



# Gwernymynydd CP School

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**Headteacher/Pennaeth:**  
Mrs Louise Williams, BEd(Hons); NPQH

## *A Small School with BIG Ambitions*

Dear Parents,

As you are already aware I will be leaving school at the end of this academic year to take up a new Headteacher post in Wrexham. I have thoroughly enjoyed my five years with you and feel that the school has come a long way. Recent successes such as becoming a green school and achieving a 'good' rating in our Estyn report are down to the hard work and determination of our staff to make our small school a success. We are a unique school who prides itself on our close community links and our small family feel. I know that all of our staff care deeply for each of our families and we are proud to see the way our children grow and develop in the time they are with us, often going on to achieve great things at high school and beyond. We are very fortunate to work closely in partnership with you our parents and carers and are grateful for the support you give us as well as your children. We are all very proud of our school and I know many of you feel very strongly that it is at the heart of our village community and should remain so long into the future.

I know that many of you have been wondering who is going to take over from me from September onwards. After many discussions with our staff, governing body and representatives from Flintshire, examining various options it has been proposed that we look to federate our school with Ysgol Y Waun, Gwernaffield.

With this letter you will find a booklet which explains all you need to know about forming a federation between schools. You will see that each school will retain its own identity and its own name. The main difference is there will be one Headteacher managing the two schools and one governing body supporting and advising the Headteacher. The federation model proposes a single executive Headteacher of the federation from January 2018, and it is proposed that Mrs. Louise Ankers current Headteacher at Ysgol Y Waun takes on that role. In the interim Mr Johnson will take on the role of acting head and will become class teacher for Years five and six. Due to a steady expansion in numbers we are also currently in the process of appointing a class teacher for our lower junior class.

We feel that federating with another successful local school is the best option to safeguard our school for the future. Small schools in Wales are at a constant threat of closure. Federation allows us to implement current thinking whilst at the same time preserving the school's future. At Gwernymynydd C.P School and Ysgol y Waun we embrace change, identifying the positive impact it will have on our children. We also want to ensure that any changes are sustainable and inclusive for all children in our care now and in the future. Federating schools has been very successful in England and other parts of Wales and there seems no reason why it should not be equally successful for our two schools. Gwernymynydd and Y Waun are similar in many ways and already successfully work closely together. This ranges from staff training, sharing good practice, joint planning projects, purchasing resources, shared school visits and moderation of pupil standards. We are already seeing the significant benefits of working together to strengthen both schools in terms of standards and provision.



Cyfluniau Ysgolion Iach - Rhwydwaith Cymru

We feel that federating with another successful local school is a wise option to safeguard our school for the future. However, I must stress that no final decision has been taken on this matter. Your views are vitally important and we will pay great attention to them. So please do let us know what you think about this proposal by completing the form enclosed or following the instructions in the consultation document to complete the survey online. A meeting has been organised for Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017 from 3.30pm onwards where representatives from Flintshire's School Modernisation team, our governing body and staff will be available to discuss the proposals. This will also be an opportunity to meet Mrs Louise Ankers.

The document contains a useful question and answer section at the back and of course you can always email or pop in for chat if you have any questions. Our Governing Body are also available should you wish to discuss the proposals further with them. Your views matter to us and therefore it is important that you take time to read the document fully and complete the survey.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Williams

Headteacher

