

6th April 2011



Dear Parents and Carers,

Following a very rigorous process, the governors have appointed Katie Bentham as Headteacher of The Queen's C of E Primary School and she will join us in September. We are excited about the appointment and I would like to share with you some details of the process and the key reasons for our decision:

Our shortlisted candidates spent all day at the school and were asked to complete a variety of practical tasks, such as leading collective worship and completing a lesson observation, as well as attending a series of interviews that focussed on different elements of the role. There were opportunities to interact with the children and towards the end of the day there was a question and answer session for all staff with the candidates.

The decision about who to appoint as our Headteacher lies with the Governors but staff and children were involved in the day and gave their feedback on the candidates. The panel took these views into account when making the appointment.

We were joined for the day by representatives from the Local Authority and Southwark Diocesan Board for Education, who offered advice to the panel. Mrs Henchie also took part in the day and acted as an advisor. I am very grateful to all of them for their input and support and they will continue to provide support for Miss Bentham and the governors in the coming months.

Miss Bentham is currently Deputy Headteacher at Marshgate School in Richmond and was Acting Headteacher for a term. Marshgate is a school that Ofsted have judged to be outstanding and Miss Bentham was instrumental in moving the school to that grade. She will bring her understanding of what outstanding practice and provision look like to The Queen's School.

During the selection day, Miss Bentham showed a real passion to lead The Queen's C of E Primary School and demonstrated that she is genuinely committed to our Christian ethos and the values of love, compassion and respect that underpin all that we do.

Miss Bentham has the strength to take decisions where necessary but has a naturally collaborative leadership style. She is enthusiastic about empowering, supporting and working alongside our existing leaders throughout the school to further our journey. Miss Bentham understands, respects and supports our shared vision and is committed to delivering this together. We are confident that she has the capability to lead the school now, but also a huge capacity to grow and develop with the school.

The Governors on the appointment panel were unanimous in their decision to appoint Miss Bentham and the staff are enthusiastic about the appointment. We know that children and parents will be keen to meet Miss Bentham and she is very keen to meet you. I know that you will join us in welcoming Katie to the heart of our school community.

With best wishes,

Bonney Venning

Bonney Venning
Chair of Governors