



22nd November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

INTRODUCING VISION ACADEMY LEARNING TRUST

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As you will be aware from our weekly eNewsletters, from the 1st November 2017 our school converted from a stand alone academy to become part of the Vision Academy Learning Trust (VALT) family of schools. The conversion has been with the agreement of the Board of Directors and the Department for Education Academies Department, and I am delighted to report it has been an extremely smooth transfer. I would now like to take this opportunity to introduce you to VALT and how we will work together for the benefit of our children.

Lord Agnew, Academies Minister, delivered a keynote speech at the Great North Academies Conference that highlighted the need for schools to work collaboratively and in partnership to support outcomes for young people. Since joining VALT, we have already established a programme to support Maths higher attainers in Year 6, collaboration for staff and a programme of joint subject leader training. The National Leader for Governance from VALT has met with the Governing Body, and along with the CEO they will be attending local Governing Body meetings. The Governing Body will purely focus on school improvement and children's progress and will ensure that our schools' progress meets the key priorities from our Ofsted and School Improvement Plan.

Our School improvement Plan has been aligned with the structure in VALT and our six priorities for this academic year are:

- ⊗ The quality of teaching and learning to be good or better across the school.
- ⊗ Leaders are developed at all levels and to embed the new senior leadership team and phase leaders.
- ⊗ Ensure higher ability children are challenged and achieve greater depth.
- ⊗ Ensure consistency across school with high expectations and staff accountability.
- ⊗ Partnership working with VALT.
- ⊗ To continue to strengthen in year progress ensuring the majority of children make expected or better progress.

I will report on the progress of each priority termly.

This is an exciting and wonderful opportunity for our school community, working with a group of school leaders who are focused and passionate about children's progress and education. I would like to introduce you to the senior leadership team at VALT with whom we will be working in partnership with to achieve our six priorities:



Mr Simon White is the CEO of VALT.

Mr White is the Head Teacher of Egglecliffe School, a National Leader of Education and DfE Education advisor. He has been a Head Teacher for 15 years.



Mrs Karen Norton is the Executive Head (Primary) of VALT.

Mrs Norton is Head Teacher of Junction Farm, a National leader of Education and School Improvement Advisor. She has been a Head teacher for 10 years.

On the Trust Board are Richard Long (Chair) and Janet Richards, National Leader for Governance (Vice Chair). You can find out more information about VALT on their website <http://valt.org.uk/trust/>.

We have made good progress since our Ofsted Inspection in November 2016, and this can be summarised in the recent publication, Inspection Data Summary Report which states as a trend:

- ⊗ Reading and mathematics **progress was in the top 20% of all schools nationally** for at least two years for disadvantaged pupils
- ⊗ KS2 progress shows that **progress in mathematics was significantly above average and in the highest 10% of all schools nationally**
- ⊗ Our KS2 results for 2017 are below:

	% Reaching Expected Standard	% Mastery
Reading	86.5	27
Writing	90.4	23.1
Maths	92.3	40
Grammar, punctuation and spelling	86.5	27
Reading, writing and maths combined	79	17.3

In addition, the parents views of the school (as measured by Ofsted Parent View) are overwhelmingly positive, as follows:

- ⊗ 96% parents feel their children are safe at school
- ⊗ 94% parents feel their children are well looked after at school
- ⊗ 85% parents feel they receive valuable information about their child’s progress
- ⊗ 92% parents feel their child makes good progress
- ⊗ 84% parents feel their children receive appropriate homework

Together with VALT we will build upon this progress and we hope that we can count on your continued support as our school goes from strength to strength.

With kind regards

L. Lidgard

Mrs Lidgard
Head Teacher



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