



Executive Headteacher
Jo Petch

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4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Families,

I am writing to introduce myself as I am delighted to have been appointed to the role of Executive Headteacher of the Federation of Westminster Special Schools and Bi-borough Inclusion Service. We are one federation, one community, one family, and together we are united in maximising learning, creating opportunities, and transforming lives.

I have spent many years in special education both as a teacher and in leadership, most recently as Head at Mary Rose Academy in Portsmouth, an 'Outstanding' 2-19 special school for pupils with complex autism and PMLD. I wholeheartedly understand the importance of every child feeling safe, cared for and happy to come to school and access personalised learning, in order to achieve their aspirations for a healthy and successful adulthood.

It is certainly an interesting and challenging time to be joining the federation as we find ourselves in another season of uncertainty caused by the Covid crisis, however I know that I am joining a staff team who, throughout the pandemic, have demonstrated dedication to ensuring pupils' safety and wellbeing and a positive pupil centred approach at all times. We are all hopeful that 2021 will bring progress towards a more predictable and healthy future, and in the meantime I know the team will continue to give their all to ensure the children and young people in the federation have the best education possible.

I am committed to ensuring the pupils at our schools and across the Bi-boroughs have an education that is aspirational and personalised to their next steps for learning and success. It is our privilege to be in a position to support our young people to achieve everything they can. Our dedication to high expectations and excellence in the delivery of an appropriate specialist curriculum is what will make the difference for our communities.

I have a strong belief that an effective home-school partnership is a key factor in every child's educational achievement and their sense of well-being. With this in mind I greatly look forward to getting to know everyone in our schools and communities, and taking time to understand the uniqueness of every child's journey, the challenges that families may have had to tackle, and to spend time with families and our team at school events celebrating your child's progress and achievements.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the appointments of our substantive Headteachers, Pamela at QEII and Claire at College Park. I want to thank them in particular for the dedication and commitment they have shown towards the pupils and the staff teams over this challenging season. I know as we go forward into 2021 we will work together to secure the very best education and outcomes for all

our pupils. Alongside this, I know that Anna Selwyn and the Bi-Borough Inclusion Service team will continue to overcome challenges and secure support for schools to ensure that pupils with SEND in the Bi-boroughs continue to access the support and expertise they need to excel in their placements too.

I would like to take the chance to express my thanks and gratitude to the governing body, who have worked tirelessly to support the federation throughout the recruitment process, and who have welcomed me to the role so warmly. Finally, I would like to thank the dedicated staff teams who have gone above and beyond throughout 2020 facing the challenges with a smile and making sure the pupils were their priority!

I look forward to meeting you all in person over the coming term and as restrictions are lifted.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JPetch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'J' and 'P'.

Jo Petch

Executive Headteacher