

As we start the second part of the Autumn Term, with Christmas adverts already on the television and the frosty mornings creeping in, I can't believe how quickly time has flown since one of the hottest and driest summers on record. We started the academic year with lots of changes both in the schools and within the Governorship, a new Chair and several new governors. May I take this opportunity to welcome the new governors and thank the retired Governors for their service. A special mention goes to Amber for her years of chairmanship and service to the Governors, and on behalf of the Governors and schools, we thank and wish her well in her future endeavours.

Appointment of new Executive Headteacher

Many of you will know we currently have an 'acting' Executive Head for the Federation. This is due to Mr Tinker, the substantive Head, being unwell and unable to carry out his duties. This situation has been protracted but I can now inform you that progress has been made to conclude the substantive Head's appointment. This means that, with support from Shropshire Council and the Diocese of Hereford, we have been able to move quickly in appointing a new Executive Head and I am pleased to announce that we have appointed Ms Marilyn Hunt as Executive Headteacher for the Edge Schools' Federation.

I hope you will agree this draws a line under any uncertainty we, [parents, teachers, Governors and pupils] had over the leadership for the Federation. The Governors have collectively been impressed by Ms Hunt's tenacity to get to know the schools, make difficult decisions and then swiftly implement them for the betterment of the Federation and pupils' progress. May I take this opportunity to congratulate Ms Hunt and wish her great success as our Executive Head Teacher.

Autumn Term Full Governing Body meeting

A few weeks ago, the Governing Body had their termly meeting to ensure the schools are running effectively and all children are progressing well educationally. In the interest of transparency, the Governing Body wishes to continue keeping you updated on items discussed at our full Governing Body meetings. The minutes from each meeting, once approved can be requested if any parent would like to look at these in detail, please ask at your school's reception office.

The following list is a summary of the points discussed during our recent Autumn Term meeting:

1. The Governing body agreed the following appointments:

Associate Member:	Mrs S Phillips
Associate Member:	Mr T Davies
Co-opted Vacancy:	Mrs C Fenton
Co-opted Vacancy:	Mrs C Bedford
Foundation Member:	Mrs C Egleton

with Mr S Hall to Chair the Business Management Committee and Mrs C Egleton to Chair the Curriculum Committee.

2. Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed and any action/impact points were discussed:

- Establish a rolling programme for governors to complete monitoring visits, ongoing action.
- Continued discussion on the before and after school provision at Church Preen and Brockton with a final report to go out with EHT update on issues with recruitment of support staff.
- All other actions discharged.

3. Minutes from Curriculum Committee were discussed:

- Laura Furniss and Carole Fenton appointed safeguarding link governors.
- Monitoring and pupil voice visit completed for English by Diane Crow in the Summer Term
- Leap into Learning training provision now live for Edge Schools
- Kate Egleton to make visits for computing this term
- Kate Stone to make visits for Maths in Spring term
- Diane Crow to make visits for English in Summer term
- Kate Egleton to make Church School visits as Foundation Governor

4. Minutes from the Business Management committee were discussed:

- Fluctuating numbers on roll continues to prove challenging in terms of budgets and staffing
- The committee considered recent and forthcoming energy price increases and the impact of these on budgets for this year and next.
- Breakfast and After School Club provision is still in place at Brockton and Church Preen, despite recruitment issues, however this is increasingly reliant on staff goodwill to cover.
- Purchase of laptops and iPads has been made with separate funding.

5. Reports from Governors

- English link governor visit, completed by Mrs D Crowe. The feedback from children was that they enjoy school and learning. The Pupil Voice survey has been completed in each school with two children.
- School leaders will be investigating offers from parents and the local community to volunteer as readers again to interact with the children.

6. Executive Head teachers report

The headteacher's report was received and considered. Particular points discussed were:

- CPOMS (a system to record behaviour incidents) continues to be used effectively to record and monitor safeguarding matters.
- Brockton:
 - 59 pupils on roll
 - We continue to try to recruit a lunchtime supervisor and Breakfast Club / After School Club staff.
 - Teachers and TAs from all 3 schools met for a training day at Brockton to take part in activities focused on developing outdoor learning.
 - Trips and visits have started again.
 - Attendance is good.

- Federation SENCo has oversight and accountability for progress of SEN pupils. SENCO now has dedicated time and responsibility for communication with parents/ carers of SEN pupils.
- Church Preen:
 - 42 pupils on roll
 - A former supply teacher who left the area is returning and would like to volunteer her time, up to three afternoons a week.
 - There is a large ash tree on the boundary of our school field that potentially has ash dieback and has needed significant work.
 - Extra-curricular activities have now returned.
 - Computing: New computing resources were purchased last year, and the computing curriculum progression map is in place.
 - Catherine Cowper, SENCo, has visited school once this term so far to begin to support staff with interventions for pupils with special educational needs.
 - Open Days could be an option to bring more children to school.
- Wistanstow:
 - 73 pupils on roll
 - Curriculum Offer for PE: A highly skilled PE teacher teaches weekly PE lessons across KS2. T Pinches, TA, is has begun a Level 5 qualification in teaching PE.
 - Extra-curricular activities and visits have returned.
 - Small playground for a growing number of children is a concern.
 - Mixed age curriculum area rolling plans reviewed and updated with corresponding progression maps.
- Edge Schools' Federation Development plan
 - Y3 and Y4 residential visit to Pioneer Centre booked for March 2023 for all 3 schools.
 - Y5 and Y6 wild camps will be led by Mr Lockley for all 3 schools in June 2023.
 - The School invested in Early Reading by buying the phonics books and matched those books to the curriculum. Brockton was praised about their achievements in Early Reading at a recent Ofsted inspection.
 - Wistanstow has been using 'Jane Considine resources' for reading and spelling and has been developing the maths Curriculum through White Rose maths.
 - There has been positive feedback from staff and parents about the recently established cross-federation SENCo role
- Information to be sent out to children about online safety on school website and newsletters.
- Advertise Open Days at schools and keep them happening regularly. Engage local newspaper and social media to advertise Open Days.

The above is a brief overview of what was discussed in the full Governing Body meeting. We hope this is of interest to you and gives you an insight into what goes on behind the scenes at The Edge Schools' Federation.

Finally, thank you to Steve Hall for covering as Chair, he will resume as vice-chair and continue to impart his wisdom and experience to the Governorship and remain as Chair of Finance (Business Committee). I look forward to serving as Chair and will endeavour to do what is required to ensure the Federation runs effectively and all children progress well educationally.

Many thanks,

Simon James

Chair of Governors