

Dear Parents/Carers

January 2016

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to welcome you all back after Christmas and wish you all a very happy New Year.

You may recall, at the end of last year, we advertised within the local community for two foundation governors with bespoke expertise to join our Governing Body. We are very pleased to advise that we have appointed Peter Firkin as a foundation governor. His appointment will be finalised once the relevant paperwork has been completed and filed by the Archdiocese, which we anticipate occurring this term.

For your information, I attach a brief profile summary, together with a photograph of Peter. We are delighted to have someone with such a wealth of knowledge on governance, education, child protection and public policy on our Governing Body.

**Mary-Jo Sutton**

***Peter Firkin Profile***

*“A New Zealander by birth I have lived in the UK for 35 years and in Peckham, on the Rye, for over 20 years.*

*I work for Barnardo’s as a manager of Children’s Centres in Brent, and am the lead on Fathers Work and the locality Designated Safeguarding Person. My work includes managing a small staff team and several building as well as day to day services to a community of 3,900 under 5s and their families. I teach Public policy and related topics at a City University as a visiting lecturer. Prior to this role I worked as a self-employed consultant providing training and interim management to a range of organisations and companies. I was privileged to work in 19 countries throughout Europe, Africa and the Middle East.*

*My governor experience includes being governor and Chair of Governors at Rye Oak School for 10 years. I lead on the Fresh Start Programme for the school including restarting it as Rye Oak following a period of difficulty as Peckham Rye Primary. Part of this work in Rye Oak was the obtaining Government and LA funding to redevelop the buildings and along with the Head Teacher, at the time, we oversaw the project worth £5.1 million. I am confident with finance management and this is still part of my day to day work, I have a good working knowledge of the EYFS, safeguarding and the Ofsted inspection process.*

*I am currently a community governor at a primary school in Brent as part of my job. The school has recently got an Outstanding Ofsted rating across all headings.*

*I was brought up a Catholic, was active in the Catholic Youth Movement and YCW as a regional and national leader in New Zealand. I have been a parishioner at St Thomas Moore for 20 years and am involved in Benedictine spirituality through the Lay Community of Saint Benedict and Worth Abbey.”*

