



Friday 20th July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a privilege to serve as Headteacher at Colmers these past seven years. I wish to thank my current and former colleagues for their endless commitment and energy; often making huge personal sacrifices to keep placing young people first and foremost in everything we've done, do and will do. I will be very fortunate indeed to ever again encounter so many colleagues who give so much, every day, and do so with a smile and a determination to give your children every opportunity in life.

But I also wish to thank the students at this school. They induce an affection in us all here and the names, faces, characters and incidents that sit in my memory will stay for a very long time and with much fondness and happiness. And then of course you, the parents and carers; you do a wonderful job and your children reflect so well upon you. We are all grateful for your continued support and engagement over the years.

As I reflect on my time at Colmers I realise that I tend to return to several values and beliefs that means so much to me and have driven my own time at this school. The first is that education offers an opportunity for every child to be freer to live their own life and not one handed down to them by society. The second is that we all have to overcome things in our past or our lives that can try to drag us back and stop us maximising our potential. The third is that none of us really know what happens to us in eternity and therefore if this life is all that existence offers then we must not waste a single day, a single opportunity or a single friendship.

I have seen many hundreds of children leave Colmers and they become a part of the thousands who I've said farewell to in my time as teacher over the past 23 years. But now it's my time to leave and I will never forget the people I have met, the journeys we've travelled together and the impact you have all had, younger and older, on me as a person and as a teacher.

I wish every happiness, success, luck and opportunity for Ms Leaman as she becomes Colmers' next Headteacher. She will inherit a beautiful school, incredible staff, very special children and truly decent and great parents and carers who also want the very best for the children.

Colmers always has been and always will be a very special place and I shall always be a better person for having spent more than seven years of my life in this community.

Will all best wishes,

Barry Doherty

Headteacher

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