



17 July 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

Apparently the saying goes, “all good things must come to an end,” and so my time as Headteacher of West Leigh comes to a close.

I have been at West Leigh for 30 years which has flown by. I began in 1994 as Deputy Head, but soon found myself in charge – and I’ve never looked back.

I am one of those lucky people who has loved my job, from my first days in the classroom in Shoebury, to this point where I work from 2 offices – 1 in West Leigh, 1 in the house nearby as CEO of Portico Academy Trust. I happen to think that teaching, working with children, is the best job in the world and I’ve done it for years and years!

It has been such a huge privilege to work at West Leigh. I have had the honour to lead teams of outstanding teachers, to enjoy the company of some wonderfully generous people who give their full commitment to making our school great, in whatever capacity they have worked. Over the years we worked tirelessly to move West Leigh from a good school to an outstanding one and then to maintain that standard of education and care. It does not happen by accident; it takes enormously hard work, long hours and great resilience. I thank every one of the many members of staff both past and present who have accompanied me on the journey from the ‘90s up to today.

I also want to thank you, the parents and carers of our children, both past and present. You have worked in partnership with me to create an ethos of hard work, fun, determination and diligence amongst the children. Sometimes we crossed swords, but usually found a way to agree as we all want only the best for the children.

I feel most proud of the hundreds and hundreds of young people who have enjoyed all that West Leigh has had to offer and have left the school in a strong position to make a positive difference in the world and to have a successful and wonderful life.

I am tremendously sad to leave the leadership of West Leigh and all it means to me, but I know that I hand the school to the best possible person. I have no doubt that Mr Aggus will not only maintain our excellent standards, but move the school forward into the future. West Leigh and all that it embodies is in very safe hands.

Thank you for always being there to support me. I will always carry West Leigh, the incredible people and the joyous children in my heart.

Yours sincerely

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