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Dear Parents and Carers,

GOVERNING BOARD: I am pleased to be able to inform you that The Sunflower Federation governing board has appointed three new governors;

- Marios Iacovides is our new LA governor
- Barry Hammond has been appointed as a co-opted governor
- Sapna Olsen has been appointed as a co-opted governor

Marios, Barry and Sapna bring with them their experiences from banking, building and business and I am certain that they will prove to be a positive asset to our schools' communities. They have already spent time in Meadow Wood and Breakspeare Schools meeting many of our students and staff. It is brilliant to have them as part of our dedicated governing team.

We still need to recruit a parent governor from Breakspeare School. If you are interested in this role please contact myself or the acting chair of governors Jane Rogers via the school office.

Please find attached our updated list of governors and their roles and responsibilities.

TEACHER APPOINTMENTS: I am also pleased to inform that we have made three teacher appointments for Breakspeare School beginning in September 2019. Tasnim Ali has worked at Breakspeare for a couple of years and it will be excellent to have her in our teaching team as a qualified teacher.

Caroline Griffin will join us from a local mainstream school. She has many years of teaching experience and her special interest is in the areas of special needs and EYFS. Gillian Lovell has 20 years' experience in a SLD setting. She has taught across the key stages and has extensive knowledge of special needs teaching and learning.

SUNFLOWER FEDERATION INITIATIVES: Please find attached our first Sunflower Federation newsletter. This will be published termly. It doesn't replace our school specific information that is shared with you in separate newsletters and on our website.

During the summer term we will provide our students' with the Sunflower Federation home-school diary. The format of our new home-school diary has been developed in liaison with parents and staff. As a starting point we have developed the current Meadow Wood home-school diary. We hope that a renewed home-school diary will facilitate daily informative and effective communication with the class team.

We are also working towards updating our schools' websites to reflect the Sunflower Federation ethos and vision of our shared school community. Both schools will have their

own individual sections and sub sites; the information that is the same for both schools will be located in one place. The federation website is aiming to be ready by early autumn.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT: You may remember that this academic was the start of a new leadership structure of the federation.

It has been reassuring to notice the positive impact that our phase leaders Monika, Charmaine and Gillian at Breakspeare and Trish at Meadow Wood have made in the quality of provision. Our deputies Caroline and Darren, work across the federation; it is really important that the senior leadership team are familiar with all students and staff in both schools. Our admin and finance team benefits from working as a wider team; this supports their skills development and the efficiency of our processes.

The LA has commissioned an external evaluation of the quality of leadership of federations and multi-academies in Hertfordshire. Our evaluation was carried out last week; I will inform you of the results in the summer term.

Teachers in both schools have continued to be committed to develop our school curriculum and assessment. Meadow Wood School is just behind Breakspeare when consolidating the students' base line assessment for target setting, in different curriculum areas. At Breakspeare we are looking forward to our first individual student based comparative data after starting to use the new SOLAR assessment system. It is important to note that currently the DfE emphasizes the students' individual progress rather than comparing them with other students in SEN settings.

In both schools we will set aside significant funds to develop the school environment. For both schools the priority areas are toilets and personal care areas as well as outdoor learning areas. It will be exciting for the students to benefit from new outdoor play equipment that is designed considering accessibility as well as for developing independence.

We strive to further improve the quality of provision and therefore actively seek external assessments of our practice. Meadow Wood School is working to gain the MOVE-centre award which will support us to integrate all aspects of physical skill development in a cross curricula offer. Breakspeare is working to gain reaccreditations for International School Practice and Autism as well as working towards the 'Careers Quality Mark'.

TEMPORARY CHANGE OF THE SCHOOL NURSE AT MEADOW WOOD: Sarah Tatham-Brown will move temporarily to another special school for the first half of the summer term. Janice Fisher, who is an experienced nurse from the old Nascot Lawn, will be placed to Meadow Wood. Sarah and Janice will do a very gradual handover after the Easter break.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you during the summer term. Please mark the dates in your diaries from the attached Sunflower Federation News Letter.

Thank you for your continuous support. I wish you a very relaxing, sunny and warm Easter break.

Merja