

## **Annual Statement by the Governing Board**

### **Academic Year 2021-2022**

As we arrive at the end of another academic year, there is quite a lot to reflect on from what has been a very eventful period for our schools.

It was another year that has been affected by the consequences of Covid-19 and the Governing Board would like to thank all the staff, and the children, for the manner in which they have strived to overcome the difficulties that this has presented.

The beginning of the Spring term saw the resignations of Gill Brown and Jason Edge, our Headteachers. Gill has decided to take a well earned retirement and Jason is now pursuing a career with Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Schools. The thanks and best wishes of the Governing Board go with both of them.

We have been very fortunate to appoint Katrina Way (Montgomery) and Elise Redman (Wynstream) as Headteachers. Our congratulations go to both after a rigorous interview process.

In November, two of our Governors presented a request for the defederation of the Exeter Children's Federation. At the time, the governing body felt that the timing was wrong and requested that the two governors postponed and re-presented their request in the Summer term. The two governors agreed to postpone and did present the request again in the Summer term. All parents/carers and members of staff were contacted for their views and the majority of governors felt that the responses did not favour defederation at this time.

Early in the academic year, the Governing Board reached a decision that the Federation would benefit from an external source of professional support and guidance. Having held detailed discussions with four Multi Academy Trusts, over the previous two years, it was decided to approach Education South West Multi Academy Trust, with a view to entering in to a Managed Partnership Arrangement, which commenced in January of this year.

ESW's input has been invaluable, particularly at Wynstream, in the areas of curriculum, phonics and senior staffing structures, amongst others.

The Federation is now at a crossroads, with each school possibly about to take a different strategic direction from the other. The Governors are convinced that Wynstream would benefit from becoming an Academy, and subsequently joining a larger Multi Academy Trust. However, there is not the same appetite at Montgomery, for academisation.

Our experience of working with ESW, since January, has proved to be so successful, that the Governors have voted to pursue an application for academisation, for Wynstream, with a view to joining the ESW MAT in due course. This application is currently with the office of the Regional Schools' Commissioner. The views of all parents/carers and members of staff will be sought, in due course.

There are currently no plans to seek academisation for Montgomery.

The Autumn term will undoubtedly be busy but please be assured that these strategic developments will not detract from the primary focus which will continue to be providing a high standard of education and care for the children in both schools.

Finally, it's my pleasure, on behalf of the Governing Board, to wish everybody associated with our schools, a very safe and happy summer break.