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Head teacher: Mrs E. Orland B.Ed.Hons.

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Dear Parent/Carer,

As you know the Esk Valley Alliance (Castleton, Glaisdale, Danby, Lealholm, St.Heddas, Egton, Goathland and Sleights) have been working increasingly close together over the last few years and we are proud to tell you that we have now become a Teaching School Alliance.

Teaching School Alliances are part of a fast emerging national picture who work closely with (and in some areas replace) Local Education Authorities, to improve the Teaching and Learning experience for children.

North Yorkshire is not well represented in Teaching School Alliances compared to the rest of the country so we are quite special!

The improvements are in six areas called 'The Big Six'. The Esk Valley alliance (EVA) has actually been working in these areas for several years so it is not new to us.

### **The Big Six**

#### **1. School-led Initial Teacher Training**

We provide school-led initial teacher training.

We:

- Take a lead in training teachers in our schools
- have a clear plan for teacher training so that we can ensure the best quality teaching for our children

#### **2. Continuing Professional Development**

We offer a range of professional development opportunities for teachers and school support staff.

We:

- tailor development to meet the specific needs of schools so that our staff are fully trained to deliver the best quality teaching

#### **3. Supporting Other Schools**

We lead the co-ordination of school-to-school support. This usually involves working with a school or academy in challenging circumstances to bring about improvement. It also means ensuring our own schools are as good as they possibly can be.

#### **4. Identifying and Developing Leadership Potential**

We develop successful strategies to identify and develop people to fill leadership positions in the future.

We:

- develop future headteachers to help meet the most pressing national needs in primary, small rural, special, challenging urban/coastal and faith schools
- develop potential leaders within and across your schools, ensuring that our children have the best possible leadership and therefore the best possible education.

### **5. Specialist Leaders of Education (SLE)**

Specialist leaders of education are outstanding middle and senior leaders. They have at least 2 years' leadership experience in a particular specialism (eg maths, school business management, initial teacher training). They help others achieve outstanding leadership in their area of specialism and ensure that all teachers are delivering the best possible education for children.

We ensure that specialist leaders of education provide high-quality support that is having a positive impact on teaching and learning. We currently have three SLEs across the Esk Valley.

### **6. Research and Development**

To meet this responsibility, we:

- ensure that our staff use existing evidence to ensure their teaching is high quality
- share learning from research and development work with the wider school system

As you will see from the above, all these areas are fundamentally in the best interests of our children and this is why we have pursued this route – we believe passionately that we should do everything possible to provide a first-class education for your children.

Teaching school Alliances link with other Teaching School Alliances to share their work and to continue to improve further. The national picture of schools leading and shaping the system like this has allowed much wider partnership working and we are proud to be part of this.

We hope that you are also proud to be part of such a forward thinking group of schools!

We will continue to keep you informed of our work but please do ask if you have further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Orland  
Headteacher