

Dear parent(s)/carer

I am writing to inform you that Mrs Kim Bennett will be retiring in September. Mrs Bennett will be succeeded by Fiona Hoare who begins the role of headteacher in September. She will write to you herself in due course with an introduction.

After a long and illustrious career as a teacher spanning 32 years, I hope you will agree she has earned the right to relax! While we wish her the very best, it is an understatement to say that she will be terribly missed by everyone at Diamond Hall Junior Academy and the North East Learning Trust.

Kim's career as a teacher started in 1987 and went from strength to strength as her obvious talent and passion for teaching propelled her quickly through the ranks culminating in her current role as headteacher at Diamond Hall Junior Academy.

Throughout her career, Kim has been a tireless advocate for children and worked incredibly hard to give them the very best start in life. She is passionate about education and is an outstanding classroom practitioner and a caring and ambitious leader. Her infectious personality has made her incredibly popular with children, parents and staff, and her positive, effervescent presence will be sorely missed in the corridors and classrooms of Diamond Hall.

I have known Kim for many years and having the opportunity to work alongside her at the North East Learning Trust in the later years of her career has been an absolute privilege. Her knowledge and experience have been invaluable to the Trust where she has worked to share a multitude of best practice with other schools.

No letter can do justice to acknowledging a lifetime of dedicated service, but I hope, in some small way, it conveys a sense of our appreciation for everything she has done for the thousands of children and parents whose lives she has touched.

With kind regards



Lesley Powell CBE
Chief Executive Officer
North East Learning Trust