



Friday 24th March 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

As this is my last fortnightly update as headteacher, I wish to simply say a few words of thanks.

Being the headteacher of Stokesley School & Sixth Form college has been the privilege of my career. When the post came up over 6 years ago, I simply had to apply; the opportunity to lead a school with such a strong reputation, so close to my own community was too much of a draw despite me being very happy as Deputy Headteacher at King James's School at the time.

They say nothing quite prepares you for headship, and that is definitely true. However, my tenure as head has seen events that nobody could have ever predicted: a worldwide pandemic was certainly not on the training schedule for trainee teachers, or prospective school leaders! Yet, against that backdrop we have achieved so much: moving from requires improvement to good; improving GCSE results; developing our safeguarding procedures; improving our 'LIFE' curriculum and much, much more.

As I prepare to move on to my new role as one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Schools for Ofsted, I feel a real mix of emotions. Your children have been the highlight of my time here and I shall miss the vibrancy of school life where the old adage is certainly true: no two days are ever the same.

I am exceptionally proud of the staff at Stokesley School without whom I would have achieved nothing: they are dedicated, passionate and hardworking. Despite current challenges in education - which are numerous and putting increasing pressure on those of us that work in the system - our staff continue to go above and beyond for the young people in their care to make sure they have the very best start in life.

Thank you for your support during my stint as headteacher: at difficult times, such as throughout covid and when we lost a dear colleague, your messages have been timely and uplifting, reminding us that - overall - people do appreciate the work that we do.

I am delighted that the trust has appointed a capable successor who I have no doubt will continue to lead this great school from strength to strength. I will keep in touch with colleagues and look forward to hearing about the next exciting phase of this school's development.





My final day of work, here at Stokesley School, will be Friday 31st March. Please can I remind you that students finish at 2:15pm on this day as we break up for the two week Easter holidays. Students return to school at the usual time on Monday 17th April.

I wish you all well for the future.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H. L. Millett
Headteacher