

CWA/LDA

26 May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

## Re: My Return to the Academy

First of all, I genuinely hope the first letter I have sent you since February finds you and your loved ones as well as you can possibly be. I have to say, it also feels great to be actually be in a position to write to you!

Further to previous correspondences from both myself and Mr Nagle, Chair of our Board of Trustees, I am writing to inform you that I will be returning to the academy on **Monday 5 June 2023**. This will initially be in a phased capacity and I will be taking each day as it comes, however, I am genuinely delighted to be returning earlier than expected as I've missed our students, staff, you, our families, and my role in general greatly over the course of the past three months.

I'll be aiming to take up my usual whole academy duties and responsibilities and in preparation for doing so, I have been conducting a significant number of virtual meetings with members of the academy's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and other staff members since week beginning Monday 8 May 2023. My time as the academy's lead does of course come to a formal conclusion at the end of this academic year, therefore, I will also be ensuring there is as smooth a transition as possible between Mr Baster and Mrs Clark, members of our SLT who will be taking on the overall leadership of the academy as from 1 September 2023. Still, before that time comes, I can assure you I will endeavour to give as much as I possibly can to Plume Academy's stakeholders as you all deserve nothing less.

I would also like to take this opportunity to issue a heartfelt 'Thank you!' to those of you who along with those from our students and staff, sent me best wishes leading up to and after my operation. Honestly, if only you knew the positive impact these messages had, especially the week before and after the actual procedure. Once again, it shows the calibre of people associated with our Plume Family and I will be eternally grateful.

Finally, I would like to conclude this letter by saying that I have the utmost respect and massive appreciation for those of you who work in the NHS and associated care professions, or who have family members, relatives or close friends who do so. Whilst I have always felt this way, these past six weeks in particular have very much galvanised this due to personally receiving genuine, compassionate and high-quality care from a vast array of NHS staff throughout my treatment process. Despite the pressures and constraints never being greater on these fantastic individuals, it is through their combined efforts that to me, we have a health service that still remains the best in the world. Therefore, let us hope this is formally acknowledged by way of a befitting and well-deserved pay rise over the course of the next few months, with the same being secured by our other public sector areas, very much including our superb teaching and support staff workforce.

Yours sincerely



**Mr C A Wakefield**  
Executive Principal

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