

9 July 2010

Dear Parent,

The end of my final term as Head has been a sunny and busy one and we followed very successful sports days and concerts with a wonderful family Vines Day last Sunday and another outstanding Year 8 musical. Today is the final day for our Year 8 Class of 2010 and I must bid you farewell.

I am fortunate indeed to have had the privilege of running such a magnificent and successful school and I am delighted to have the opportunity to continue my association with Vinehall as a boarding parent whilst Gemma completes Year 8 at Vinehall next year. Mark and I move to Royal Leamington Spa over the summer break and we wish you all well for the future.

Mr. Richard Follett, my successor, enjoyed a visit on Tuesday, meeting pupils, staff and parents and he is looking forward to taking on the headship of Vinehall in January. I wish him the very best of success in all areas. He has a strong staff team and well established structures upon which to build the next phase of Vinehall history.

I wish Mr. Whitehead well with next term as he bridges the gap between my departure and Mr. Follett's arrival. Geoffrey Whitehead knows Vinehall very well indeed from many years' teaching here and as Deputy Head for seven years he has been party to all aspects of the day-to-day management of Vinehall. He is well placed to ensure that everything runs well behind the scenes next term.

Other staff changes for September are as follows:

Miss Judy Gorrie, who is retiring, hands the girls PE department to Miss Laura White, a new member of staff for September.

Mrs. Lynda Hunter, whose contract comes to an end, hands the French department to Miss Estelle Taylor Langley. Mrs. Florence Buet joins our French department part-time.

Mrs. Helen Hoffmann leaves for promotion to the position of Assistant Head at Bodiam Manor School

Mrs. Karen Cooper remains with us as Head of Classics and passes the role Head of Juniors to Mrs. Annie Kawai-Calderhead (till recently, Miss Dron). Mrs. Debbie Gearey remains Head of Drama and hands Head of English to Mrs. Jo Dix.

Miss Katie Ault moves to Singapore and Miss Susannah Appleyard arrives in September to teach singing lessons. Mr. Steve Hollamby leaves Mr. Peter Mitchell to teach all of the brass lessons.

Mr. Richard Lakin stays with us as a music teacher but will no longer teach in the main school. Mr. Colin Higgins part-retires and continues to teach maths at Vinehall on a part-

time basis. Dr. Jarratt becomes slightly less than full-time so that he can proceed with Ordination Training.

Mrs. Lynn Harding joins the Pre-Prep as a new and additional Reception teacher when we split to two Reception classes again in September.

In the support staff department, Mrs. Sheila Kemble retires. Mrs. Pat Malone retired at the end of last term. Mrs. Ros Judd becomes part-time. Mr. Mike Lewis will retire from his position as Financial Manager in October and will be succeeded by Mrs. Yvonne Hopkins. There will be a handover period in the meantime.

This is my last opportunity to congratulate and thank the staff formally. The teams of support staff and teaching staff and administrative staff who dedicate themselves to doing such a good job for Vinehall are admirable. The children are wonderful and have been very sweet about my departure (I have even had to turn down a generous bribe which I was offered-in theory-to make me stay!) and I will miss them more than anything. I am grateful to those parents who have been so supportive of me during my tenure at Vinehall; understanding of my mistakes and appreciative of the efforts of the staff. I am overwhelmed by the generous gifts, kind words and cards which have been presented to me at the end of this year. Celeste Barker's witty depiction of the school has been displayed in the front hall this week and is a very special souvenir. Thank you for your appreciation and support.

The new Chapel windows donated by this year's Year 8 parents are superb and much appreciated. They will serve as an impressive reminder of the success of the Class of 2010 and, on behalf of all at Vinehall, I thank all of the Year 8 parents who donated funds for the new windows.

I wish you, your children and extended families all the very best of success for the future and I wish Vinehall School well as it moves into the next phase of its development. Best wishes to everyone who is involved with Vinehall and will support its further successes in the future.

Yours, finally,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'J'.

Julie Robinson