



8th May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to update you on the appointment of a new Head of School at Holley Park from September 2026. Following a thorough and rigorous recruitment process, we are delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs Gemma Ridley as the new Head of School from September 2026.

Mrs Ridley is currently an Executive Deputy Headteacher working across two schools and brings 16 years of school leadership experience, including periods serving as an Acting Headteacher. Throughout the recruitment process, Mrs Ridley demonstrated a clear understanding of Holley Park's many strengths, its community, and the skills and qualities needed to lead the school into its next chapter.

Mrs Ridley has shared the following message:

'I am absolutely delighted to be taking on the role of Head of School and feel very excited about joining the Holley Park school community. From the moment I visited the school, I was struck by its warm and welcoming atmosphere, as well as the dedication and care shown by the entire team. I especially love the school's commitment to putting pupils at the heart of everything we do and it is clear to me that this is reflected in all aspects of school life. I am keen to work closely with staff to ensure that every pupil achieves their full potential, and to continue building on the strong foundations already in place. I am really looking forward to meeting all of the pupils and their families and to working closely with you and the wider community in the near future.'

As you are aware, Mr Garrett is currently Acting Head of School for this term, working closely with the committed staff team to ensure continuity and stability for the school.

We will work closely with Mr Garrett and Mrs Ridley to ensure a smooth and well-planned transition, ready for Mrs Ridley to take up post in September, when Mr Garrett will resume his substantive Deputy Headteacher role. As part of this process, Mrs Ridley will be spending time in school to meet staff and pupils, and hopefully many of you too.

From September, Mrs Ridley will lead the school as Head of School, with full responsibility for the day-to-day running of Holley Park, the development of strategic priorities, and acting as the main point of contact for parents and carers. Mrs Yates, Associate Head, will work closely with her to provide support as she takes up her role, ensuring Holley Park continues to be a welcoming, inclusive and caring school for all pupils and families.

We appreciate that leadership changes can raise questions for families. We want to reassure you that this appointment has been made with the best interests of the children at its heart, and we are confident that Mrs Ridley's leadership will build positively on the excellent work already in place.

Thank you for your continued support of the school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

J. Heaton
Jo Heaton OBE

L. Yates
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