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Dear family members,

Wednesday 23rd July 2025

It has been an absolute privilege to lead Newark Hill Academy over the past 10 years after starting as Deputy Principal in January 2014. During this time, I have had the honour of working alongside an incredible team of staff, a supportive Trust, and, most importantly, your wonderful children. Together, we have created a learning environment where students are encouraged to grow, take risks, and thrive both academically and personally.

I want to thank you all for the support, trust, and partnership you have shown me throughout my time here. The strong relationship between school and home is one of the key reasons our school is such a special place. Whether through Celebration of Learning, parent evenings, or casual conversations at the gate, your involvement has made a difference. This school community has been such a significant part of my life and career.

I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together—improving outcomes, enhancing the curriculum, strengthening wellbeing, and ensuring that every child feels seen and valued. I will carry the memories of assemblies, school trips, sports days, and shared successes with me always.

Though I am moving on to be an Executive Principal role within the Trust, I leave knowing the school is in a strong position for continued growth and success. Mrs Farooq is a committed and strong leader and will take the role of Interim Principal until at least Christmas. The Trust are in the process of appointing a permanent Principal, and I am confident they will find someone who shares our values and vision.

Thank you once again for allowing me the privilege of leading this wonderful academy. I will miss the daily energy and warmth of our community more than words can express.

Yours faithfully, Sonia Kendal