

KSH/jr
24 June 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

It is with great sadness that I inform you I will not be your child's Director of Progress and Achievement from September. This morning students watched a video during tutor time that announced this to them. It is good news however, as I will still be remaining at Wildern, but will instead be Subject Leader for Drama.

This has been one of the hardest decisions I have ever made. My passion has always been the Performing Arts and I have always been heavily involved in the school productions and extra-curricular. Unfortunately, DoPA is a role that takes a considerable amount of time, so I have been unable to take part in these for a few years. I have always told the students to seize every opportunity and it would have been hypocritical of me if I didn't follow my own advice.

As I said in my video this morning, it is difficult to articulate just how much the year group means to me and your children as individuals. I often find myself making jokes that I feel like a Mum to 372 children sometimes. We lived through arguably the hardest two years of our lives together, but we also came out the other side together too. I have watched them go from small, nervous and excited children in brightly coloured uniforms to teenagers! Which I'm sure you all agree, can be challenging at times especially now that most of them are taller than me, and take great pleasure in letting me know that. I am exceptionally proud of the year group and love to brag about how they are the most charitable year group Wildern has ever seen. The Basics Bank, Shoe Box Appeal and Easter Egg collections are just a few of the community events they have been involved with and overwhelmed me with their kindness.

I will never forget the lockdown assemblies, sending weekly updates about my puppy and all the tricks I had been teaching him. He has become a bit of a mascot for the year group. It makes my day when students ask about him, what walks we have been on and when will I be getting dog number 2?

I can announce that Mrs Fearon will be taking over from me. She has an absolute wealth of experience in pastoral care and I am thrilled that she will be taking over the year group. This also means we have a few weeks this side of the summer to hand over and bring her up to speed on all the students within the year group. I know that Mrs Fearon will continue leading the year group to success throughout Year 10 and 11. I will remain the Director of Progress and Achievement for this term, but the year group will see her around more frequently over the next few weeks.

My advice to the year group ends the exact same way it began, with a quote from Dr Seuss. 'You have brains in your head, you have shoes on your feet, you can steer yourself in any direction you choose.' I am choosing a new direction, but I will still be keeping a close eye on the year group and watching them continue to grow from teenagers, into young adults. I truly wish them all every success, both at Wildern and beyond. They are incredible young people, who I know, will go on to do amazing things.

I want to end with a thank you to you, the parents and guardians that have supported me throughout the past three years. The partnership between home and school is key to a successful student.

Yours faithfully
Mrs K Heath