



St Barnabas CE First and Middle School

Dream Believe Succeed

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all! We hope that your children have settled in well during the first week back at school.

The Governors met this week in light of the Regional Schools Commissioner's decision regarding the Avonreach Change of Age Range Plan.

We wish to assure that that we are planning to continue to operate as a First & Middle School. We very much believe in the Middle School system and what it offers the children, and how this also positively impacts the education of children in our school from Pre-School right through until the end of Year 7. We will continue to welcome families from our current feeder schools and the surrounding communities and look forward to welcoming new Year 5 students to us in September.

The Avonreach Academy Trust has said their proposals were about 'Parental Choice' and about offering more choice. We can see that this is true, but we are very keen to make known that coming to St Barnabas for Middle School will continue to be a great choice!

We will be involved in meeting with the Regional Schools Commissioner over the next few months, as the approval of the change is subject to conditions. Currently we are assured that transport will continue to be offered to children coming from Norton as we are the designated school, and that places will be available at Persnore High School for any Year 7 child moving up to join them in Year 8.

Although we understand that time and effort is required by the school's leadership and governors to move forward in light of the changes to our pyramid of schools, we will not let this distract us on focusing on the quality of teaching and learning throughout the school, caring for your children and moving forward as a First & Middle school over the coming months.

On behalf of the Governors,

Melanie Sutton
Chair of Governors

