



SJMW/ks

July 2016

Dear Pupils, Parents, Families, Colleagues and Governors

Teaching Schools Update

I am delighted to tell you that after rigorous assessments, we have been awarded Teaching Schools status by the National College for Teaching and Learning, on behalf of the Department for Education.

In addition, Hebden Green, lead school, has been awarded National Support School status; with myself being an LLE (Local Leader of Education) and the Head of Hebden being an NLE (National Leader of Education).

Teaching Schools are outstanding schools that work with other schools to provide high-quality training and development to new and experienced school staff. They are part of the Government's plan to give schools a central role in raising standards by developing a self-improving and sustainable school-led system.

Our Teaching School will have six core functions:

- School-led Initial Teacher Training, where we will take an active role in the recruitment and selection of trainee teachers.
- Continual Professional development, where we will offer a range of professional development opportunities for teachers and school support staff, extending our strong learning culture to schools we will work with.
- Supporting other schools, where we will lead the co-ordination of school-to-school support. This often involves working with a school or academy in challenging circumstances to bring about improvement.

Archers Brook

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- Identifying and developing leadership potential, where we will develop successful succession planning strategies to identify and develop people to fill leadership positions in the future.
- Specialist leaders of education, where we will develop and designate outstanding middle and senior leaders to support individuals or teams in other schools. They will help others achieve outstanding leadership in their area of specialism.
- Research and development, where we will build on existing research and contribute to wider local and regional priorities, enable staff to take part in research and development activities and share learning from research and development work with the wider school system.

As I have already explained, Hebden Green will be the named Teaching School, working in equal alliance with 3 other outstanding special schools: Our school Archers Brook in Ellesmere Port; Dee Banks in Chester and Rosebank in Northwich. The schools have a strong relationship and a history of highly effective collaborative work. They are a successful partnership of schools that are already federated together to great effect together they will form the Cheshire Inclusive Alliance Teaching School.

There are just over 1000 National Leaders in Education and 692 teaching schools (October 2015); this means that we are in a very strong position locally, regionally and nationally and I am incredibly proud of the recognition of the tremendous skill, commitment and quality that my team is able to deliver to our Community.

We are honoured that through the designation of Teaching School, we will now be able to grow the strength, capacity and succession across the specialist sector, for ALL pupils. As you know, I am committed to improving the high quality education for all children and young adults, with a sharp focus on raising standards for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. This remains my passion, focus and drive. We hope that you recognise the rapid changes and improvements made within Arches Brook School particularly during the past 3 years. We will now work on a local and regional level to support wider change across our sector as part of the TSA.

As ever, I welcome and appreciate your views, feedback and questions. Please feel warmly invited to contact me on 0151 338 2141 or head@archersbrook.cheshire.sch.uk if you would like to discuss the information I have shared with you today.

May I thank you all for your support and contribution to Archers Brook School. Such improvements rely upon the team of dedicated staff, wonderful parents and families and the common goal of maximizing learning potential and giving our whole school community the very best opportunities.

Yours sincerely

Samantha Myers-Whittaker
Head teacher