will continue to be our Deputy supporting teaching and learning this year, ensuring continuity for everyone.

We look forward to working with him from January.

Best wishes

Rachel Bain

Nat Potts

Co-chairs of LAC