

18<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

### Creation of Cumbria Futures Federation

As you will be aware, our two schools have been successfully working together for the last year, offering school to school support and challenge for each other which has led to rapid improvements in outcomes for students, both in terms of academic progress and educational opportunities. In April we launched a consultation to find out what our stakeholders – including our most important stakeholders, parents and students – thought about our proposal to create a Federation between the two schools, to formalise our already successful approach.

With this in mind, and taking into account your responses to our recent consultation, the Governing Bodies of both schools met last week and agreed that with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018, we will form a new Federation called the Cumbria Futures Federation. A new Governing Body will be formed, and a new governance structure put in place.

This change will not make any difference to the students and staff within the schools. Both schools remain separate entities, with different names and DfE numbers, keeping their own individual characters and ethos to continue to best serve the community it sits within. By coming together in a formal way, our stakeholders, the Governors and staff of both schools clearly believe that this move will help us further strengthen and improve teaching and learning and curriculum offerings within both schools.

As we have outlined in our previous letters to you, over the last year we have found these things to be true:

- strong collaboration with shared accountability leads to better progress and attainment for students, helping us to meet rising expectations
- leaders and teachers share thinking and planning to spread expertise and tackle challenges together
- governors can come together to share strategic thinking, to combine skills and support each other in challenging times
- leaders, teachers and support staff can be shared, helping us find different solutions to recruitment challenges, retain staff by providing new opportunities, and plan succession more effectively
- we can provide richer curricular and extra-curricular activities together
- shared professional development has been arranged, led by staff from both schools
- economies of scale and collective purchasing can help us cope better with shrinking budgets

We are very excited that the decision to create a new Federation has now been made and the schools can move forward together with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018.

Yours sincerely



**Tim Herbert** and **John Cook** Chairs of Governors, Beacon Hill and Solway Community Schools