



TOWNGATE PRIMARY ACADEMY



Chief Executive:
Mrs Sue Vickerman
Principal:
Mr Steven Walker

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Dear parents

I am writing to you today in my role as Acting Chair of Governors. The end of this school term marks three years since Mr Walker and Mrs Vickerman took over the leadership of Towngate.

In that time, the academy has developed and flourished. I am pleased to share with you that this year Towngate has achieved its best ever results, with end of KS2 outcomes being well above national averages, and KS1 and Early years continuing to produce very strong outcomes. Our curriculum has developed, with many more educational visits and quality learning experiences, which our followers on twitter cannot fail to notice! There is now a stable staff team in place, with good quality, permanent teachers in all classes in September. Financially, the school has moved to a position of strength, with considerable resilience in the budget that will ensure the school can weather the proposed government cuts to pupil funding ahead.

The academy has achieved all of this because of the hard work of children, staff and governors, working in close partnership with parents and the wider community. Without the input of the Multi Academy Trust and all of their expertise and training, this task would have been very challenging.

Sadly, this is not the case for all schools in Wakefield. Three years ago, Towngate and Gawthorpe joined in a partnership. They established a Multi Academy Trust, which comprises seven schools all working together for the betterment of pupil outcomes. In September, the Trust will welcome another school, Ash Grove in South Elmsall, into the Trust. This will be the Trust's first "sponsored academy", as this school is currently in Special Measures, and has been rated as Inadequate by Ofsted. This is a school that needs support and leadership, in order to ensure that a community has a school they can send their children to that is effective.

In September, Mr Walker will be moving to Ash Grove in order to take on this challenge. Parents will be pleased to know that Mrs Berry will be taking over as Headteacher, and Ms Eke will take on the Deputy Headteacher role (while still teaching year 6). Ms Atkinson will become the year 5 teacher, while Ms Johnson will move up from F2 into the year 1 teacher position.

On this note, I hope that you will all join me in thanking Mr Walker for everything he has done in helping the academy move forward to where we are today! From my visits into School I have noticed so many changes, the school is both welcoming and an exciting place for the children to learn, seeing their respect for Mr Walker speaks volumes and I am sure he will be sadly missed.

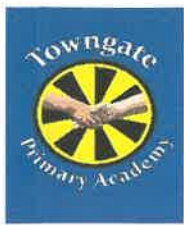
Ash Grove is having an excellent start with Mr Walker however, with the experienced staff at Towngate, we will continue to succeed and the transition will be a smooth one. We wish you all the best for your new adventure and be sure to come back and visit soon!

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Crook
Acting Chair of Governors

(Continued overleaf)





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Dear parents

Thank you for your support during the last three years. I am so proud of the progress that Towngate has made, and of the strong position it is in as it moves forward. I am excited by the challenge of taking on a school in very difficult circumstances.

I would like to say a thank you to all the children of Towngate who are amazing and a delight to work with. Thank you to my senior leadership team: Mrs Berry, Ms Eke, Ms Lockett, Ms White for your tireless dedication to your jobs and to the school, and to the teaching, support, administrative and premises staff for their hard work, and of course to our governors, some of whom have served for many years for the good of the school. The school owes a thank you to Mrs Vickerman, our CEO who's vision for education, support and challenge have provided the inspiration and drive to all of us here at Towngate.

Finally, I need to add a very special thank you to Mandy Kay-Brook, who has been until very recently the Chair of Governors here at Towngate. Parents will probably never know how much Mandy gave to this school over the years, and of her dedication, passion and energy. Behind the scenes, providing amazing support (and challenge!) to me and the leadership team, has been Mandy.

Thank you and best wishes for the future.

Yours sincerely

Steve Walker
Principal
Towngate Primary Academy

