

Dear Parents / Carers

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I write this letter. Unfortunately, at the end of this term I am leaving Kates Hill for another adventure.

Kates Hill has been my family for five years and despite many challenges and turbulent times I have enjoyed every minute.

When I arrived at Kates Hill over 5 years ago the school was at the bottom of Dudley League tables for KS2 outcomes, the school needed a pick me up and some love. Now, five years on results are steadily improving towards national, the school is in the top half of the league table, leadership is strong, focused - ready for the next chapter.

The school is a dream, a haven, a sanctuary, simply a brilliant place to be. The improvements to the inside and outside of the building are phenomenal and pupils have what they need to succeed and enjoy school life.

With past experiences of positive academisation and collaboration I was not phased when the school joined the LLMAT, unfortunately that did not work out and took away Kates Hill's capacity to provide for their pupils and the community – for that I still remain scarred and angry. The school suffered and at times the job was incredibly hard, to keep fighting in the face of adversity. But I did, I stuck to my morals and beliefs and ploughed forward, determined to make Kates Hill the success it deserved.

Having had the “good judgement” from Ofsted just a month ago cemented everything I have worked hard to deliver- all the fight and heartache was worth it. I am so proud of the staff and pupils at Kates Hill. The school is in a position to thrive, to hopefully go on to achieve outstanding.

I want to thank the community from the bottom of my heart for accepting me, believing in me, but mostly entrusting me to lead this wonderful school in a direction I am immensely proud of. The school and the staff team are the envy of most locally.

It has been a pleasure to get to know families and provide a service for you. I will miss you all so much and hope to visit in the future to see how the school is doing.

I am going to be a Headteacher of another local school, not far from Kates Hill, so hope to come across all of you again at some stage.

I need a fresh challenge where I intend to make another school truly great – just like here.

I wanted to leave this letter to the end of term, but gossip spreads quick in a small area. It is only right that I share this news quickly and appropriately before the grapevine/Facebook does the work!

I look forward to the last half term and spending time with the best asset of the school – pupils.

I wish all of the pupils and families the very best of luck in all you do – stay true to yourself and be happy.



Kathryn Harvey
Headteacher