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Headteacher
Mrs L Mathie
BA (Q.T.S.)
N.P.Q.H.
NASENCo

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Children,

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Chair of Trustees. My name is Hayley Starmer, and I was honoured to be elected following my service as a Parent Trustee since October 2023.

My background is in Biomedical and Life Sciences and Mental Health Nursing. I worked with the Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Partnership Trust for over 11 years, including as a Deputy Ward Manager, primarily specialising in women's acute inpatient services. After leaving nursing to have my daughter, I retrained to work in my family business as a Purchasing and Payroll Manager. Many of you will already know me as a parent or through my regular volunteering at school over the past six years - mostly in Year 2 and on many school trips!

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our outgoing Co-Chairs of Trustees, Dr. Lucy Ryland and Marie Saunders. Their leadership and dedication have been instrumental to the success of the Trust Board over the past four years, and it has been a privilege to work alongside them both. We also say farewell to Judith Cooper this term, whose energy and experience will be greatly missed.

We are very pleased to welcome Alice Atkinson as our new Parent Trustee. Alice brings a wealth of experience in finance, operations, analytics, and local government, and we look forward to her fresh perspective and insights. I am also delighted that Shaun Collins, having completed his term as a Parent Trustee, has agreed to serve a further four years as a Community Trustee. His knowledge and experience will continue to be an invaluable asset to our talented and dedicated Board. Additionally, Shaun Rhodes has been elected as Vice-Chair of Trustees, and I very much look forward to working closely with him in this role.

As a Trust Board, our core responsibilities are to:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Hold school leaders to account for educational performance;
- Oversee the school's financial performance; and
- Ensure the voices of our stakeholders are heard.

As you know, the whole school community worked hard last school year to refresh our vision for Battling Brook, which we shared in March 2025. Our Strategic Plan 2025–2028 sets out how we will bring that vision to life over the next three years. Each year during our Strategy Day, we identify priority actions and focus our monitoring activity to ensure it is streamlined, purposeful, and impactful.

Following our Strategy Day in September, we have already set our key priorities for Year 1 of the Strategic Plan and developed a clear framework for monitoring and evaluation. Trustee roles and responsibilities have been aligned to individual skill sets to support this work. With Community now joining Equality, Active Learning, and Health and Happiness as one of our core school values, we are

'Equality, Active Learning, Community, Health & Happiness'



Email: office@battlingbrook.uk Website: www.bbroad.leics.sch.uk

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excited to work with you all to make our shared vision a reality and continue to drive Battling Brook forward.

I look forward to sharing updates on our progress in the months ahead. In the meantime, I hope everyone settles smoothly into the second half of the autumn term and enjoys the build-up to the festive season. If you see me around school, please do come and say hello.

Best wishes,

Hayley Starmer
Chair of Trustees

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