



"if you have faith as small as a mustard seed...nothing will be impossible."
(Matthew: 17 v20)

24 May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the Governing Body I would like to take this opportunity to tell you that, at the end of this academic year after many years of dedication and commitment to all the pupils and staff at The Downs, Miss Leighton will be leaving her position as Headteacher and moving on to other things.

Firstly, I would like to thank Miss Leighton for everything she has done for the school over the past 14 years, particularly over the last two years whilst dealing with the unprecedented demands of the COVID situation.

I have seen first-hand as a parent and a governor Miss Leighton's hard work and how she puts the needs of others before herself. Over the years her loyalty to the school community has shone through clearly. For these reasons and many more I know she will be missed at the school and we all wish her the very best for the future. We will make sure we say a proper goodbye to Miss Leighton in the summer as soon as we are able to.

As a Governing Body we have agreed on a plan going ahead. The recruitment process for a new Headteacher will begin shortly and realistically the earliest this appointment can be made will be for January 2022, therefore a strong short-term solution needs to be put in place. We are very pleased to announce that Ms Luxford (the current Deputy Head) has accepted the role of Acting Head from September. An internal advert will also be coming out soon for an Acting Deputy Head.

Please contact me if you have any questions

Best wishes

Dr Ali Eyden
Chair of Governors

