

# Westfield *news*

Updates for parents and carers of students at Westfield School

Issue One: July 2017

## Former Silverdale Assistant Head appointed as new Westfield Head of School

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed Mr Joe Birkbeck as the New Head of School at Westfield. Mr Birkbeck will be starting in September but has already started meeting staff to discuss plans for the future.

He will also be attending the Parents' Information Evening on Wednesday 19 July and the Year 6 Transition Evening on Thursday 6 July, where he will be presenting the next steps for the school in conjunction with Roisin Paul, the Executive Headteacher.

Mr Birkbeck was previously an Assistant Headteacher at Silverdale, the lead school in the Multi-Academy Trust currently supporting Westfield. He then moved to a Deputy Head position in West Yorkshire, where he is currently.

He has worked across a number of schools in West and South Yorkshire in very different contexts and with diverse student populations.

He has held roles as a History teacher, Head of Department and Head of Key Stage 4, as well as Senior Leadership Team roles as Assistant Head (Progress and Assessment), Assistant Head



*New Head  
of School,  
Mr Joe  
Birkbeck*

(Teaching and Learning) and Deputy Head (Curriculum).

Mr Birkbeck said:

"I'm keen to work with colleagues, students, parents and governors at Westfield to develop a shared vision for the school. However, my priorities will be simple: to ensure excellent leadership at all levels, and excellent teaching and learning, and to secure brilliant results and outcomes for all of Westfield's students - whatever their background, interests and aptitudes.

My aim is that all members of the school community will feel supported and challenged to excel - that students will gain not only

excellent results, but also that they will develop skills to be independent, critical thinkers, and become young adults with a sense of social responsibility, able to make a positive contribution to their local community and beyond.

"I've been impressed by the huge pride that the staff and students at Westfield have in their school, their determination to make the school great and their optimism about the future. I can't wait to get going!"

Roisin Paul, Executive Headteacher of Westfield, said:

"I am delighted that Mr Birkbeck is joining our team at Westfield. Having worked with him previously at Silverdale School, I know what a positive difference he can make to a school.

"He is passionate about providing the very best education for young people, and incredibly hardworking. He is very approachable and I know he will be an excellent role model for staff and students alike.

His experience and expertise will really help us take the next important steps as we move Westfield towards becoming a good - and eventually - an outstanding school". ■

## Information Evening for current parents & carers

As promised, we will be holding an Information Evening for parents and carers of our current students.

This will take place at on **Wednesday 19 July 2017, from 6.30pm to 7.30pm**, in the school hall.

It is open to all parents and carers of students who are currently in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10.

It will be an opportunity to hear from the new Head of School, Mr Birkbeck, and the Executive headteacher, Mrs Paul. ■



## Welcome from the Executive Headteacher...

Thank you to everyone who has made me so welcome in the Westfield community. It is a real privilege to be working here.

It's been an extremely busy time, as I get to know the staff, students and parents. But I have a clear view of the changes we need to make to ensure Westfield really achieves its substantial potential.

As I have said before, this is a school on the cusp of being fantastic. I have been able to identify the areas where we need to make changes and I am convinced that, with Mr Birkbeck joining us in September, we will be able to make impressive progress.

I appreciate that change can be daunting and so I am committed to keeping you updated with our plans. This newsletter is the first of regular communications we will be sending to you. And, as you will see below, we are holding an Information Evening for parents and carers before the end of term.

This will be a chance to hear about our plans in more detail. As you know, Silverdale Trust has been providing interim leadership to Westfield, in the form of myself and Ian Gage, a Consultant Headteacher. Mr Birkbeck will start as Head of School in September this year and then we hope that Westfield School will officially join Silverdale Trust in January 2018.

If this happens **we will then be able to offer all Westfield students the chance to enter the Silverdale School Sixth Form on the same basis as Silverdale students.** This will, I believe, be a valuable addition to the post-16 offer in the local area, as well as provide a host of other opportunities for both schools.

Please do try to come along to the Information Evening on Wednesday 19 July and we will be able to explain more about our plans.

As ever, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact either myself or Ian Gage,

**Roisin Paul, Executive Headteacher**

## Year 6 Transition Evening

Parents and carers of Year 6 students who will be joining the school in September should all have received a letter about the Transition Evening.

This takes place on **Thursday 6 July, from 6.30pm to 7.30pm** in the school hall.

It will be an opportunity to meet staff and find out more about the school and the arrangements for your child joining us in September.

## Information Evening for current parents

As mentioned overleaf there will also be an Information Evening for parents and carers of current students in Years 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

You will hear from the new Head of School, Mr Birkbeck, and the Executive Headteacher, Mrs Paul.

## Governing Body update

Following the recent Ofsted inspection, the Westfield School Governing Body commissioned

a review of their work, to help ensure that they can be as effective as possible.

The review highlighted some of the good work undertaken already but put forward some clear recommendations to improve the Governing Body's effectiveness.

They are now meeting regularly to try and implement these actions, which include:

- improved communications with parents and staff;
- more targeted training for governors including an annual CPD plan;
- improvements to the running of governor meetings to make them more businesslike;
- changes to the structure of the board;
- clear induction processes and information for new Governors;
- developing a stakeholder engagement plan.

The Governing Body will be sending further, more detailed information to parents and carers over the coming months. ■