



Diverse
Academies



Dear Parents

Recent months have been a challenging time for everyone, and the governors of the academy committee would like to express our gratitude to the Redgate and Yeoman Park academy communities for their hard work and willingness to work together to ensure the education of the children and young people has been as consistent as possible in these difficult times.

The staff at both academies responded brilliantly to the many challenges presented by the COVID-19 crisis, with their usual professional approach. The academies remained partially open to help students and families that were struggling, and we were impressed by the level of support staff provided to families, putting the needs of the young people and children first.

Governors and senior leaders continued to meet regularly online during lockdown to review the comprehensive risk assessments designed to keep everyone safe and allow the academies to fully reopen in September. At our online September board meeting, we were delighted to welcome three new members, Pete Edwards, who has also agreed to serve as vice chair, Rushna Nawaz and Emma Bevan. Our long serving members are Emily Scales, Jean Bish, Derek Smitheman, Sharon Savage and myself, Lynn Weeks. I was elected Chair for the next year, having previously been Vice chair. We are all committed to working together with the staff to ensure the academies continue to provide an excellent standard of education and care, plan effectively for the future, strive to raise standards, and ensure each child's individual needs are met. We have a vacancy for a parent governor so if you would like to join us then please do let us know.

We were pleased to hear how well the children and young people settled back into their routines, when they returned to school after lockdown. We heard they were pleased to be back and were enjoying the social interaction and learning they receive at school. Governors have greatly missed visiting the academies in person. It is a pleasure to see the children and talk to them. The students at both academies are a delight, and it is a real privilege to see their progress socially and academically. We have also missed school events such as Christmas performances, which we are sure you have too. We look forward to being able to visit and attend school events once again when the guidance allows us to do so.

As you know, we sadly lose Pauline Corfield to retirement next term. She has been an excellent Senior Principal, rising to the challenge of leading both academies with professionalism and enthusiasm. She has always strived to achieve the best for the children and will be greatly missed. However, plans for the future are very positive and exciting, and we look forward to working with Gareth Letton and Lucy Spacey as Senior Principals. We know Courtney Hoop will continue to do a brilliant job as Principal. Yeoman Park and Redgate are wonderful schools with fantastic children and young people, great staff, and will continue to go from strength to strength.

We would like to wish all the families of Redgate and Yeoman Park a Happy Christmas. Hopefully, with the prospect of vaccinations in the new year, 2021 will be a happier and more 'normal' year.

Kind regards

Lynn Weeks
Chair of the Academy Committee