

Debden C of E Primary Academy

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www.debdenprimary.co.uk



7 September 2023

Dear Parents

Ofsted Report

On behalf of the Governors, I extend our congratulations to the entire staff at Debden for the commendable results in the recent Ofsted report. The improvements over the last four years, as noted by the inspector, are a testament to the collective efforts of the teaching and admin staff, the FODS, my fellow Governors, and the school's trustees.

Our Head of School Matthew Hawley, Executive Headteacher Sarah Mitchell, and outgoing Chair of the Governors, Lin Stephenson, deserve special recognition for their leadership since the previous inspection in 2019, a period marked by the Covid pandemic. With the school's roll nearly doubling during this period, it has been clear the school's progress has been well noted by the local community, but we are delighted that this progress has now been officially recognised.

As we begin the new school year, we hope this success inspires everyone involved in Debden's journey. We acknowledge that there are further improvements to be made, as noted in the report, and are committed to focusing our energy and skills on achieving them.

Governing Body Changes

Over the summer, there have been several changes to the Governing Body. Lin Stephenson, after six years as Chair of the Governors, has stepped down. I am honoured to take over as the new Chair, having been a Governor since January 2022. We are likely to lose Lin entirely from the Governing Body as she plans to move to Cornwall later in the year. Lin's stint as a Governor at Debden follows a long and successful career in education. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Lin for her dedicated service to improving the lives of young people, both within our community and further afield.

Reverend John Saxon will be leaving his job within the Parish of Debden and Wimbish later this month. In addition to his role as the local church leader, John has made significant contributions as Vice-Chair of the Governing Body, Chair of the Finance and Premises sub-committee, and as a director on the wider Great Oak Multi Academy Trust. We wish him all the best for his new position closer to family. Isobel Tunnecliff has kindly agreed to take on the role of Chair of the Finance and Premises sub-committee.

We also bid farewell to Lt. Col. Marcus Hayakawa, who has served as a Governor for the last year. His efforts have fostered a closer relationship between the school and Carver Barracks. We thank him for his valuable contributions.

With these changes, we are looking to recruit one or more new Governors. If you are interested in playing a more active role in the decisions that will affect your children's education, we encourage you to reach out. No prior experience in education is necessary – just a commitment to teamwork

As with all school trips/events, we rely on voluntary contributions to support educational visits. Unfortunately, if we do not receive sufficient contributions such visits may have to be cancelled.

Great Oak Multi Academy Trust fully complies with information legislation. For the full details on how we use your personal information please visit the school website at <http://www.debdenprimary.co.uk/web/gdpr/353213>; or call the school office if you are unable to access the internet.

NURTURE

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and a measure of common sense! For more information, please contact me (t.caster@debden.essex.sch.uk), Mr Hawley, or one of the other parent Governors: Isobel Tunnecliff, Sarah Belchambers, and Rachel Stoddart.

New School Year

As we embark on the new school year, I extend my best wishes to all the staff and pupils at Debden. May the fantastic weather we've enjoyed this week be a good omen for the year ahead!

Best wishes,

Tom Caster

Chair – Debden CofE Primary Academy – Local Governing Body

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