
WALTON PRIORY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Beacon Rise, Walton, Stone, Staffordshire. ST15 0AL

Headteacher Mr. M. Pierzchalla M.Ed.

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Beacon for Life

27th May 2011

Dear Parents and Carers,

The most important function of any governing body is to maintain the highest standards of teaching and learning in schools within the financial resources available. As you are no doubt aware, there have been many changes in education recently (both nationally and locally) with the promise of many more to come in the near future and so a measure of stability will be vital if we are to ensure that the pupils in our care receive only the very best education on offer.

In order to secure this the governing bodies of Manor Hill First School and Walton Priory Middle School have agreed to work closely together in a 'formal collaboration' to build on the expertise and qualities found in both institutions to the benefit of the children, the parents, the staff and the governors so that the community of Walton may continue to receive the highest quality educational provision.

Both schools will still run independently, both schools will retain their own governing bodies and (in order to oversee the joint projects between the schools) a third group, made up of two or three governors from each school, will be formed.

Beginning in September 2011 the management of the schools will be rather different as Mr Pierzchalla (Headteacher of Walton Priory) will be the Executive Headteacher responsible for ensuring that the statutory elements of both schools remain secure and Mrs Gilman (will remain as deputy Headteacher at Walton Priory) will be the Associate Headteacher of Manor Hill, based primarily at Manor Hill. Mrs Gilman, to all practical intents and purposes, will be the Headteacher of Manor Hill and the main contact for the children, parents, governors and the local authority in matters concerning the running of Manor Hill First School.

Collaboration is a new venture for the Walton community but both governing bodies are convinced that improvements to both schools will emerge as a result. In order to monitor the effect of this arrangement and to ensure that it improves the educational experiences of pupils in both schools, the governing bodies have initially agreed to a one year 'trial' period during which everyone concerned with both schools will have the opportunity to comment on its successes and areas for improvement. Neither



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school is 'locked in' to an arrangement that cannot easily be abandoned if genuine improvements are not seen in both schools.

Nevertheless, given the expertise and commitment already demonstrated in both schools, this is an exciting opportunity to improve and enrich the education offered to our children so that they are able to enjoy their learning and all the many benefits that accompany it.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Brooke
Chair of Governors
for Walton Priory Middle School

Chris Frid
Chair of Governors
for Manor Hill First School

