



17 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I write my final letter to you as Headteacher, I do so with a heart full of gratitude, pride and more than a little emotion. Bringing my time at this wonderful school to a close is far more than the end of a job; it marks the conclusion of a relationship that has been one of the defining threads of my life.

My story with the school began as a student from 1969 to 1976. Those years shaped me in countless ways, providing an education that instilled in me confidence, curiosity and a belief in the power of opportunity. Many years later, I returned to complete the second part of my PGCE as a trainee mathematics teacher between January and May 2001. I was then fortunate to remain until the end of that academic year, covering a maternity leave in the Mathematics Department. I could never have imagined then that I would one day return once more as Headteacher. To have spent the final chapter of my career leading the school that first inspired me has been a privilege beyond anything I could have hoped for.

During the past eleven years, I have had the immense honour of watching thousands of remarkable young women grow into confident, compassionate and accomplished adults. They have achieved outstanding academic success, excelled in sport, music, drama, debating, leadership and community service, and, perhaps most importantly, demonstrated kindness, resilience and integrity every single day. While examination results and awards are rightly celebrated, it is these personal qualities that make me proudest. They remind us that education is about so much more than qualifications; it is about developing young people who will make a positive contribution to society.

No Headteacher achieves anything alone. I have been privileged to work alongside exceptional colleagues whose professionalism, dedication and care for our students have never wavered. Teaching and support staff alike give so much of themselves every day, often quietly and without recognition, to ensure that every girl has the opportunity to flourish.

To you, our parents and carers, I offer my heartfelt thanks. The partnership between home and school is one of the greatest strengths of our community. Your trust, encouragement, generosity and shared commitment to your daughters' education have made an immeasurable difference. Thank you for supporting not only your daughters but also the staff who have cared for and challenged them throughout their time here.

Among the many memories I shall treasure, none demonstrate the strength of our community more than the extraordinary years of the COVID-19 pandemic. They tested us all in ways we could never have anticipated. Together, and with the support of our trust board, we navigated uncertainty, remote learning, ever-changing guidance and the emotional impact of prolonged separation. Throughout those difficult months, I witnessed courage, adaptability, compassion and determination in abundance. Our students embraced new ways of learning, staff worked tirelessly to provide continuity and care, and families supported us with patience and understanding. While none of us would wish to relive those times, they



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revealed the very best of our school community and strengthened the values that continue to define us today.

I also look back with enormous satisfaction at all that we have accomplished together over the past eleven years. We have celebrated academic excellence, broadened opportunities beyond the classroom, invested in our learning environment, strengthened our pastoral care and wellbeing provision, and continued to ensure that every student is encouraged to discover her talents, pursue her ambitions and develop the confidence to lead. Every success has been the result of a collective effort, and I am deeply proud of what we have achieved together.

Above all else, this school has remained true to its purpose: providing an outstanding education for girls and young women, enabling them to believe in themselves, to care for others and to aspire without limits. That mission has never been more important, and I leave knowing it will continue to guide the school for many years to come.

As I retire, I do so with complete confidence in the future. Schools are never defined by one individual. They are sustained by their values, by the people who serve them and by each new generation of students who bring fresh energy, ideas and aspirations. I know this school will continue to thrive because those foundations are stronger than ever.

Although I may no longer walk its corridors each day, a part of me will always belong here. This school educated me, welcomed me back years later as a trainee teacher, and ultimately entrusted me with its leadership and; in doing so, it gave me the defining chapter of my career - a period filled with memories that I shall treasure forever. For that, I will always be profoundly thankful.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving your daughters, your families and this extraordinary school community. It has been the greatest honour of my professional life. I leave with immense pride in all that we have achieved together and with every confidence that the best is yet to come.

I wish you and your families every happiness, good health and continued success in the years ahead.

With my warmest thanks and very best wishes

Violet Walker
Headteacher