

## HEAD TEACHER MICHAEL LONCASTER GETTING TO KNOW OUR GOVERNORS

**Following the 2016 Parent/Carer survey, it was suggested that in order to help parents to get a better knowledge of the governing body, a feature should be included in the newsletter. This month it is my turn, Michael Loncaster, Head Teacher**

I was born in Hull and after my first day at Anlaby Infant School I announced that I wanted to be a teacher. Wolfreton Secondary School followed and my career path was still defined.. In 1983 I qualified and my teaching career began at Eastington Primary School, a school I was to return to as Acting Head while the school was “between Heads”. I became a Deputy Head at Sproatley Endowed CE School before taking on my first permanent headship at Aldbrough Primary School. I had a 10 month period in which I worked as an LA Advisor, but I realised that the place I am meant to be in is a school. In January 2002 I arrived at Molescroft and you have been stuck with me ever since.



What an adventure that has proved to be. In 2001 there were 256 pupils and 120 of them were taught in mobile classrooms. Since then we have had extensions large and small to accommodate the 420 plus children we have now. I have been fortunate to find myself working with the most delightful children, most talented staff and most supportive community any head could wish to find. It has enabled me to see my vision of what a primary school should be grow, develop and bloom. One of the guiding principles of my career has been never to underestimate what children can do. We see that day in and day out at Molescroft. My role is to facilitate the projects ideas and visions of the creative team around me. So I remove obstacles, I chart a path for the “Good Ship Molescroft” around the rocks and hurdles which at times are in our way and try to say “yes” as much as I can, providing we are going to do it well. It is I hope still a matter of pride for you all that your children attend an Outstanding Primary School and that as a National Teaching School we collectively are leading developments and supporting education across the county and beyond. But as I often remind people, my number one job is to ensure the care, safety and success of the children of this school. I was employed to be the Head of this school and as long as I remain I will continue to put our children first, our community first and ensure the success of all our ‘Moles’. It is only from this basis that we can continue to work beyond our village with credibility. Similarly we can never rest, we cannot tread water as that only leads to complacency and decline. So we strive to be at the forefront of educational developments.

I am not the young man I’d like to think I am any more, (the mirror reminds me every morning). At times the job is exhausting and often challenging, but I am “problem solver in chief” and I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else. I am lucky to be able to do the best job in the world, and it defines who I am, because I can make a difference. With that comes, I know, great responsibility, because I influence the careers of the 85 strong team who work here and of course the futures of thousands of “Moles”, but I hope that I also put a bit of magic into the lives of the children and also through them into your lives too. Childhood is precious and very short, but the memories should stay forever and give the moral compass for adulthood.

When the holidays arrive; after making sure all is ready for the next term; I’m usually to be found on a plane heading to Switzerland for convalescence in the lakes and mountains, with good friends and a glass or two of some rather splendid wine. I have my rewards too!

Thank you all for your patience and support as staff, governors, parents and friends continue to do our very best for our children.