

8<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you that our SENCO, Mr Purvis, will be leaving us at the end of term as he is taking up a new post at Whickham Comprehensive School in Gateshead. As a parent with a child on our special needs register, I appreciate that this may be of concern to you, but I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that the provision in place is strong and your child's academic and social progress will not be adversely affected.

Having said this, I know that many of you, along with your children, have an exceptionally strong relationship with Mr Purvis and you may well be worried about what impact his departure may have. The provision that he has built over the past 7 years means that it will be self-sustaining as he has built a strong team that is expert in supporting the children in their care. In addition to this Mr Purvis' deputy, Mrs Mableson, and admin support, Mrs Brookes, will provide continuity in the short term prior to a permanent appointment who will be in post by January 2022. Unfortunately, due to teacher contracts we are unable to appoint prior to this point.

I have also put in place interim arrangements for a temporary SENCO and have asked our current acting Head of Year 9, Miss Wallis, to step into this role. She fully recognises the demanding nature of the position and is already working with me and Mr Purvis in order to ensure a smooth transition.

My aim is that by September we will have everything in place so that all aspects of provision are maintained, but one thing that we cannot instantly replicate is the relationship and trust that you and your child may have built up with Mr Purvis. In order to mitigate this, we have already started the process of identifying those students who are more likely to be affected by Mr Purvis' departure and we will start the transition for them immediately; we will be in touch with details very soon.

I know that the decision for Mr Purvis to leave has been a very difficult one for him, but a new challenge that is much nearer his home is the right decision for him and his family. I am sure you will join me in thanking Mr Purvis for his exemplary work as SENCO at John Spence and also wish him the very best for the future.

Please do get in touch with me if you would like to discuss any concerns that you may have.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Heath

Headteacher



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