

19th July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following on from our period of consultation we write to tell you that the governing bodies of Thorpe Hall, Dawlish and Newport schools have decided to hard federate, as set out in the proposal which was made available to parents, staff and the wider public. The arrangement will come into effect from 1st September 2017.

Whilst 86% of respondents were in favour of federation we recognise that some members of our communities will be disappointed with our decision. We wish to say that every decision taken is always with the best interests of the children at its heart. Thorpe Hall will remain a community focused school under the control of the Local Authority. We believe that federation will bring improvement to outcomes (in the broadest sense) and greater opportunity for the children who attend our schools, both now and in the future.

We are grateful to everyone who took the time to respond to the consultation, both positively and negatively and we took great care to ensure that we considered all aspects of those responses. It was agreed at our joint Governing Body meeting that Local Area/Advisory Boards will be established to focus on school specific curriculum and related matters, to ensure that each school is responding to its own specific cohort needs. The boards will comprise membership from different stakeholder groups. We will let you know more about how this will work early in the new academic year.

Ms. Susan Biggar, has agreed to act up as Head of School during the next academic year to ensure continuity and stability at Thorpe Hall. Ms. Biggar with support from Mr. Dodd and other senior staff will work alongside leaders from across the federation to enact school development and review. In the Spring term the governors will begin the recruitment process for a substantive Head of School. Current leadership arrangements at Dawlish and Newport remain unchanged.

While we recognize that change, for some can be unsettling we as governors feel positive about the future opportunities for all children and staff within the federation. Partnership working allows for great ideas to be shared and helps



ensures robust challenge is provided when needed. This in turn will support us all in our aim of providing the very best education for the children in our care.

We wish all a happy and safe Summer break and look forward to welcoming those of you who are retuning back to our federation in September 2017.

Kind regards,

Maria Meehan
Chair of Governors
Dawlish & Newport Schools

Stephen Balchin
Chair of Governors
Thorpe Hall Primary School

