

Dear Parents and carers

23.09.22

Following 17 years of teaching in Thorne, I sadly write to inform you that this will be my final term at Brooke and I will be leaving at Christmas.

I started my teaching career at Trinity in 2005, as a Newly Qualified Teacher, thinking that I would stay for a year and then get a teaching job closer to home in Chesterfield. The love for my job, the children and the community meant that this never happened. 17 years later I have finally made the decision to do this. In the last few years, the commute, the death of my father and the demands of the job have begun to take their toll and, after much persuasion from my husband and daughter, in January I will begin a new chapter of my life, as the Headteacher of a school 10 minutes away from my home.

It has been a great privilege working in Thorne for the last 17 years, 8 of which have been at Brooke. Following the birth of my daughter in 2012, I was approached to take on some supply work for Brooke, working predominately with Special Educational Needs. Moving from secondary to primary education was a big jump for me, but from the very first day I loved everything about it and I have never looked back! It makes me feel very old when we welcome the children of the students I taught at Trinity; I feel very proud to have been involved in the education of 2 generations!

Brooke is an amazing place to work. Every day has brought with it, laughter, pride and happiness. The Brooke team have worked tirelessly over the last few years to improve its educational offer. We strongly believe that the school will receive the recognition it deserves at the next OFSTED inspection and will receive at least Good in all areas. Unfortunately, given the updated OFSTED inspection framework, I may now not be here to see this. I have everything crossed that we get the inspection call before I leave in December, but if not, I will definitely be expecting an invite from the staff to come back and celebrate with them, when it finally happens!

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents and carers for their support. As a Headteacher, I often have to make decisions, based on legislation or other requirements, that do not always reflect my own views, however, you have always supported me in my role. I have always been an advocate of 'Team Brooke' and I can certainly say that the relationships we have built over the last 8 years have made us an outstanding team.

Working with your children has been the best job in the world; they are all absolute superstars and a credit to you, I will miss them dearly.

So for now, it is business as usual. The staff have been told today about my departure and I have insisted that further discussion is banned (as I end up crying! 😊).

We are fortunate to have experienced leaders at Brooke and the Trust and Mrs Hall (Executive Headteacher) will be working with them to continue the excellent work we have achieved.

Best Wishes

Emma Levers - Head of School

