

14th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Following on from Ms Lockey's recent communication letting you know that Mr Tidd will be leaving HJS at the end of this academic year, I'm delighted to be able to announce that we have recruited a new Head of School who will be joining us in September 2022. We had considerable interest in this vacant position, with some very strong candidates with a wide-ranging number of experiences and backgrounds. A very thorough recruitment process over the past few weeks has taken place, which included presentations by the candidates, numerous written tests, conducting a year-group assembly, and a rigorous interview by a five-person panel consisting of myself (Chair of Governors), Simon Turner (Co-Vice Chair of Governors), Ms Lockey (Executive Head), Miss Tester (Head of School, Hampton Infants) and Andrew Platt (HPP's external School Improvement Partner).

I am thrilled to be able to confirm that Mr James will be re-joining HPP. Many of you will be familiar with Mr James, who had been at HPP for 10 years, including 3 years as the Head of School. He left HPP on 31st December 2020 to become the Headteacher at Hurst Park Primary School and has received glowing references from that school's Chair of Governors and their School Improvement Partner. Mr James' recent experiences has enabled him to further grow and develop his career and skills which will be a great asset to HPP. He certainly impressed the interview panel with his heartfelt and sincere motivations and reasons for his return. More from Mr James later in this note.

Please join me in congratulating Mr James on his re-appointment and I'm sure you will share my excitement and enthusiasm about his return. We look forward to having him back and to building on the excellent work by Mr Tidd, who is also preparing a seamless transition back to Mr James.

Kind regards



Sej Bhabra
Chair of Governors



Dear HJS Families

It is a privilege, and with great excitement, that I can announce my return to HJS as your Head of School in September!

My name is Jon James, and many of you will know that I previously held leadership roles at Hampton Junior School for over 10 years, including Deputy Headteacher and Head of School. In this time, I worked closely with Ms Lockey and Miss Tester as part of the original Executive Leadership team. I am thrilled to be returning to HJS in September and continuing with the 'excellent' work which ensures pupils, staff and families receive the very best primary education.

Most recently, I have been working in Surrey as a Headteacher and have learnt a lot about leading a school in a borough other than Richmond. Following this experience, and the challenges of Covid, my family and I decided returning to HJS, a school that I have always loved, would be best for all of us. I have so many amazing memories of HJS and want to create many more!

Excellence is a mighty word, but I feel passionately that all children can achieve excellence in their own way, whether this be academically, creatively or physically through sports. I will work hard to continue this drive and in doing so hopefully inspire your child to achieve success in their education - as well as a love for learning!

The HPP values are clearly at the heart of the school. These values bring the community together and in doing so enable families to work successfully in building a great school. I fully believe that these values will continue to mean HPP is the partnership of choice in this area and I want to be part of this team!

I look forward to working with the exceptional staff and children at HJS and also with parents and the wider community. By being the 'best we can be' I am sure we can continue to build a school that we are all incredibly proud of.

Ms Lockey and I will plan a number of meetings during the summer term to ensure a smooth transition and to ensure the great work of the current Executive Leadership Team has been built on, making the start of the next academic year a positive experience for everyone.

All the best



Jon James

