



10th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to give you an update on the recruitment of a permanent Headteacher at Blanche Nevile. This letter is quite long so that I can give you a full report.

As you may recall the recruitment process for a permanent Headteacher began at the start of this year. The closing date for applications was in early March and interviews for short-listed candidates were scheduled for later that month. The first lockdown put paid to that and interviews were postponed indefinitely after all external advice confirmed the governing body's view that we should not assess candidates for such a vital role remotely.

After the summer holidays we reviewed the situation and considered options for moving forward, notably seeing through the process underway with whatever assessments and interviews would be possible in the light of the pandemic risks, and restarting the process with the school and Haringey Education Partnership (HEP) Improvement Partner more fully involved.

With the second lockdown looming the governing body decided that neither of these options was viable and asked me, as Interim Chair, and Alison Miles, as Interim Vice Chair, to investigate the possibility of extending the contract of our current headteacher, Heulwen Rees, into the school year 2021/2022 to give adequate time to carry out a new recruitment process once Covid permits.

Alison and I did this and after further consultation the governing body unanimously agreed that, to provide continuing leadership and stability to the school through these unprecedented times, we would offer Heulwen an extension of her contract as Headteacher until 31st August 2022. We are delighted that Heulwen has accepted this and put off her plans for what she's going to do after she leaves Blanche Nevile.

It is the governing body's intention to begin the recruit process for a permanent Headteacher next September, and to do preparatory work before then. We would hope to make an appointment early in 2022 so that there can be a good handover before Heulwen leaves.

While I'm writing I would also like to share the governing body's appreciation and thanks to all the staff for everything they have been doing for the children and the school during what is an extremely difficult and demanding year because of the Covid pandemic. We are very

sorry indeed that visits to the school can't happen at the moment and so we can't see how the children are continuing to learn and thrive.

Blanche Nevile is a successful school providing a good education for Deaf children and, with my fellow governors and all the staff, we are working towards Blanche Nevile becoming ever more successful.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Griffiths'. The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name 'Ruth' being more prominent than the last name 'Griffiths'.

Ruth Griffiths
Interim Chair of Governors