



15th November 2018

Dear Parents and Families,

Our Trustees and I are delighted to welcome Rye Community Primary into the Aquinas family of schools. As you will be aware, we have been working closely with Mr. Blakelock and Miss Martin since the Spring term and more formally this academic year as the school begins its journey with us.

At Aquinas, we believe it is the role of the Trust to provide support, expertise and challenge where necessary in order for school leaders and their teams to deliver the very best for the children in their care. We look forward to working in partnership with school leaders and the wider community to continue to build a highly successful school that Rye can be proud of.

At Aquinas, in place of local governing bodies, our schools are supported by Aquinas Advisory Councils (AAC); we anticipate the AAC for Rye Community Primary will be put in place from September 2019 and will consist up to six Trust appointed members, two parent elected members, one staff elected member and the Head of School. The responsibilities of the AAC are threefold:

- to support and advise the Head of School and their team
- to protect the unique characteristics of the academy and the community it serves
- to undertake some specific tasks to support the Trustees (e.g. involvement on interview panels, awards events etc.)

If you are interested in finding out more about this, further details can be found on our website (www.aquinastrust.org) and we will write to you again in the Spring term with details of how you can register your interest to be involved in your school's AAC.

Until September 2019, the governance function at academy level will be undertaken by an Executive Advisory Council (EAC). The EAC's role will be to oversee standards and the non-educational functions of both schools and to report directly to the Trustees of Aquinas. It will also be involved in recruiting dedicated people to join the AACs in the future. Miss Martin will write to you shortly with further details of an opportunity for two parents to join the EAC, one from Rye Community Primary and one from Rye College and I hope a number of you might consider putting yourself forward to helping us in this way.

As a result of being involved with Aquinas, you will have seen a number of changes already happening to improve the provision of education as staff members have begun to work closely with colleagues from across the Trust to share good practice. We see this as the beginning of an exciting journey, one that will bring stability and create a brighter future for everyone involved as the school becomes a very welcome part of the Aquinas Trust.

Yours sincerely,

Kathy Griffiths
Chief Executive

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