

GOODBYE MR KELLY 2006 - 2022

Wednesday 20th July 2022



Dear Parent/Carer,

So, it's thank you and goodbye from me!

Long-serving Higham Lane School Headteacher, Phil Kelly, says farewell to Higham Lane School. Higham Lane Headteacher, Phil Kelly, is preparing to step down and retire after 16 years in post. Phil Kelly said: "I will always remember the enormous pride and excitement that I felt when I was offered the post back in 2005.

Being the Headteacher of such a superb school with fantastic students, amazing and loyal staff, supportive parents and carers and committed governors has been an absolute privilege and an honour. In that time, we have achieved so much together as a school: An Outstanding judgement from Ofsted and World Class Schools status; becoming an academy; opening a successful Sixth Form and being given provisional permission to open a new secondary school in our local area. As I leave, the School is about to embark on the next stage of its journey by merging with the Central England Academies Trust (CEAT) MAT. More importantly, we have sought to continuously improve our school in so many ways and it remains highly-regarded and over-subscribed. Just as the School has many strengths, there are a number of areas where things can be developed further and where new ideas and approaches will be introduced. It's an exciting time for the School as it prepares to move further forward.

I have really enjoyed doing my final assemblies to our students and sharing a few of the lessons I have learnt, not just as Headteacher, but throughout my life; I was a middle ability student who really lacked confidence until my self-esteem grew when I found a passion for teaching English. I have had so many conversations with the students about my final assembly; they have been so kind to me, thanked me and wished me all the best for the future.

I always say to parents/carers: "Support the School and be seen to support the School and if you have a concern or disagreement, let's sit down and discuss it privately and quietly so that your child knows we are working together." Most parents/carers have accepted this request and this has led to really positive working relationships for the benefit of our young people.

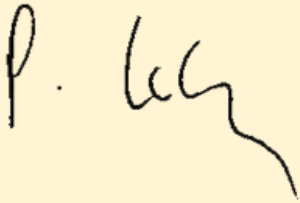
One thing I have learnt in my time as Headteacher is that successful schools are rooted in excellent teams of people working effectively together for the benefit of the students.

I receive a great deal of credit for other people's efforts. I hope I have played a key part in the School's success, but it has been a team effort at HLS with so many people contributing massively: teams of staff, our wonderful students and our parents and carers.

I would also like to thank all the governors I have had the pleasure of working with over the past 16 years. Governors are volunteers and they have all shown great commitment and support for the School.

I will retire on 31st August after 16 happy and fulfilling years as Head of Higham Lane and 35 years in teaching. I have had the best job in the world (even better than being Chelsea manager and certainly longer in post!). I am so grateful to have been given this opportunity.

I wish the School every success in the future as it addresses new challenges and plans for exciting developments. I know that our parents/carers will give their full support the new Headteacher, Mr Nick Haddon, just as they have supported me and the School will move from strength to strength."



Headteacher 2006 - 2022

