

Fox Wood School

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23rd July 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians,

I write to you at the end of what has been – without a doubt – the most challenging academic year of my career, as well as a particularly traumatic year for me personally in so many ways. I write that for no other reason than to explain to you that I truly understand what an incredibly difficult year this has been for so many of the people who I care so much about – the children, young adults, parents, guardians, extended families, staff, Governors and friends of Fox Wood.

Over the past five months I have had to suddenly make rapid decisions that I never dreamed I would have to face, I have tried to make sense of the ever changing (and often contradictory) guidance and expectations from a variety of sources, and I have tried to create a sense of safety and possibility in what has – at times – felt like a very impossible situation, within a terrifying world.

I say I. I have, of course, not done this alone. Far from it. I do, however, take responsibility for the decisions that have been made. Some of these will have pleased and reassured some people, and some will have upset and maybe even infuriated some. I apologise if I have made any decisions that you disagree with, or have found difficult. It is simply impossible to please everyone, especially when the expectations from different people, groups and documents can be so extremely varied and the stakes are so high. I do, however, hope that you have tried to remember what I have made clear in everything I have said and done for the past five years at Fox Wood – every decision that I make is first and foremost with our children and young people in mind; their safety, their wellbeing and their opportunities to grow, develop and shine in every way possible.

I have known for some time that my Senior Leadership Team, Staff Team and Governors are second to none – they have, however, even surpassed my unashamedly high expectations this year, and without every single one of them we could not have possibly achieved all the wonderful things that we have. I want them – and you – to know how truly grateful I am for how much they care, how hard they work, the incredible flexibility, creativity, talent and determination they have displayed (whilst also dealing with their own personal situations which – for none of us – have been simple or straightforward this year, and for many which have been deeply worrying and upsetting.) In short I want you all to know I am incredibly proud of my team.

Headteacher: Miss Lucinda Duffy NPQH, BA.Ed QTS

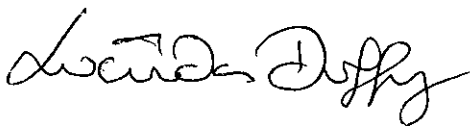
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Lianne Buchanan BA (Hons), QTS, MA SEN



My team, however – as you know – doesn't end with our amazing staff and professionals, it also embraces and relies upon the full Team Fox Wood – and that includes every single one of you, your children, and your wider families and friends who are what makes Fox Wood the magical community it is, filled with true Super Heroes. I am not sure quite how to express my thanks adequately to you all, other than to say thank you for being YOU, for making the world a better place, and for entrusting your children to our care when this is possible, for working alongside us in so many ways, for amazing me with your resilience, positivity and openness – and for sharing so many wonderful moments with us, whether this has been in person, on the telephone, in writing, Social Media, or on Evidence for Learning. You are truly wonderful and I couldn't be prouder of Team Fox Wood.

I hope that the school Summer Holidays are a positive time for all, and I look forward to our children and young people returning in September. I know it will be very strange initially in so many ways but I thank you once again for your support and appreciation of the reasons why we have made some changes (as outlined in the September 2020 Home/School agreement. Please read it if you have not already, and contact school if you need further support or to request a phased return for the first two weeks of term.) Thank You also for taking the time to read this (I do appreciate it is very long – but there is so much I want to say to you all!)

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Lucinda Duffy'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lucinda Duffy
Headteacher