Dear Parents

As you may be aware Freeman’s Endowed CE School joined the Peterborough Diocese Education Trust (PDET) on November 1st this year. Most of your children will have gone to St Barnabas CE School which has been a part of PDET for a number of years. After joining PDET, St Barnabas moved from being a school with Serious Weaknesses to a Good/Outstanding school.

For much of that time I was chair of the governing body at St Barnabas. I have now been asked to become chair of the new Academy Governance Committee at Freeman’s. I am delighted that Natalie Howes, current chair at St Barnabas, has agreed to become vice-chair. Both of us are experienced governors and we are also both Directors of PDET.

Like all other academies in the Trust Freeman’s will have an Academy Governance Committee (AGC) with some delegated responsibilities from the Trust Board of Directors. The AGC will engage with our local community. It does not hold the academy to account but agrees the vision and values for the academy with reference to the SIAMS Schedule, in partnership with the academy community, ensuring these are aligned with the Trust's Vision and embracing equality. It will monitor that the vision and values are being 'lived out' in all aspects of the life of the academy. The AGC meets six times each year.

The Academy Governance Committee has eight members. Two represent the local Church, two are elected parents, three are community governors and the final Governor is the Head Teacher. Early next term we will be electing the two parent governors, with the first meeting being towards the end of January. Generally, the commitment will be for six meetings per year of around two hours, plus some training for the role. We will be sending out further information very early next term.

It is our hope, fully supported by the leadership in both schools, that St Barnabas and Freeman’s will become closer aligned, so that there may be some joint events, for example. Transition between the two schools will be strengthened to try to make it as seamless as possible for the children.

You will begin to notice some other changes taking place at Freeman’s over the next few months. The hall area will be re-decorated, for example. A new deputy head is already in post. We are consulting about changing the school name to Freeman’s Endowed Church of England School. Some of the changes will be going on behind the scenes, but they will result in an improved educational experience for your children.

Yours faithfully

Greg Cracknell

Chair of the Academy Governance Committee.