



St Paul's Way

Aspiration • Integrity • Community

PART OF UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS TRUST

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write to share some personal news with you all.

Having worked at St Paul's Way Trust school for 11 years now, this school, its students, families and staff as well as the community surrounding it have become firmly lodged in my heart! It has been and still is an honour and privilege to serve in this community and to see so many young people go on to successfully take their next steps in life.

Whilst I continue to draw huge satisfaction from the success of our students, a unique opportunity has arisen for my wife and I along with our children to go and do something very different. We have often wondered about the prospect of travel at some point in our lives and we feel there is a short window of opportunity for us to undertake an adventure together as a family. As a result, I have taken the difficult decision to leave St Paul's Way and move abroad this summer with my family.

The primary and secondary school leadership teams, along with all the staff at SPW, have been working on and continue to work on long term sustainable improvements for our school community. We firmly believe in a distributed leadership model and teams on both sites have substantial capacity to continue the good work that has already been implemented. Both Mrs Fehim and Mrs Uddin as Heads of School are determined to continue this work and to secure further long-term benefits for our children and families; they will be supported for an interim period by an experienced Executive Headteacher whose services the Trust have secured. The school will also continue to benefit from the substantial leadership support of Trust Directors of Education at both primary and secondary level. More will be shared in due course about this arrangement but both Trustees and Governors are confident this arrangement will provide the right conditions for this school to continue to thrive and grow.

My last day in school will be 21st July 2023. This affords a good period of time to continue with transition plans ensuring the handover process is a smooth and seamless one. I have had the privilege of meeting many of you over the last 11 years and I have very much enjoyed those interactions. I will miss this school greatly and I want to thank you for the support you have given to me personally during my time as Executive Headteacher. I hope I will have the opportunity to say goodbye to many of you in person before my last day. I will certainly keep following the continued success of this school fondly, albeit from a greater distance.

With very best wishes,

Phil Akerman
Executive Headteacher

