

## Learning for Life!

Headteacher: **Ms Annemari Ottridge** M.Ed. NPQH NPQEL



3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Claudia Thiele has been appointed as the new Acting Headteacher of Lonsdale School from the start of the Spring term. Mrs Thiele was chosen through a rigorous recruitment process led by the School's Governors' Recruitment Panel which was supported by Margaret Goodchild (Herts Improvement Partner), Becky Cox (School Effectiveness Adviser), and a Recruitment Advisor from HFL Education's Leadership Recruitment Service.

Throughout the selection process, which engaged staff, pupils, and Governors, Mrs Thiele stood out as an exceptional candidate and was the unanimous choice of all selection panel members. Mrs Thiele, who has dedicated over two decades to Lonsdale, specialised in working with children with physical and neurological conditions as part of her teacher training demonstrating her genuine passion for everything Lonsdale represents.

As the school enters a period of change and uncertainty, Mrs Thiele will offer continuity and stability while bringing a fresh perspective and direction. Lonsdale's ethos focuses on learning and development and, as Acting Head, Mrs Thiele will undergo two terms of rigorous on-the-job training and assessment, which will be overseen by the Governing Board. If successfully completed, the appointment will be made permanent from September 2024.

On behalf of the entire school community, we wish to extend our congratulations to Mrs. Thiele on her appointment. We would also like to express our deep gratitude to Ms. Ottridge for her dedicated efforts over the last 10 years and in ensuring a seamless transition before her departure at Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Chandra Green  
Chair of Governors

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