

Never look down on anybody unless you are helping him up. Jesse Jackson

Barley Lane School

Friendship, Optimism, Hardwork

24th April 2021

Dear All,

I am delighted to confirm with you that our deputy headteacher David Jones has been appointed as interim headteacher for the academic year 2021-22 and he will take up his post in September.

The governing body working alongside and supported by Devon County Council's representatives Babcock and the wider group of special schools sensibly opted for an interim role so the job can be properly re-advertised and competed for nationally post COVID: I have no doubt Dave will be a strong candidate for the permanent post.

I have had no involvement in the process but as an observer I can reassure you it has been both transparent and rigorous throughout and I guess too now it has run its course it is okay to express my full support for Dave both now and in any future application for the role permanently; he is a thoroughly decent, hard-working and child/person centred practitioner who has earned the trust and respect of everybody here and beyond school.

We now have a period of transition and I will be incrementally stepping further back to allow Dave and the team to be steadily more exposed to operating and leading the school without me (this process has been quietly ongoing since the Autumn when I resigned) and I am hoping to negotiate the earliest departure I can given the school community is stable and the worst of the COVID crisis has been navigated.

Dave and his team have already done some excellent work in recruiting high quality teaching and support staff and appointing a new bursar from a strong field of applicants is next and imminent. The rest of the team is stable and committed and if I am proud of anything it is the people I have kept and recruited and developed over this past nearly thirteen years.

It is important to share also that the governing body is also stable: I have never worked with a more committed, skilled and child-focused group and we are lucky to have such a public-spirited, talented and engaged team working on our behalf behind the scenes: they are genuine "critical friends".

The children and young people will benefit from the stability and continuity Dave's appointment and a stable team will bring and they took my news in their stride months ago but last and not least all our parents and carers will be so important in supporting Dave in those first months of headship when we are most vulnerable as new school leaders: please look after each other.

Michael

NAME	NUMBER
Michael MacCourt	07848028341
David Jones	07848457025
Wendy Hoaken	07848028342
Katrina C Crocker	07848457022
Judith Ford	07436104121
Carl Moore	07436104050
Razna Miah	07436104055
Alysa Lee	07848457269
Harry Bushin	07848457083
Michael McDaid	07848457024
Clare O'Riley	07436104113
Office/Continuity	07436104056
Angela Butler	07436104060
Patrisha TG	07436104075
Jessica Hunter	07848457270
Gabbie Barrett	07848457023
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Laura Spry	07938377337
Jason McCarthy	07395887217
Nicky Cassidy	07860846254
Chris Long	08760846255
Tim Ahern	07860846263
Julian Credgington	07860846267
Ben Wells	07860846271
Alan Stuckey	07860846277
Natalie Scofield	07860846278
Andy Guy	07860846279
Kitchen/PR	07860846281
Vicki Parr	07860846285
Vicki Sessions	07860846270
Daniel Causon	07999118470
Jenni Phillips	07999114403
Alice Carrington	07436104058
Sam Richards	07999116416
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