

March 2010

Dear parents and carers of students,

We felt it was important to write to you personally today to inform you about some important changes that are happening at Orton Longueville School over the coming months. The Interim Executive Board at the school, supported by the Local Authority, are absolutely committed to ensuring all students at the school are given the best possible education to give them a strong start in life and the opportunity to reach their full potential. Over the past few months we have been looking at how we can transform the way education is provided at the school for today's students and those living in the catchment area in the future.

The Interim Executive Board has been working closely with Swavesey Village College, a highly successful school in Cambridgeshire, to bring about these changes and, with the support of the local authority, has decided to strengthen this partnership. It means you will see some changes in how the school is run over coming months.

Mr Mark Woods, Vice Principal at Swavesey, has been supporting the senior leadership team at Orton Longueville over the past two terms and **will take over as Interim Headteacher** with effect from the start of this summer term 2010 and throughout the next academic year starting in September 2010.

Mr Phil Nash, remains the Substantive Headteacher of the school, but he will not be working within the school over the next 18 months because he will be devoting his time to supporting the City Council's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) project and the 14 to 19 educational programme for the city.

Mark Woods said: "Our partnership provides a fantastic opportunity to raise the expectations of the entire school community. We passionately believe that the local school should be a source of pride and inspiration for its local residents."

Paul Phillipson, Chair of the Interim Executive Board, said "We have seen great benefits already from working with Swavesey Village College and we are delighted to have secured more support from this successful school to improve further the quality of education at Orton Longueville school and the aspirations, confidence and achievement of our students."

Swavesey Village College is the highest performing state school in Cambridgeshire. It was in the top 75 most improved schools nationally between 2006 and 2008 and was in the top 65 state schools for its GCSE results in 2009 (81 per cent of students achieved 5 A* to C including English and mathematics compared with 59% in 2005; 99% of students achieved 5 A* to C compared with 69% in 2005). More information about the school can be found at **www.swaveseyvc.co.uk**.

The Principal at Swavesey Village College, Martin Bacon, is a National Leader in Education and was previously Deputy Head at Deacon's School and Interim Headteacher of Hereward Community College when the school first partnered with Deacon's in 2003.

Martin said: "We are delighted to be working more closely with Orton Longueville and to work with staff, students and parents to transform the quality of education at the school."

The partnership with Swavesey Village College is the next phase of the Interim Executive Board's plans to bring permanent improvement to the school.

Please do not hesitate to call Mark Woods if you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this letter. We will be arranging a number of events for parents and local community workshops this term to talk about the proposed changes and their positive impact on the school, pupils and local community.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Phillipson (Chair of the IEB) Mel Collins (Assistant Director Children's Services) Mark Woods (Interim HT)

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