

19<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Chair of Governors Announcement – Leadership update**

As you know, Bulphan C of E Academy and St Margaret's C of E Academy have enjoyed a successful partnership for a number of years now. Both schools have benefitted from this relationship and at Bulphan, we have gone from strength to strength. As a small school we would never want to compromise our local, village primary school ethos. Being part of a larger family means we do not have to change who we are to experience the benefits that our bigger school neighbours enjoy.

In the past few years, we have gained from this partnership in a number of ways. We have been able to recruit strong staff from St Margaret's such as Miss Harris, Mrs Ward and Miss Short. Our teachers have accessed wider training opportunities, we have access to specialist SEN leaders such as Mrs Leonard and Mrs Fitter. We can share the back-office staff, finance staff, business staff and governors. Bulphan has also provided strength to St Margaret's by sharing resources, curriculum, and leaders like Mr Reddy.

The Vine Schools Trust would like to strengthen this relationship even further. After a rigorous and demanding recruitment process, I am delighted to inform you that we have asked Miss Finch to be the Headteacher of Bulphan **and** St Margaret's. She has enthusiastically agreed.

This means that Miss Finch will have to finish teaching Lower School to allow her more time to carry out her leadership responsibilities. We have recruited a new and dynamic teacher to join the Bulphan team who I know the children will love. Miss Finch will over see this transition to ensure there is no disruption to learning. We will be in contact with lower School parents soon to explain the changes in more detail.

Of course, Miss Finch will now need to split her time across both schools although she will be in remote contact with each school, everyday. At Bulphan you might not be able to speak to Miss Finch everyday but her strong team are always available and will have close communication with Miss Finch at all times. Miss Taylor will step up to take a wider leadership role this year and will take day to day responsibility for Bulphan when Miss Finch is off site.

We are delighted to be able to strengthen this important relationship with the two schools and have every confidence that these schools will go from strength to strength with Miss Finch leading.

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Diocese of Chelmsford Vine Schools Trust

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I have asked Miss Finch to share a few words in response to her appointment. She says, *'I am absolutely thrilled to be bringing our schools closer together. Bulphan is a special place and a school which is very close to my heart. I am proud to be able to protect our small, family ethos. We may be small, but we are mighty! I intend to do everything I can to build on the success of both schools and I look forward to my new challenge.'*

I know you will join me in supporting Miss Finch and the whole team at Bulphan.

Kind Regards,

Gill Holmes  
**Chair of Governors**

53 New Street  
Chelmsford  
Essex  
CM1 1AT  
<http://www.vineschoolstrust.co.uk>  
email: [admin@vineschoolstrust.org](mailto:admin@vineschoolstrust.org)

