

**JWW/MBA/JSK**  
**24 August 2021**

**By email only**

Dear Parents and Carers

I write to inform you that our Head of School Mrs Girling has decided that, for personal reasons and with the agreement of Trustees, she will not be returning to SET Saxmundham in September.

We wish to thank her for her huge commitment to the school, the pupils and her staff colleagues over the last year. She has shown genuine care for pupils' education and well-being and leaves with the thanks and warmest good wishes of the whole school community.

Mrs Girling has asked me to convey to you how much she has loved working with the whole school family, whether in her leadership role or as classroom teacher. She is very proud of all that has been achieved by everyone, and wishes the school, its staff and all students every possible future success. Mrs Girling is looking forward to hearing good things about Saxmundham in the future. She sends her warmest good wishes to everyone.

As you would expect, Trustees have acted swiftly to make sure that continuity will be preserved at SET Saxmundham. For this academic year, Ms Christina Watson will be the Interim Headteacher. Ms Watson is an extremely experienced Headteacher, who understands the culture and values of our School and who is ready to lead on the further improvements planned for the 2021-22 academic year. Ms Watson will bring stability and continuity whilst we search for and recruit a permanent new Headteacher and I know Ms Watson will have the full support of the Senior Leadership Team and the wider staff body. Your child should not be affected negatively in any way by this development.

The Trustees will now look to identify a new leader. This search may take some time, but we are confident that Ms Watson has the skills and the support necessary to ensure that SET Saxmundham continues its improvement journey while a permanent successor is found.

If you have concerns about this announcement and would like to discuss it further, please direct your enquiries in the first instance to: [enquiries@seckfordeducation.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@seckfordeducation.org.uk).

Ms Watson can be reached, from 26<sup>th</sup> August, via Mrs Friston at:

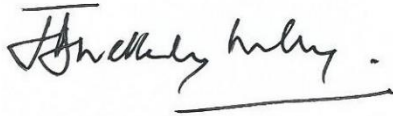
[friston@seckfordeducation.org.uk](mailto:friston@seckfordeducation.org.uk).

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Parents and carers will have an opportunity to meet Ms Watson at the following additional Parents' and Carers' forums on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 9am and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 9 am as well as by appointment.

Sincerely



James Wellesley Wesley  
**Chairman of Seckford Education Trust**



Mark Barrow  
**Chief Executive Officer**

