

20th November 2025

Castle Hill School Update: Two Heads Are Better Than One

Dear Parents and Friends of Castle Hill,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the kind birthday messages I received last week. Another year brings with it another change, and I appreciate your thoughtful words.

We are writing to update you on some significant changes occurring at Castle Hill. As you may be aware, I have had the privilege of serving as headteacher for over 35 years. Over the last 6 years, we have been working on strengthening our leadership capability resulting from an action point raised during the OFSTED inspection of 2018. We have been transitioning to a new leadership structure as a result and part of that, have introduced a succession plan for all leadership roles. We have been implementing a phased plan for a transition in leadership roles and specifically regarding the Headteacher role. From January 2024, I moved to a co-headship model in partnership with Ms Willmouth. Ms Willmouth currently leads on one day a week (0.2), while I cover the remaining four days (0.8). From January 2026, my commitment will further reduce to two days (0.4), with Ms Willmouth stepping up to cover the remaining three days (0.6).

Having worked alongside Ms Willmouth for many years, I am confident that she is more than ready to take on this expanded role. She will be well supported by our two Assistant Heads, Mrs Lund and Mrs Thomas, along with Miss Harding (Acting Assistant Head) and the remaining members of our Senior Leadership Team. I feel fortunate to have such exceptional colleagues who share our vision for the school.

I would like to assure you that my affection for Castle Hill remains as strong as it was when I first began my journey here, back when I had a full head of hair and boundless enthusiasm. I continue to hold this enthusiasm dear and intend to utilise my time to support Youth Options, other worthwhile causes, and to spend more quality time with my family. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Board of Governors for their unwavering support and belief in the succession planning and continuity we are striving to provide for the pupils in our care.

Should you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the usual channels.

Yours sincerely,

Mr John DF Martin and the Castle Hill Team