



28<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear parents,

We wrote to you in March 2018 to inform you of the first stage in the evolution of the school's leadership with Mr Blow becoming Executive Headteacher of the school (whilst retaining the legal status of Headteacher) and the subsequent acting appointments of Mr Panting and Mrs Reed as Joint Heads of School, with other consequent acting appointments to Senior Team and other management posts.

As you will have seen, we have just had a very good Ofsted Letter, confirming that the school is by all measures in a very strong and stable position, with parents showing their confidence in the first stage of the transition.

Mr Blow therefore feels that this is an ideal moment to move to the next phase of the transition in leadership, by stepping down and relinquishing the legal title of Headteacher, whilst still continuing as Executive Head of SESSET (the multi-academy trust which Ashcombe was part of forming). This transition will be helped by Mr Blow continuing to be Executive Head.

As Chair and Head, we have discussed plans with the Governors who gave their formal approval to the next stage of the process to undertake the appointment of the Headteacher to start in September 2019. The Appointment Panel will consist of Chair of Governors, the three Chairs of Governors' sub-committees, Chair of SESSET, Mr Blow as Executive Head and Ian Wilson, a SESSET Trustee. We are fortunate to have Ian's experience as he has been involved in the appointment of over 50 Headteachers and, until his retirement, was Principal Consultant for Schools for Surrey.

We look forward to working with the Appointment Panel to ensure that there is an effective and smooth transition of leadership to enable the school to maintain the current ethos identified by Ofsted in its recent inspection - that it "*places pupils' needs and interests at the centre*" and "*prepares pupils well for life in 21st Century Britain*".

Yours sincerely,

Terry McDonald  
Chair of Governors

David Blow  
Executive Headteacher



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