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4<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Patchway Community School Leadership Update**

I hope you and your families have had a good break and would like to offer you our best wishes for a happy and successful New Year as we return to school at the start of 2024. You will probably be aware from the start of term arrangements and conversations with your child(ren) that there are some changes at Patchway Community School, many of which were covered in Mrs Powell's letter to parents and carers on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023. It feels appropriate, therefore, for me to provide an update about the leadership arrangements for the remainder of this academic year.

Firstly, Mr Howe has not returned to work so Mrs Powell will continue as Interim Headteacher until the summer, pending any further updates. Mr Lewis will, therefore, continue as Interim Deputy Headteacher. We were sad to see Ms O'Brien leave at the end of last term to take up an Assistant Headteacher post in another Trust but are pleased to share that Mrs Walbridge will be taking on the Designated Safeguarding Lead role at Patchway, which will provide good continuity as she already knows the school, the staff and students and many families from her previous role. In addition, it is good to be able to share with you that we have been able to add some leadership capacity at Patchway with three new senior leadership posts for the remainder of the year:

- Mr Tom Hill will be working alongside Mrs Powell as co-Headteacher for three days each week and will lead on behaviour systems and processes. Mr Hill is Headteacher Designate for Lyde Green Secondary School, which has not yet been built or opened, so he is able to be released from his current Trust-wide responsibilities to take on this role. He has been supporting at Patchway already and is a familiar face to many students and staff.
- Mrs Sharon Beesley will be an additional Deputy Headteacher, seconded from her post at Abbeywood Community School. Mrs Beesley worked at Patchway Community School for 17 years prior to her move to Abbeywood in 2019 so she knows the school, the Trust and many staff well. We are grateful to Abbeywood for agreeing to release her.
- Mrs Janie Ashburner joined us at the start of term 2 as an Associate Leader, bringing with her a wealth of previous experience from her most recent role as Headteacher of a specialist provision in Gloucestershire, before which she was Deputy Headteacher at Winterbourne Academy within the Trust. Mrs Ashburner has got to know many students and families already and will be making contact with others in the coming weeks in her role.

I am sure Mr Hill, Mrs Beesley and Mrs Ashburner will be given an opportunity soon to introduce themselves to you in more detail in a school newsletter. They would also welcome the opportunity to meet as many parents and carers as possible before too long.

I will continue to be based at Patchway Community School for part of each week, along with a number of other colleagues on the Olympus School Improvement Team. This is not a new arrangement but is part of the support we are able to offer to the school at this stage on its journey. Trust support is being coordinated by Mr Steve Moir who is our Director of Secondary. We are expecting Ofsted to visit to re-inspect later in the year and that is an important priority and focus for us in our work to provide students with the best possible learning experience and outcomes.

We are waiting for confirmation of a meeting with the Department for Education about the rebuild programme in the next month and will be able to provide you with an update about progress and the project timeline at that point. In the meantime, thank you for your ongoing support. Working in partnership with you is vital if we are to support your child(ren) to succeed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

—  
Dave Baker  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Olympus Academy Trust