



Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

19 January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to inform you that, after 25 years in education and 11 years as Headteacher of this girls' secondary comprehensive school, I will be retiring from headship at the end of this academic year, on 31 August.

This decision was neither planned nor wished for. However, it has become necessary following my husband's health issues, which were diagnosed at the end of the summer holiday and early in the autumn term. While this has been a difficult decision, it is the right one for my family at this time. I was very clear that I wanted to continue leading the school through this academic year, particularly as it is an anticipated Ofsted year. I believed this would provide beneficial continuity and stability for the school, and I remain fully committed to my role for the remainder of the academic year.

Since the second half of the autumn term, when I made the decision to retire, I have been working closely with the Trust Board Chair and other Trust Directors, and will continue to do so, to support their process of recruiting a new Headteacher. Their focus is on appointing the right person to take the school forward and to build upon the strong foundations established over the last 11 years.

As we all know, the work of a school is never complete. School life is shaped by continual change. Every day brings new and often unexpected matters arising from students, staff, families, buildings and estates, past pupils and employees, the local authority, government, and the Trust Board. Effective leadership requires agility: recognising issues, prioritising them, pre-empting where possible, resolving them, and responding appropriately when plans must change. The work evolves constantly and never truly ends.

It is the continual challenge, the absolute importance of educating girls, the opportunity to positively impact young lives, and the privilege of working with such dedicated staff and wonderful students that has sustained me throughout my headship. I love this work and will continue to relish leading the school until 31 August.

As we look ahead, my focus remains firmly on the day-to-day life of the school and on ensuring the very best outcomes for our students. As ever, we now turn our attention to the work of this week.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Violet Walker
Headteacher