

Monday 11 May 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

I am sure you will join me in congratulating Ms Potter on her retirement. She will be much missed by staff, parents, students, governors and members of the trust team, having successfully led Sarah Bonnell School for many years. I have very much enjoyed working with Rae since I joined NCL Trust as Director of Education, and I know I am not alone in wishing her a very happy retirement after her years of service to education. Her commitment to empowering young women is a constant that flows through the life of Sarah Bonnell.

The departure of a long-serving Headteacher is a significant point in the life of a school. As the end of term approaches we will be celebrating Ms Potter's contribution to Sarah Bonnell. In the meantime, I want to assure you that we have taken steps to ensure an effective transition and arrangements for next year.


Jess Carter, who many of you will know in her current role as Deputy Headteacher, has been appointed as Head of School from September 2026. She will lead the daily life of the school, but will be supported by me as Executive Headteacher. This is an arrangement which is common in many Trusts and means that the school will benefit from the full-time presence of a visible leader in the Head of School, supported by an Executive Headteacher with extensive experience of leadership in multiple schools. I will have a base in the school and will work closely with Ms Carter and the wider senior leadership team, helping develop strategy and supporting the team with day-to-day matters.

Ms Carter has worked in a senior capacity in several of the Trust's schools and was appointed as Head of School following a competitive recruitment process. I know she will have your support and encouragement in leading Sarah Bonnell School to even greater success.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Hemmings
Director of Education and Deputy CEO

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