SQUIRES LANE
LEARNING FEDERATION

13th December 2024

Dear SLLF families,

I am Adam Fagan, the new Chair of the SLLF Governing Body. I was elected in early October, and I must start first with an apology for not having properly introduced myself until now. I am delighted to have been appointed and look forward to working with the Governing Body and with the SLLF community to ensure that Manorside and Tudor achieve success.

A few words about me: I am an academic at King's College London, where I am also Vice-President for Education. I have been part of various Governing Bodies for the past 20 years and am currently also Chair of Governors at Hollickwood Primary School in Muswell Hill.

Some of you will be aware that the Governors have been discussing the future direction of the Squires Lane Learning Federation. Primary schools across the country, and in London particularly, are facing several challenges in the pursuit of raising standards and achieving good and outstanding outcomes for their pupils. Declining pupil numbers, budgetary constraints, and the requirement to meet special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) requires all governing bodies to consider options for the future. For SLLF, the broad options are as follows:

- Continue as a 2-school federation.
- Defederating and joining a Multi Academy Trust
- Forming part of a larger federation of schools within Barnet LA

Whilst no decision has been made, the Governing Body is keen to explore further the opportunity to form part of a larger federation with Church Hill and Brunswick Park schools, both of which are "Good" schools according to recent Ofsted reports. Being part of a bigger federation of 4 schools would potentially offer opportunities for sharing resources and expertise and building resilience to address the various challenges that both Manorside and Tudor schools face. I would emphasise that no decision has been taken, nor is it a requirement that any change to the current SLLF arrangement needs to happen. Rather, this is an opportunity that deserves serious consideration at a time when all schools face quite difficult operating conditions.

What are the next steps? In the new year, the Governors will organise a meeting for the families from both school communities, which I will chair, to learn more about the proposal and to gather opinions from you. We will present you with full details of the proposal, the advantages and disadvantages, as well as information about the process and what is involved. Based on the feedback and input from the SLLF community, the Governing Body will take a decision as to how to proceed. If the decision is to go ahead and seek to establish a larger federation with Church Hill and Brunswick Park schools, a further meeting will be arranged to provide families with details of the process and next steps.

I just want to reiterate that at this point no decision has been taken and I am very keen to hear from families and all SLLF stakeholders. It is essential that you not only have full details of the proposal and the various

options, but also have the opportunity to make your voices heard. I assure you that I will do everything I can to ensure that the process is transparent and that you are consulted at every point of the process.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the new year, and it remains for me to wish you all a restful and peaceful holiday.

Adam Fagan
Chair of Governors