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UPDATE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS REGARDING GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you as the Chair of the new School Improvement Committee (SIC) of Highfield School. The SIC has recently been established by the local authority to temporarily take over most of the duties of the Governing Board.

The SIC is made up of three individuals with the range of skills and experience necessary to ensure there is high quality scrutiny of, and support for, the improvement work being led by Miss Kiernan and her leadership team.

- As a Department of Education designated 'National Leader of Governance' (NLG), I have extensive experience of school leadership and governance, including in special education, and I have been involved in ensuring the rapid improvement of a number of schools across the region over the last few years.
- Caroline Carter is a senior finance manager within Wakefield local authority and also has previous school governance experience.
- Jayne Crosse has joined the SIC from the Governing Board. As well as bringing a wealth of senior leadership experience as a result of her professional background in the public sector, Jayne has a child in the school and therefore brings an important parents' perspective to our work.

Also, the local authority has formed a team of specialists to provide a range of support, based upon a comprehensive improvement plan. This support will be co-ordinated by a team leader who will liaise regularly with Miss Kiernan and the SIC.

While the primary initial focus of the SIC will be upon school improvement, in due course we will also be working with the Governing Board to reintroduce normal governance arrangements.

We will shortly be arranging an update meeting to give you the opportunity to find out more about what the school's leaders and SIC members are doing to ensure the school improves as rapidly as possible.

As the intensive improvement work progresses, we will be keeping in touch regularly. You can also email me at governors@highfield.wakefield.sch.uk to ask questions, express your views or arrange to meet one of us.

Regards

Jon Hairsine

Chair of the School Improvement Committee

