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Dear Parents/Carers

Appointment of New Executive Headteacher and Head of School at Oakfield Academy

As I am sure you will be aware, Miss Emma Wilkes (Headteacher), has decided that she will leave her post leading Oakfield Academy in April next year. Miss Wilkes has decided to retire (albeit very early!) and pursue other roles and interests. The Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership (MNSP) and Oakfield Governors, have therefore been planning how we will ensure the school continues to improve and who should lead this process when Miss Wilkes has left.

I am delighted to inform you that following a rigorous interview process, **Mrs Emma Thomas** has been appointed as the **Head of School at Oakfield Academy** from Monday 20th April 2025. **In the first instance, this post will be for one year.** Mrs Thomas will already be known to the Oakfield community, as she is currently one of the Deputy Headteachers. We hope that this appointment will provide some stability and continuity, as we move through the rest of this academic year.

To support Emma Thomas in this new role, I have also appointed **Michelle Parsons as Executive Headteacher**, with overall responsibility for Oakfield. This contract will also be for one year and will begin on Monday, 20th April 2025.

Mrs Parsons is an experienced Headteacher within the MNSP Trust and has led 3 schools over the last 10 years. She has an excellent track record of improving schools, having moved 2 from 'Inadequate' to 'Good/Outstanding'. Mrs Parsons will continue to be responsible for her current schools (Trinity Church Primary and St Mary's Primary). However, I do expect her to spend quite a bit of time on site at Oakfield.

This is a new arrangement to the leadership structure and therefore I have outlined responsibilities below:

- Mrs Emma Thomas - day-to-day responsibility for the school, focussed on pastoral and curriculum/teaching and learning issues.
- Mrs Michelle Parsons - more strategic leadership for the school, focussed on driving improvement across all aspects of the work done by the school.

I am sure you will wish to join me in congratulating Mrs Thomas on her appointment, as well as welcoming Mrs Parsons to the Oakfield community.

Finally, I do wish you all a very pleasant Christmas break.

Yours sincerely

Alun Williams
CEO