



## BLACKMINSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Executive Headteacher: Ms Linda McQuone BSc(Hons), MA(Ed), PGCE, NPQH, MCCT

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15 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing on behalf of the Governing Body to thank you for your support for the schools in our federation. This term has probably been the most challenging term that any of us can remember, with significant COVID 19 infections and staff illness which put the schools under increased pressure. With the support of our families, we have been determined to respond to these challenges in the best interest of all the children and young people in our care. The Governors have valued the leadership of our Executive Headteacher and the dedication of our staff during these difficult times. The Governors have been able to visit the schools this term and to hold meetings on the school sites. It was very special to be able to meet in person, especially as we had only met some of the new governors on screen, and share our ideas and passion for providing the best possible educational experience for our learners. I was personally able to visit both schools on the same day last week, even though I was disguised in a red costume (!) for Pebworth. It was brilliant to be greeted with happy smiling children and a positive feeling in both schools.

As is always the case in education the end of term is when we have to say farewell and thank you to some of our colleagues. Mrs Booth our Business Manager, Mrs Reynolds and Mrs Budrey at Pebworth First School will be moving to new opportunities, and we thank them for their contribution to the federation schools and wish them well for the future. Last week the leadership of the federation was strengthened by the appointment of three permanent Assistant Headteachers. Miss Penny, Mrs Baldwin and Mrs Pitkeathly. They will be providing leadership and expertise across both schools in the federation in their role as Assistant Headteachers. We are looking forward to the arrival of the recently appointed new school leader for Pebworth, Mr Champs at Easter. He will, along with the return of two experienced classroom teachers in the new year, provide experience and expertise to ensure that all children at Pebworth First School have the best possible learning experience. Next term we are very pleased to have the additional support of Mrs Shaw, who is being seconded from Bengeworth Primary Academy on four half-days a week, to work alongside the Executive Headteacher, Ms McQuone and the federation leadership team to provide the leadership and support for Pebworth First School. The staff at Pebworth School will be joined by a new teacher, Mrs Groves, to ensure that the positive experience for learners continues. Mrs Tanner will extend her days managing the school office to 5 days a week to ensure that there is a consistent point of contact for parents and carers. As the schools are Worcestershire County Council schools the Governing Body will continue to have the support of the local authority in achieving our vision of a quality learning experience for all learners in our schools.

It is difficult to know what challenges the schools will face in the New Year with the arrival of new variants and a rapidly changing situation. The Governing Body and staff in both schools will continue to face any challenges with a determination to make safety, well-being and providing a quality learning experience for all learners our priorities. Please do not hesitate to contact the schools if you have any questions or would like to discuss the progress of your child at any time.





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Finally, can I take the opportunity, on behalf of the Governing body, to wish all our families a very happy Christmas and a happy New Year. Thank you again for your continued support for our schools.

Kind regards

Mr Phil Jones

Chair of Governors

