



**Executive Headteacher:**

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Dear Redlands' Parents,

We are writing to let you know about some changes to the way our school is governed.

As you know, Redlands is part of the Discovery Schools Academy Trust (DSAT). Being part of a multi-academy trust allows teachers and school leaders to work in partnership with the other schools in the trust, pooling resources to reduce the costs of essential services and supporting one another to ensure that standards of teaching and learning are continuously improving.

Within a multi-academy trust, many of the decisions affecting children's learning are made at individual school level to suit the particular characteristics of that school. However, for legal and financial reasons some decisions have to be made at Trust level, since it is the Trust that is ultimately held responsible for the school's financial position and for its success.

Since Redlands first joined DSAT, the number of schools in the Trust has grown significantly. Working with a larger number of schools has lots of benefits, but it has also made it necessary for the Trust to rethink some of its organizational structures.

Following a review of its governance structures, DSAT has decided to group its schools into three "clusters", with each cluster working closely together. Redlands is part of the "North cluster", which incidentally also includes two schools headed by faces that will be familiar to some of you at Redlands – Matthew Peet at Mowmacre and Sarah Sadler at Woolden Hill.

As part of the new structure, the individual Governing Bodies of the schools in the Trust will be disbanded and replaced with a Local Advisory Board at school level, and a new "cluster level" board, which will perform some of the roles that previously fell to the school's governing body.

At Redlands, these changes mean that our Chair of Governors, Liz Turner, has stepped down. Our Vice-Chair, Julian Bown has also stepped down, as has Debbie McGilbert. They have all devoted a great deal of time and energy to Redlands over many years and we would like to thank them for everything they have done for the school. Liz, who taught at Redlands before becoming chair of governors when she retired, will in fact continue to volunteer in school once a week, so will remain a familiar face.

The remainder of the existing Governors have agreed to stay on as members of the new Advisory Board. They are: Matthew Cronin, Vanessa Dakin, Laura Nicol, Kerrie Tanner Heath, Rebekka Yates (if you don't know who we are, our photos are up outside the school office).

The membership of the cluster board is not yet confirmed.

In practice, these changes should make very little difference to you or your child. If you have a problem, please see your child's teacher in the first instance. If the issue cannot be resolved with the class teacher, please call the office to make an appointment to see Mr Page (for Key Stage 1), Mrs Tobin (Head of School), Mrs Headley (Assistant Head and SENDCO) or Mr Brown (Executive Headteacher). If you feel able to give the office an indication of what you wish to discuss, they will be able to advise you as to who might be the best person for you to see.

If you have any questions about the new governance arrangements or wish to raise any other more general issue, we hope to see you at the next "coffee and chat" this Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September, 9-10 a.m. in the staff room.

Yours,

Rebekka Yates  
Interim Chair of Redlands' Advisory Board