



Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020

To the Barrow Hedges Community,

Had I known what was in store for us all back in February, I may have never applied for a headship. As it turned out, I was interviewed in the same week that Mr Johnson announced the period of school closure, and the rest will always be a blur.

I write to you today to express my sincere gratitude to you and your wonderful children for what has been an incredible six years of my life. I arrived at Barrow Hedges full of plans for what I could give to the Barrow Hedges community, but I had no idea then quite how much the community would give me.

During my time at Barrow Hedges there has never been a dull moment, that is for sure, and indeed the community has faced many challenges during this period, mostly unforeseen and many unprecedented, at least from my personal experience. The community response to any challenge has never ceased to amaze me and so often have I been touched by the kindness shown and spirit felt; for this, and so many other reasons, I will never forget Barrow Hedges, and I thank each of you sincerely.

Thank you to all those who have supported the school's inclusion journey, one that I am proud of, but more so impressed by. I urge every child and adult now to continue along this path, embracing difference and celebrating diversity, whichever form it may take, so that Barrow Hedges' reputation as a leading school for **all** pupils can be further enhanced and enjoyed.

I would like to thank Mrs Wood for standing behind me and embracing my visions, and providing me a rich form of professional development that has carried me forward to horizons I never foresaw. I would also like to pay thanks to Mrs Roberts, Mrs Duncan, Mrs Covey, Miss Cheetham, Miss Wilson and indeed every member of staff at Barrow Hedges for being the best colleagues I could ever have dreamt of having. I am also grateful to the Local Governing Board and Cirrus Academy Trust who have contributed to my development along the way.

Finally, under these different circumstances for an end of year goodbye, please may I ask that you thank your children on my behalf, for from them I have learned so very much, and with them I have enjoyed so very much. I wish every one of them all the success and happiness in the future.

As I am sure this letter makes clear, I am very sad to be moving on from Barrow Hedges but the memories made will live on forever.

With sincere best wishes,

Mr Lowes



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