

SPEEN CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

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13 July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing with very important and exciting news regarding the appointment of Mrs Nayna's successor.

Our new Head will be Mrs Jacquie Coles, who has been Headteacher of Curzon Church of England Combined School, in Penn Street, for the last twelve years. With effect from 1st September, Mrs Coles will serve as Executive Headteacher (EHT) of both Speen School and Curzon School, and in law she will be the full-time headteacher of both schools. To implement this arrangement, the two schools are entering into a formal Agreement.

You can find out more about Curzon School, and Mrs Coles, at the school's website: <https://www.curzonschool.co.uk/wp/>. I am hopeful that parents will have the opportunity to meet Mrs Coles before the end of term and I will liaise with the PTA and Mrs Coles so that we can find a mutually convenient date. She will of course also meet with Speen School staff as a priority.

Following their interview with Mrs Coles, the Headteacher Appointment Panel comprising three Governors, unanimously and unreservedly concluded that Mrs Coles has the ideal blend of skills, experience and values that we are seeking, as we set out in our Job Description and Personal Specification for the role. We feel that we are very fortunate indeed to have had the Diocese identify Mrs Coles as a potential successor to pick up the baton from Mrs Nayna, and we believe she will make a major contribution to Speen School in the coming years, particularly with respect to the long-term sustainability of the School.

In parallel with the above, I have been in discussion with Chair of Governors of Curzon School, and I would like to acknowledge the open and collaborative way in which the Chair and her fellow governors have responded to the opportunity our collaboration represents. It will be a major step for both our schools, with clear benefits of leadership by an excellent and very experienced education professional. We are very excited by the prospect, and in due course we expect to examine whether there may also be other benefits to both schools from collaboration. The discussions I have had have led me to the view that the values and priorities of Curzon School's governors are very well-aligned with those of our School; and from my two visits to Curzon School I have observed not only that it is a happy and well-run school with a similar ethos to Speen's, but also, at a more personal level, it feels like a bigger (up to Year 6) version of Speen School. I would also like to acknowledge the work and support of my colleagues on the Headteacher Appointment Panel, and of other Governors who have worked very hard in enabling this appointment to be made.

This appointment has been made in line with all applicable guidance from the Department for Education, the Diocese of Oxford and other relevant sources, and with advice and support from the Diocese, the Local Authority and a DfE-appointed National Leader for Education (who is also a very senior and experienced headteacher and lead Ofsted inspector). The appointment is, of course, subject to the Headteacher Recruitment Panel taking up references and to a DBS check, as required by regulation; I do not expect any issues.

In conclusion, I am very excited by this appointment, and the way that it fits the strategic direction in which the Governing Body is taking Speen School. I truly believe that, in line with a fundamental plank of this strategy, it will be a significant contribution to the future viability and sustainability of Speen School. I have kept this announcement relatively short, but am happy to answer any questions you may have in the coming days.

I am also pleased that by being able to make this announcement now, we are better able to focus on the very important celebrations in just over a week to thank Mrs Nayna for everything that she has done over 29 years, for the School and especially for all the children who have been given an excellent start to their education under her leadership of the School. See you on the 24th!

With my best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Eamonn Barrett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Eamonn Barrett
Chair of Speen C of E School Governors