



Governor Newsletter – June 2017

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you with an update on our search to find a new headteacher to lead the school from September and also on the school's academy conversion.

As you know, Mr Fordham is leaving us at the end of the school year and I would like to thank him again for being an exceptional headteacher at Roebuck, pushing the school to become the amazing school it is. We know he will be just as successful in his new role.

Since being advised of Richard's departure, we have been actively recruiting the best new headteacher possible. We advertised for and selected a number of candidates for interview, and a panel of governors assessed them in an all-day process on Thursday 25th May. Each candidate had to complete a challenging selection of activities and tests, so we could fully assess their competency and suitability for the role. Some of your children may even have been involved during the day, either being in the audience for candidates delivering an assembly, as part of the School Council interview, or having candidates visit their classroom. It was a gruelling process for all of the candidates, but I must say the whole school community including staff, pupils and governors were fantastic and really showed off the quality of our school.

Following that, I am delighted to be able to tell you that we have appointed Lynsey Young as our next Headteacher. Lynsey is currently Head of School at a school in North London, and has a variety of experience, including working in Stevenage schools, both as a teacher and a deputy head. Lynsey will be starting with us in September.

The Governing Body strongly believes Lynsey will bring the necessary drive, enthusiasm and creativity to push Roebuck to become an 'outstanding' primary school, building on the great things already happening in the school and working with our amazing teachers, staff, children and families.

We hope to offer parents and children the opportunity to meet with Mrs Young and are currently making arrangements for this to take place over the coming weeks. We will keep you posted.

Academy Update

I can also let you know that the school will become an Academy on 1st July, where our name will change to Roebuck Academy and we will become a part of the Hart Schools Trust. This is a very exciting change – Roebuck is one of the first primary schools in Stevenage to become an academy. We are also the first primary school in the Trust, so we will be a key player in how the Trust develops.

This is very much a partnership and, with the same great teaching and learning, pupils and parents will not notice any changes in the day to day running of the school. However, the school will have access to significant support and expertise from the Trust in the background, particularly in key business areas such as estates management, HR, payroll and other administrative functions. The headteacher will still be responsible for all aspects of running the school, and the role of the governing body remains as a critical friend to the school.

If you have any queries, please leave your details at the school office and I will get in touch with you.

Steve Marshman
Chair of Governors

