



18th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Update from Chair of Governors

As you are aware, Rebecca Stacey is leaving her position as Headteacher of the school at Christmas to pursue an alternative path in her career. Rebecca's resignation brought forward discussions amongst the school's Members and Trustees about the leadership of the school and the options that might be available to secure our future as a small rural academy.

At a meeting on 6 October, it was resolved that we would explore the option of joining a local multi-academy trust, Cumbria Education Trust. William Howard School is part of this Trust and as a feeder school to William Howard, it makes sense that we explore this avenue.

The resolution to explore this option does not at this stage bind us to any commitment, but it allows a process of due diligence to start. This means that representatives of CET will be speaking to staff and governors over coming weeks and that we will have opportunity to look at what CET can offer our school. A commitment has already been given by CET to provide us with leadership support plus a class 4 teacher from January 2022.

The discussions with CET are at a very early stage. Following initial due diligence on both sides, there will be a programme of consultation meetings, including consultation with you as parents/carers. I will be in touch about this in due course.

The purpose of this letter to you is therefore simply to let you know that we have opened discussions with CET. Further information will be provided as these discussions unfold.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Drew

Ruth Drew
Chair of Governors