



13th January 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to inform you that I will be leaving Ark William Parker at the end of the school year. As many of you will remember, I came to William Parker as Interim Headteacher in 2013, initially on a temporary three month secondment. I quickly became much attached to the school and its students and staff. I remained here after the school joined the Ark network, as Associate Principal and most recently, as Principal. I am pleased that I have been able to stay as long as I have, and it has been my privilege to be part of the academy's progress and improvements.

Most of you are aware that I have a daily commute of 1 hour and 40 minutes from my home in Surrey to Hastings which, over time has presented numerous compromises in my personal and family life. Making the extremely difficult decision to leave the academy and secure a role closer to home has been entirely driven by these personal circumstances.

Moving on is always a difficult decision, and in my case, doubly so, as I feel Ark William Parker is a special place and I have found working here to be extremely fulfilling. Together we've accomplished a great deal over the past few years - our GCSE results are much improved and our recent Ofsted inspection has led to the school officially coming out of special measures.

There is of course more to do. Academically, we've come a long way, but our ambitions aren't just for improvement- they are for excellence. I remain totally committed to leading Ark William Parker for the rest of my time as Principal and I have every reason to believe that we can achieve even more impressive results. We will continue to strive to make Ark William Parker an outstanding school, not just in the eyes of Ofsted, but within the community as well.

Efforts to recruit an outstanding new leader will begin immediately. We are looking to appoint an Executive Principal – someone to lead Ark William Parker Academy as Principal on a day-to-day basis, but also to oversee and support Ark Helenswood Academy, which will continue to be led by Lucy Monk. You will of course be the first to know as soon as successful appointment is made.

I want to offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to all the students, staff and parents who have supported me in my time here; Hastings is a wonderful community. I am confident that, with the continued hard work of everyone here and with the support of Ark and the school's Governing body, Ark William Parker will continue to progress and achieve great things. I am looking forward to us continuing to work together to ensure the very best progress for our students in the months to come.

Please do feel free to contact me at any point if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Hatley
PRINCIPAL