

MEMBERS OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR YOUR SCHOOL

- Liz Buxton (Chair)
- Frances Hunt
- Claire Sneath
- Tony Trueman
- Julie Turner

HOW TO CONTACT THE IEB

If you need to contact the school about any matters, in the first instance, please contact the Executive headteacher or Head of School. If you do wish to contact the Chair of the IEB, please write to the school office marked FAO Mrs E Buxton.

**Rockingham Junior and Infant
School**
Roughwood Road
Wingfield
Rotherham S61 4HY
Tel: 01709 740266

Rockingham Junior and Infant School is a primary school maintained by Rotherham Local Authority. However, following the Ofsted inspection in March 2017, under an order made by the Secretary of State in May 2017, the school is now required to become an Academy. The Academy selected by the Government Department for Education to sponsor Rockingham J&I School is Willow Tree Academy.

Willow Tree Academy is an exempt charity regulated by the Secretary of State for Education. It is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (Company Number 09440025), whose registered office is at Herringthorpe Junior School, Chatterton Drive, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S65 2JW



IEB

NEWSLETTER

For Parents and Carers

July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

It was lovely to see so many parents on Tuesday evening and hope you enjoyed hearing from Mrs Fearnley and her colleagues about the many developments that have been happening at the school since the inspection in March. For those of you not able to attend the meeting, I am now writing to update you on developments regarding the *governance arrangements* for Rockingham J&I School which have now taken effect.

Following the inspection, and after consultation with the existing governing body of the school, Rotherham Local Authority took the decision to apply to the Secretary of State to appoint an Interim Executive Board to take over all responsibility for the governance of the school on its journey out of special measures category. This board has now been appointed and I have been asked to chair the board. The main duty of an Interim Executive Board, often referred to as an 'IEB' is set out in the Government's statutory guidance . . .

'The IEB's main function is to secure a sound basis for future improvement in the maintained school and this should include the promotion of high standards of educational achievement.'

As you are already aware, Willow Tree Academy Trust has been identified by the Secretary of State as the sponsor for Rockingham School and the IEB will also oversee the transition process that the school needs to go through in order

formally to change from a school maintained by the Local Authority, to an academy school.

In order to support the school in rapidly bringing about the improvements that Ofsted judged to be necessary, an IEB needs to be made up of a group of experienced people, often educational professionals, with a proven track record of school improvement. I am delighted to tell you that Rockingham IEB members bring significant experience in governance, in headship and in supporting schools causing concern and share an absolute passion for education. We are all looking forward to working with everyone at Rockingham.

One key responsibility for the IEB is to ensure that strong leadership is speedily put in place to drive the improvements on a daily basis. With the support of Willow Tree Academy, it has proved possible already to deploy several of their highly experienced staff into Rockingham. Mrs Fearnley as Executive Headteacher, will spend considerable time in this school along with her responsibilities as Chief Executive Officer for all the Trust's schools, Mrs Greenwood will be full time at Rockingham as Head of School and Mr Williams, also full-time, as Head of Teaching and Learning. Many other Willow Tree staff have already and will continue to support the school during this interim period and into the future as Rockingham becomes a full member of Willow Tree Academy and benefits from all the new and exciting opportunities that will bring.

The IEB is committed, as is Mrs Fearnley, to keep you informed about developments and we will do this in a variety of different ways. The IEB will also be very keen to hear your views about how the school is progressing and I will be writing to you separately about a questionnaire that we would really appreciate you filling in for us. From time to time, we will also be seeking your support and help in making the rapid improvements that must be made.

This has been a difficult and at times, unsettling term for the school, including for you as parents and carers, who I am sure want only the best for your children. You can be assured that the IEB wants this too and every effort will be made over the coming months to continue to embed the many developments that are already taking place and further improvements that are planned, to ensure that Rockingham children have the best possible educational experience.

On behalf of the school, may I thank you for your continued support and do enjoy the summer break with your children.

Best wishes on behalf of all the members of the IEB

Yours sincerely

Liz Buxton

National Leader of Governance
Chair of the Interim Executive Board