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“A Safe Branch from Which to Soar”

25 November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Those of you with long memories will recall that I wrote to you in autumn 2019 to announce that the Governors of Shap School were commencing a process of recruitment for the position of permanent Head teacher. Recruiting an effective Head teacher is the single most important thing a governing body can do to enable the success of a school and create an environment from which all can soar. We set ourselves the challenge of running a robust process to attract and identify the best available candidates and select the right one for our school.

Unfortunately, as you know, we were interrupted in our efforts by Covid19 and its impact on schools throughout the country. Measures to limit the spread of the virus also put restrictions on travel, visits, meetings, interview and assessment activities that meant recruitment had to be repeatedly put on hold and then re-started when conditions allowed. Thank you to everyone in our school and village community for your support, understanding and patience through this process.

I am writing to inform you that we have now been able to complete the challenge we originally set ourselves over two years ago. This week I had the pleasure of chairing an extraordinary Governing Body meeting to confirm the selection of a permanent Head teacher. One candidate proved outstanding from the beginning and continued to impress the recruitment panel, along with our advisers from the diocese and local authority, through the shortlisting, interview and assessment rounds of the process too.

I am delighted to share with you that Mrs Katie Chappell was that outstanding candidate, and has accepted our offer of the position of permanent Head teacher with effect from 1st December 2021. I am sure the whole school and community joins with the Governors in offering our warmest congratulations to Mrs Chappell and wishing her continued success in the future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Mrs Chappell for her steadfast and selfless service to the school as Acting Head for the past two years. We have been fortunate to have had her on board through the most difficult of times, along with a resilient, adaptable, caring and extremely dedicated staff team. Thank you to everyone for all of your hard work and commitment to Shap School.

Yours sincerely

Steve Gee
Chair of Governors

