**Turney School**

27 November 2015

Dear Parent/Carer,

**REPORT ON CONSULTATION CONCERNING FEDERATION WITH LANSDOWNE SCHOOL AND PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION**

Recently, the Governing Body for Turney School wrote to all parents and carers inviting your comments on a proposal to enter into a hard federation with Lansdowne School. A major element in this proposal is the setting up of a single governing body that will be responsible for both schools.

The consultation ended on 23 November 2015. There were no objections to the proposal.

The Governing Body of Turney School and IEB for Lansdowne School met on 25 November 2015 to consider the result of the consultation. As there were no objections, we decided to proceed with the proposal to establish a hard federation between the two schools.

The next step is the setting up of a single federation governing body.

The consultation paper set out the proposed composition of the federation governing body and this includes one parent governor elected by the parents and carers at Turney School.

I am now writing to you to invite you to stand for election as a parent governor, or nominate another parent to do so. There will be **one** parent governor elected in this election.

It is important to note that a parent governor is **not** a parent representative. The election does not give a parent governor a mandate of any sort. By law “every governor’s role is to govern the school in the best interest of pupils, not to represent the interests of the constituency from which they were elected or appointed.”

The job of the governing body is also set down by law. The governing body, with the headteacher, has overall responsibility for the school. Governing bodies have three core strategic functions:

* Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
* Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
* Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Whilst no special qualifications are needed, governing bodies are expected to develop the skills, knowledge and experience needed to be effective. The new governing body will be using a skills audit to identify the training that will help governors to contribute to the work of the governing body. A copy of the skills audit is available from the school office as well as the school’s website. **The most important thing is to have a keen interest in the school and to be prepared to play an active part in the governing body’s work.** Training is available for all governors and there is an expectation that those new to being a governor will attend free induction training.

**If you are interested in becoming a parent governor, there is an opportunity to meet at Lansdowne School on Tuesday 1st December at 3.00pm to find out more about the role and to ask any questions you may have. It is a very informal meeting so please come along.**

The enclosed sheet summarises the circumstances under which someone cannot serve as a governor. In addition, parents/carers who have paid employment in the school for 500 or more hours per academic year or who are elected members of the Local Authority are not eligible to stand in these elections. Nominations must be from parents or carers with children at the school on the day that nominations close.

If you would like to stand for election please **complete the enclosed nomination form and return it to the school office in an envelope addressed to Linda Adams no later than midday** **Friday 4th December 2015.** You may also include a short personal statement to support your nomination, which should be no longer than 250 words. The personal statement can be used to introduce yourself and to set out the skills and experience you would bring. It is not a “manifesto”. Self-nominations will be accepted, but if you are nominating another parent please seek their prior consent.

If there are more nominations than vacancies the election will be by secret ballot. If that is necessary, voting papers will be sent to all parents together with details of the ballot procedure.

Yours faithfully,

Linda Adams

Returning Officer