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# ROYAL ALEXANDRA & ALBERT SCHOOL



18 June 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

## **Interim Head Arrangements**

I am writing to provide you with an update on the arrangements for an Interim Head for the next academic year.

The Governors have received an offer from South East Surrey Schools Education Trust (SESSET) to provide the services of David Blow and James Malley on a temporary basis for the next academic year until a substantive appointment can be made.

David Blow is a nationally recognised headteacher with many years of experience, and was a national finalist for Lifetime Achievement in the Pearson Teaching Awards in 2019. He is currently Executive Headteacher of SESSET and was Headteacher at The Ashcombe School in Dorking from 2004 to 2019.

James Malley is Headteacher at Therfield School in Leatherhead, a post he has held since 2015. James will be Interim Headteacher and will take overall responsibility for teaching and learning, pastoral, co-curricular and boarding whilst David will be Interim Executive Headteacher taking a lead on areas such as finance, legal, systems and governance. Both will be in school on a daily basis sharing the day between them, and will be a very visible presence for pupils and staff. They are both looking forward to meeting pupils, staff and parents at forthcoming events.

SESSET is a multi-academy trust comprising three schools, Ashcombe, Therfield and The Warwick in Redhill. There is no intention that RAA will change its status as a Foundation Voluntary Aided School or enter into any closer arrangement with SESSET other than a Service Agreement for David's and James' services on an arms' length basis. Both David and James will remain employed by SESSET and will continue in their current roles with SESSET in addition to this new role.

They will be taking up their roles formally on 1st September, and Mrs Mitchell continues in her role as Acting Headteacher until 31st August and will be dealing with the exam results in August and pre-start of year arrangements. The Governors are grateful to Mrs Mitchell for undertaking the role of Acting Headteacher and wish her well in the Headship of her new school.

Both David and James bring a huge amount of experience with them and the Governors are extremely grateful to SESSET for their offer. The Governors believe that they can now look forward to the next academic year with a high degree of confidence.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Billingham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a trailing flourish.

John Billingham  
Chairman of the Governing Body