



24th April 2020

Dear Pupils, parents, carers and members of our community,

This is a short message of goodbye, good luck and thank you, as I prepare to leave Kirk Hallam Community Academy. As I hope you will be aware, I am moving to lead another school within our education trust, and Mr. Damian Belshaw is taking over from me on Monday 4th May 2020.

The real heart of any school is made up of its pupils and staff, and it has been a genuine privilege to lead at Kirk Hallam. From my first days here I have been made to feel very welcome at the school, and I would particularly like to thank those parents and carers that took time at parents' evenings to talk to me. I believe that, with your help, we have already made significant improvements at Kirk Hallam, and I am absolutely confident that Mr. Belshaw is the right person to lead the school into its next chapter. Mr. Belshaw will soon be writing to you in person to introduce himself.

When schools finally re-open, I will hope to get an opportunity to return and talk to the pupils in person. In the meantime, I hope you are all as well as you can be in these difficult circumstances, and that our pupils are doing all they can to help at home and keep up with their school work.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Watts

Head of School