



18 July 2016

Dear Parents / Guardians

Governors last wrote to you on 22 June thanking you for your questions and comments regarding our exploration of joining the Excalibur Academies Trust and promising an update. The update is that we have not moved forward.

A particular thank you again to all parents who demonstrated interest in our questions around academies or came to the academies meetings. You showed such commitment to St Nicholas being the best school it can be for our children and asked a lot of good questions. Your desire for your children to continue to have access to St John's as your preferred secondary school was noted as was your concern that the ethos and nature of our school is protected.

We mentioned at the parents meetings that there is an issue about the number of Foundation (church sponsored) Governors represented on the Excalibur Trust. In order to protect the nature of its Voluntary Aided schools the Diocese is insisting at least 50% of the Academy board are Foundation Governors. Excalibur has increased its proposed Foundation Governors to 38 but will not increase it further since it is a mixed academy. Since our parent and governor meetings there have been conversations between Excalibur and the Diocese. During the summer I hope to meet with the Diocese to put our case to them as well.

A Governor attended an Excalibur Trust conference and worked with one of the academy schools to experience how they do their planning. She reported that it was a very positive experience.

Moving onto other matters:-

We end this school year celebrating the achievements of children both academically and in other ways. The kindness, such a feature of Baydon School, demonstrated by year six boys at our sports day was amazing and has inspired many who have watched the video or seen the newspapers. There are so many examples – who else saw the Lion King and cannot get the music out of their heads along with the image of confident and gifted children giving an amazing performance? Wow!

The school is busy in this final week of term saying their farewell and thank you to Mr Chambers.



On Sunday (17th) the governors organised a church service followed by cakes and drinks in the school hall. This allowed the church and wider community to share in this time of thanksgiving for all Mr Chambers has achieved in the last 24 years here in Baydon and his 38 years in teaching. Over 150 people helped us enjoy the morning with thanksgiving, laughter and the telling of many stories.



Baydon St. Nicholas

Church of England
Voluntary Aided School



Family, Faith, Celebrating Achievement

We wish Mr Chambers a very happy and fulfilling retirement. He leaves a wonderful legacy in Baydon St Nicholas School.

We consider ourselves very fortunate to also have a great group of experienced staff who give a lot to the school and children. As governors we see some of their dedication and the outcomes of their hard work. A big thank you to everyone who works in the school.

We are also grateful for your support and your many hours of volunteering which really does reflect the family nature of St Nicholas School.

We wish year six children every success as they move to a new school and hope their time at Baydon continues to give them a strong foundation for the years ahead.

When the children return in September there will be opportunities for you to meet our new Headteacher Mrs Knighton. In the meantime we hope you have a refreshing and enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Whelan

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Chair of Governors

Baydon St Nicolas

Governors: Jackie Hollander, Barbara Furber, Tony Topp, Marnie Pascoe, Fiona Smart, Amanda Hodey, Paula Bartlett, Andy Davies, Donni Blackwell, Emma Gilbert.