

22 April 2024

Dear Families

I am writing to inform you that Ms Purnell, Headteacher, has made the decision to retire early from her career in education. After thirty years of working in schools and almost fifteen of those in senior leadership positions, Ms Purnell plans to take a short career break before exploring new opportunities outside of teaching.

As you will know, Ms Purnell has given a great deal to Ansford Academy and has been responsible, along with her wonderful staff team, for much of the significant improvement over the last three academic years.

The Governing Body is confident that we will find a new Headteacher who will be able to lead the school in its next phase of development. The job advertisement for this position will be going live later this week. At the forefront of our recruitment process will be identifying a candidate who will uphold the ethos of the school and who values the development of the whole child and inclusive education.

Ansford Academy is in the strongest position it has been in for some time and has a bright future: pupils have positive relationships with adults and feel safe in school, the culture of safeguarding is very strong, staff are incredibly proud of working at Ansford and the school has clear routines for ensuring good behaviour. Of course, there are plenty of challenges and areas to keep working on but the school has improved so much from when Ms Purnell took up her position.

I am sure, like me, you will wish Ms Purnell well in her next steps. We are all extremely grateful for the dedication, care and strong leadership she has consistently shown to our entire school community.

If you have any questions or concerns about the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me using the email: [clerk.governors@ansford.net](mailto:clerk.governors@ansford.net)

Best wishes



Jennie White (Chair of Governors) on behalf of the Ansford Governing Body