



Dear Parents and Carers,

Retirement

This academic year marks my 30th at Clarendon School, and my 34th as a teacher in Richmond-upon-Thames. After a great deal of thought, I have decided that this will be my last year at the school, and that I will retire at the end of this academic year.

My decision has not been an easy one. Clarendon is a very special place, and I've been incredibly lucky to work with many inspiring pupils and colleagues throughout my career. Teaching is a challenging vocation, especially in the SEND sector, but it is also, genuinely, the best job in the world (and never, ever boring!). As Deputy Head from 1998, and then as Headteacher since 2006, I have been privileged to lead the school through a period of very significant expansion and change, supported throughout by a dedicated and committed staff team to whom I am and will always be exceptionally grateful.

Whilst all of us can find change unsettling, our Auriga Trustees and Clarendon Governors will be working hard to appoint a successor in the coming months, and to ensure a smooth transition to Clarendon's new Headteacher from September 2023.

When the end of this academic year comes, I will, I know, have very mixed emotions about my decision. But I will also have many, many fantastic memories to take with me as I begin the next phase of my life. In the meantime, I am looking forward to ensuring that the current academic year continues to be firmly focussed on our pupils, and the progress they make.

Yours sincerely,

John Kipps,
Executive Headteacher, Clarendon School