



Friday 27 March 2026

Dear Parents/ Adults with Parental Responsibility,

I am writing to let you know that I am retiring at the end of this academic year. This has been a difficult decision because I care deeply about the school and will miss the students, staff and parents who make it such a special place. It has been an absolute joy leading the school and improving and developing its many strengths. However after a grand total of 39 years in the teaching profession, including 10 as Headteacher of Sarah Bonnell, I am confident this is the right decision and I am excited about the new opportunities ahead for the school, the trust and myself.

There will be opportunities in the Summer Term for proper goodbyes but I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude to you, the parents and adults with parental responsibility. Thank you for the invaluable support you give to your daughters' academic progress, and for your attendance at school concerts, plays, and special events like Black History Month celebration. Your partnership is essential to the school's success and I know you will continue to support the new Head of School, when they are appointed.

To the students of Sarah Bonnell: thank you for your incredible hard work, your kindness towards one another, and your commitment to social justice. You are the heart of this school, and I am immensely proud of the young women you are becoming.

My thanks go to the staff too. Your commitment, skill, and expertise, both inside and outside the classroom, are what make Sarah Bonnell a truly special place. Your dedication ensures that every student receives the best possible opportunities and is able to thrive.

Finally, my sincere thanks to the Chair of Governors, Mr Paul Leslie, for his unwavering support, guidance, and hard work. His support, over many years, for the leaders of this school and trust truly make a difference to our community.

Newham Community Learning Trust is leading the process for recruiting a new Head of School for September 2026 and I am confident that the leadership of the school will remain strong and ambitious for the future.

Sarah Bonnell will always have a special place in my heart and I wish the school continued success as a key part of the community and the Trust.

Yours sincerely,

Rae Potter  
Headteacher

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