



The Swallowtail Federation of Church Schools

Our Federation's mission is to work together to create successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

Dear Parents and Carers

1st November 2018

Further to my letter a couple of months ago I am writing to provide a further update and some news. Well that is writing this letter in between answering my door to multiple trick or treaters, all very well dressed up and enjoying the spirit of the evening.

I am sad to report that Mrs Elliott, Head of School at Hickling will be leaving us at the end of the Autumn Term. It is with an extremely heavy heart that Kat has decided to take this decision. She has said that it has been a pleasure to work in such a special school and for a caring, child-centred federation and in her two years with us, she has given us such dedication and has inspired some amazing learning. She will be sorely missed by children, parents and staff.

Looking forward, I am delighted to say that Julie Wones will become Head of School at Hickling. She is very well placed to continue the great work Kat has started, as she already knows the children at Hickling, both in the school and pre-school through their Forest School adventures and during her time at Hickling on her Headship days. Kat and Julie already work closely together, but have planned additional time this half term to ensure the transition is seamless for the children at Hickling.

Another piece of news is that at this time, we are not going ahead with plans to enter into a formal partnership with Blue Sky Federation, you will recall that I wrote about this in my last letter, although we will keep working with them as we develop ways to find the best route forward. Therefore Julie will also remain as Swallowtail's Executive Head, but will now share this role with Mrs Butcher, Head of School at Catfield to allow time for her to be Head of School at Hickling. Natalie and Julie have worked in close partnership together over the last four years at Swallowtail, helping to move Sutton and Catfield schools to 'Good' in our Ofsted inspections and to maintain the 'Good' judgement held by Hickling, so governors are very confident in their abilities to work together and to deliver the best possible outcome in many different ways for our children.

We believe that at Swallowtail we have a special team and that as we go through various changes we keep our 'family feel' where each family is known and each child loved, nurtured and inspired to learn. That and keeping schools at the heart of our village communities is very important to us and as governors we work very hard on this vision. However we could do with more help, so this part of my letter is actually a blatant plea for people to come and join us as governors and to be part of delivering on this wonderful vision. If you are interested please contact me direct or via the school office or talk to the Heads of School who will help steer you in the right direction.

Julie and Natalie will communicate with you directly in our newsletters with any useful practical information but as always please contact them or me if you would like to discuss anything.

Sheila Watts (Mrs) - Chair of Governors

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