



King Henry VIII School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs E Lewis
Head of School: Mr M Stockham

6 January 2022

Dear parents/guardians,

Retirement of Executive Headteacher

I am writing to let you know that Mrs E Lewis has informed the governing body that she will be retiring from the teaching profession on 31 August 2022, the end of this academic year.

Mrs Lewis joined King Henry VIII School as Headteacher in September 2014, and quickly established her strategy to lead the school in improving the overall quality of education provided at KHS. This focus on the core purpose of teaching and learning, alongside a commitment to excellent wellbeing provision for all students, has allowed the school to grow and flourish. Most recently, examinations results at KHS have been outstanding, and the school has seen a real growth in its leadership capacity, with staff contributing to improvements not only at KHS but also in their work with other schools across the region and nationally.

Since March 2020, Mrs Lewis has been the Executive Headteacher for both KHS and Croesyceiliog School, Cwmbran, and her excellent leadership skills recently resulted in a very positive outcome for Croesyceiliog following an Estyn revisit. Mrs Lewis's retirement will mark the end of the formal partnership with Croesyceiliog, but, in enthusiastically agreeing to continue the partnership for the 2021/22 academic year, the KHS governing body recognised the considerable benefits that the partnership had also brought to KHS, where the collaborative working between the two schools had led to the whole being very much greater than the sum of its parts. This was particularly the case for the arrangements necessary to deal with Covid-19, where the sharing of tasks and challenges led to both schools being able to ensure that students continued to learn, whether in school or at home, regardless of the barriers that had to be overcome.

Mrs Lewis's leadership will be an extremely difficult act to follow, but the governing body will be working hard to ensure that appropriate planning and action takes place, in good time, to appoint another excellent headteacher to take the school forward. This will be particularly important at present because, as you know, if the establishment of the new 3-19 school on the KHS site receives final local authority approval this month, the headteacher appointment process, undertaken in conjunction with Deri View Primary School and Monmouthshire County Council, will be crucial to the success of the new school.

We will have an opportunity nearer the time to Mrs Lewis's retirement to celebrate her significant contribution to the success of King Henry VIII School, but she has asked me to assure you that there will be no diminution in her commitment to the school in her remaining two terms and that she is very much looking forward to working with you and the rest of the Abergavenny school community during that time.

Yours sincerely

Sian Phillips

Mrs S Phillips
Chair of Governors