



WARWICK INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

8th June 2020

Dear Old Warwickians

I am writing to inform you that Dr Smith is leaving the role of Head Master of Warwick School. It is his wish to take a complete break and re-evaluate his options going forward.

Dr Smith has worked tirelessly to develop the school and especially the pastoral and academic experiences for the boys. Most recently, he has provided strong leadership during these difficult times and I would like to thank him for everything he has brought to Warwick School and the Foundation community over the past two years.

Richard Nicholson, the incoming Foundation Principal, and I have agreed a transition plan which will steer the school through the next few months and into the new academic year in September. James Barker, the current Senior Deputy Head will be the new acting Head Master, ensuring continuity and in whose capable hands we are confident the school will further flourish. Mr Barker will report to Mr Nicholson, and Dr Simon Chapman will become the acting Senior Deputy Head. Both these appointments will take effect immediately.

Mr Barker, himself an Old Warwickian, began his teaching career at Banbury School before returning to Warwick and later holding posts at Abingdon School and The Royal Grammar School, Worcester. He re-joined us as Deputy Head (Co-curricular) and latterly has been Senior Deputy since 2018. I know that he will lead Warwick School with energy and compassion and will be most ably supported by Dr Chapman and the rest of the Senior Team.

I know everyone will want to thank Dr Smith for his leadership and wish him all the very best for the future. He would like to pass on his gratitude and thanks to pupils and staff at Warwick School, and to wish you all and the School every success in the future.

Dr Smith leaves Warwick with the admiration and gratitude of the whole community for the impact he has made in such a short period of time. He leaves with my sincere thanks and best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Firth
Chair, Warwick School

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