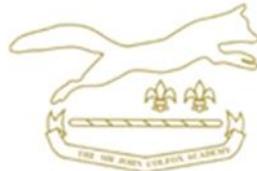


The Sir John Colfox Academy



Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence

Headteacher: Mr David Herbert BSc PGCE NPQH

March 2019

Dear Parents

It is with mixed emotions that I find myself writing to you. After 13 years working on the leadership team at The Sir John Colfox Academy, this term is going to be my last. Yesterday, following an interview process, I accepted the offer of becoming the substantive Principal at Budmouth College. The challenge of opening a new academy (Budmouth is joining the Aspirations Academy Trust in September 2019) was one that I could not walk away from.

Leaving Colfox is going to be very difficult and those of you who know me best will know how much of 'me' I have invested in the school over the years. I am proud of what we have managed to achieve and I would not wish my own children to be anywhere else. However, it is now a sort of 'now or never' moment for me from a career perspective and after much consideration, I have decided to take up this new opportunity. I've always encouraged our students to be bold and seek out new challenges, it is my turn now!

It feels like a good time to be moving on and Colfox is in a very strong position right now. Last year we recorded our 3rd consecutive good OFSTED and our exams results are now consistently strong at GCSE and A Level. The numbers in the school are rising and once again next year's new intake is both full and oversubscribed. It is a tribute to the good work that our staff and students are doing that means more and more students are choosing to come to Colfox from outside our catchment area. More students are also choosing to stay in the Sixth Form than ever before. With Kay Taylor also moving on from the MLT, it is a good time for a fresh start and I am sure the school will go from strength to strength. The advert for my replacement has been placed in the national press and I would imagine there would be a lot of interest, Colfox is a fantastic school in a great part of the country.

Mr Hoffmann and the leadership team have been doing a great job on the days that I have been off site this term and it's been good to know that the school has been in such safe hands. Mr Hoffmann will be 'Acting Head' after Easter and together with the leadership team will be well placed to run the school during the summer term. In addition Kay Taylor will work closely with Mr Hoffmann and she will take on some aspects to support the SLT.

I would just like to end this letter by thanking you for your continued support during my time at Colfox. Headship is not an easy job and the decisions you make often divide opinion. However, the positive letters, emails, phone calls and even conversations in Bridport market on a Saturday have easily outweighed the negative. This, I believe, is because of all the hard work of our brilliant staff and in particular the extra time that they give in the evenings, weekends and holidays to provide an incredible extra-curricular programme. I have been privileged to visit schools all over the South West of England and I have yet to find one that offers such a wide range of 'extra' opportunities. So once again, thank you to them and long may it continue.

Yours sincerely

David Herbert
Headteacher