



20th March 2019

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to be able to inform you of the next stage in the evolution of our school's leadership.

Mr Blow and I wrote to you in January to explain Mr Blow's decision to step down in September as Headteacher, whilst still continuing as Executive Head of SESSET.

For the past two days a panel of Governors and Trustees has undertaken an extensive, rigorous and transparent interview process for the position of the new Head of The Ashcombe School. The panel had the benefit of expert advice from external member Ian Wilson, who has been involved in the appointment of over 50 Headteachers and was previously Principal Consultant for Schools for Surrey C.C.

In keeping with The Ashcombe School's strong reputation, we were pleased to have received 14 applications in response to a national advertisement, from which we selected a shortlist of 6 strong candidates for interview. The process on Monday included interview panels on leadership, curriculum and pastoral issues. The candidates also gave a presentation to staff and Governors besides undertaking lesson observations and a session with the School Council so that pupils could contribute to the process. Two candidates were selected for further interviews on Tuesday, with another presentation and detailed questioning on a range of topics.

By unanimous vote, The Ashcombe Governors, with ratification from the SESSET Trustees, have appointed Chris Panting as the next Headteacher of the Ashcombe School.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I congratulate Chris and we look forward to working with him as Head from 1st September 2019.

Yours sincerely,

Terry McDonald
Chair of Governors



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