



WBS - Working, Believing, Succeeding – A Wonderful Bridge to Success



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HEAD TEACHER *Mr M Ashton*

17th January 2022

Dear parents and carers

I am writing to inform you that I have recently been asked by the Local Authority to take on the role of Executive Head at Bewcastle Primary School. The role entails working with the staff at Bewcastle until they are able to appoint a new head which should be done by September 2022.

The role would require me working at Bewcastle School for a day or a day and a half each week whilst also retaining the headship of Warwick Bridge. Bewcastle School has been without a permanent Head Teacher for some time now. The previous Executive Head, Carolyn Murray, had to leave the post through ill-health just before Christmas and tragically passed away last week. Our thoughts are with her family and the school communities she served as she was also the Head Teacher of Norman Street School in Carlisle. This has been a particularly difficult time for everyone connected with both schools.

The role of an Executive Head Teacher is not new and it is often used to help another school which may be going through a period of transition. Heads are asked to carry out this role as a way of helping another school and providing them with the leadership that every school has a legal duty to provide.

My role at Bewcastle will last for the remainder of the academic year. This means I shall be involved with Bewcastle School until July 2022 when the new Head should have been appointed. I will still be working at Warwick Bridge and taking a full and active role in all that goes on there. Whilst at Bewcastle I will be looking at different approaches to the curriculum and working with staff to look at ways to enhance skills and progression in all areas. There may be times when WBS and Bewcastle could share knowledge and work on collaborative programmes. WBS and Bewcastle could improve networking, shared training and shared experiences. What forms this cooperation may take remains to be seen, but any joint work will be for the benefit of both schools.

The Governing Board of WBS have met with Lindsey Slater from the Local Authority to discuss the Executive headship and they are satisfied that the role can be carried out in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding between the two schools. The Local Authority are fully on board with the role and both schools can receive support and guidance from them during this two-term period.

If you have any questions about this role that I will be taking on, please do not hesitate to contact me at school or via email at: head@warwickbridge.cumbria.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mark Ashton

Head Teacher

Warwick Bridge School