



Dear Parents

I am writing to inform you of my intention to retire from my post as Executive Principal of Whitehill Community Academy Trust and as Principal of Whitehill Community Academy on the 31st December 2017. It has been an absolute pleasure working as Principal of Whitehill Community Academy for the last 14 years and I will leave with many fond memories of my time here. However, after 39 years of continuous service I have done my tour of duty.

I must firstly thank all of the Governors and Trust Board for putting their faith and trust in me and hope that I have repaid their confidence in continuing both Whitehill and Wainstalls journey to 'Outstanding' in such turbulent, challenging and uncertain times educationally, politically and financially.

I have enjoyed almost every moment! There has certainly never been a dull moment. I have complete confidence in our Trust Board and Governing Body making an outstanding appointment for my successor, many are parents that I have worked with over the past 14 years and they know exactly what will ensure that Whitehill Community Academy Trust remains a warm, friendly, community focussed and very 'special' place for pupils to thrive, flourish and excel.

I have thoroughly enjoyed every one of my 14 years and especially seeing both schools on their improvement journey. It has been exciting but very rewarding, with the support of a happy, committed and highly professional staff, and an outstanding leadership team. During this time as a Teaching School and National Support School, as part of my NLE role, we have supported a number of schools at least, 8 of which over the last four years, all of which have moved from RI to good.

I will miss everything about the schools in our trust – your wonderful children who engage me every day with their amazing contributions, good humour and achievements; you, the parents who have been so supportive of our developments, and of course my outstanding staff, governing bodies and board of trustees. I feel I will be passing Whitehill Community Academy over to a new post holder in a very strong and healthy position.

Thank you all once again, for all your friendship and support, having the belief in me, and enabling me to finish my career on such a positive note as a system leader who can show and demonstrate impact on the school led system.

Kindest regards

R Hepplestone