Principal's Update 10/01/25

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the academy and a Happy New Year to you all. Thank you for wrapping your young people up nice and warm for these very cold few days, and being careful on the drive in and out of school, it's been a slow start to each day with the difficult traffic conditions, but it has been good to see learners returning happy to be back to school and in routine, settling to their learning quickly. We had a successful professional development day for staff on Monday, with over 50 staff gaining their first Makaton training certificate, and others taking Team Teach training, plus sessions on Phonics, early reading skills, educational visits, and Speech and Language therapy interventions. We are pleased to welcome two new governors joining us from this term, please see the slides below to find out more about them.

Events coming up in the next two months:

January

- Week beginning 20th January – Modern Foreign Languages (MfL) day with a focus on China across the Academy.
- Week beginning 27th January – National Story telling week celebrations in Key Stage 3.
- 30th January – Pyjama Day for Foundation and Key Stage 2 for National Storytelling week

February

- Weeks beginning 3rd and 10th February – Stay and Plays/ parent events across the academy.
- Week beginning 10th February - Valentines Discos
- 11th February – Safer Internet Day

We are looking forward to a busy Spring term and will be sharing further information on these events as we move through the term. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your young person's department lead

Meet our new Parent Governor

I am a parent to seven children, one of whom attends Severndale and as of 2024/25 is in his fourth year and I am amazed at the high level of care and support he receives by the dedicated staff.

As a parent I understand the daily challenges faced by many parents and carers of children and young people in ensuring they get the help and support they and we need.

I have some experience as a governor, and it has opened my eyes to the challenges the school face and lengths the staff and school as a whole go to help our children and young people meet their aspirations.

I worked in I.T. and network sales for a lot of my work history. Unfortunately, due to an accident I am now medically retired but want to still contribute which is why I have become a governor.

Andy Edwards

Meet our new Co-opted Governor

I have worked in social housing for 20 years. This has involved working for housing associations in a number of roles including preparing for inspections, leading ways for customers to get involved in services, equality, diversity and inclusion and performance improvement. I am passionate about education and learning, with lived experience of family members having disabilities and ASD.

Hazel Edwards