



27th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with an enormous sense of pride that I introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Glossopdale School & Sixth Form. As many of you may know, I enjoyed 6 years working here as Deputy Headteacher and am incredibly excited to return in January.

I am currently working very closely on a handover with Mrs. McGloin and the rest of the school team and, although I know that you are all very sad to see her leave, I am excited at the prospect of building upon the achievements that she led at Glossopdale. She has made such a positive impact on the school and, having worked with her for a number of years, it is an impact that we will cultivate further.

Although some of you know me, I realise that I am a new face to many and that you may have questions about the leadership of the school going forward.

Originally from South Yorkshire, I have happily settled in Glossop with my husband and two children. We love being part of the local community and enjoy the many opportunities that this vibrant town offers.

I spent a number of years working in publishing and bookselling before training as an English teacher in London nearly 20 years ago. I worked as Head of English and then a Consultant in the Harris Federation, one of the country's largest academy trusts, before becoming an Assistant Headteacher on the south coast. I returned to my roots in the north in 2017 when I took up the role of Deputy Headteacher at Glossopdale. I have since been a Principal and am currently Consultant Head of School in the East Midlands Academy Trust.

As an English teacher, I am passionate about literature and literacy, the joy and the powerful effect that this can have on all aspects of children's learning.

One of the prevailing improvement strategies at Glossopdale was (and continues to be) embedding the THRIVE values. These values underpin the whole school culture and drive the ethos of excellence that defines the school's activities. I wholeheartedly and robustly support these values and will continue to do so as Headteacher.

The most pertinent elements of these values in my vision to further improve the school are:

- **High expectations:** all of us rise to high expectations and every child at Glossopdale School is capable of reaching them; in their academic studies, in their attitude to learning and in the wider opportunities available to them
- **Inclusion:** it is vital that every student at Glossopdale is fully known and has their needs understood and met in a warm, supportive and nurturing environment



- **Communication:** openness and transparency will foster fruitful relationships between staff, students, families and the wider community

I will place a central emphasis on working in partnership with parents and carers in supporting all students at Glossopdale School. I am eager to get to know as many of you as possible, to work with you, to hear your views and to review our provision.

As such, I will be holding a Parent Q&A session so that you can meet the school's new Headteacher, hear the vision for the next steps in the school's journey and ask questions about how we'll get there. This will be held in the theatre at 5.30pm on Thursday 23rd January 2025.

I would be grateful if you would complete this short Google form [here](#) to indicate whether you would like to attend and if you have a specific query you would like to be addressed.

If you are not able to attend but have questions that you would like to ask, please also complete the form and we will publish the answers to the submitted questions via the school Newsletter.

Many thanks for your time; I look forward to meeting you next year.

Ms. K. Smith