



Tuesday 22nd October 2019

Dear Parents,

Earlier this term Mrs Taylor formally announced her retirement as Executive Headteacher across our two schools. On behalf of the Vine Local Board I should like to express our sincere thanks to Mrs Taylor for all she has done in meeting the very demanding task of having oversight of both schools and the various challenges it has brought, particular in today's educational climate. Most recently this hard work has been reflected in our Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools report for Ridgewell and its 'Good' grades across all areas, a significant achievement under the new framework.

After discussions with the Vine Schools Trust, who now have ultimate responsibility for appointing a successor to Mrs Taylor, the decision has been made to extend the model of an Executive Headteacher. Such appointments rely on finding personal expertise in the management of small schools coupled with experience of working within a Church Schools Academy Trust such as the Vine. To that end we are very fortunate that Mrs Julie Sarti has agreed to extend her role as Headteacher at Colne Engaine Church Primary School, which joined the Vine Trust earlier this year, and take on the role of Executive Headteacher across all three schools. She brings experience not only in leading a very successful village school but also supporting leadership in other schools. I have known Mrs Sarti professionally for a number of years so am delighted that she is prepared to accept this position.

Extending the role of Executive Headteacher across three schools also provides an opportunity to appoint an individual Head of School in each establishment. We have recognised that whilst having an Executive Head and one Head of Schools provided cohesion across both sites it was challenging for both Mrs Taylor and Mrs Stuart in terms of maintaining continuity. I'm pleased to be able to confirm that from January Mrs Kirsty Stuart will have oversight of Ridgewell and that Mrs Danielle O'Connell has agreed to become Head of School at Belchamp St Paul. This will ensure that there is a daily point of contact with the senior leadership team for parents, teachers and pupils in each school. Mrs Sarti will have general oversight with regular visits to both schools. Mrs Stuart and Mrs O'Connell will continue to work closely together alongside the very good teacher links that have now been established.

As ever the Vine Schools Trust and the Local Board are committed to providing the best learning environment for your children. In thanking you for your continued support may I also wish you an enjoyable half term break.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Brian Vidler'.

Canon Brian Vidler
Chair of the Vine Local Board