



AMO/CE

18 December 2014

Dear Parents and Carers

The gentle jingle of Santa's sleigh bells is only few sleeps away and the Lonsdale school community is preparing for well-deserved holidays. Christmas is always a special moment – a pause to be hopeful for the coming year and to reflect on the one that just passed.

The 2014 Autumn term brought many changes for our pupils and staff. The school community has taken on the challenges with enthusiasm. Little did we know just how many we were to encounter in such a short time. Yet, with dedication, determination and at times, sheer grit our wonderful and committed team of staff across all branches of the school are getting to grips with some important and far reaching developments.

I know that their hard work will bring rewards for all of us in the school community who have the best interests of Lonsdale and its pupils at the heart of everything we do.

As the year closes it's a time to remember all those individuals who have given so much dedication and energy to our community.

Bernadette Smithers, who has always put the needs of our children first in everything she has done, is moving on and we hope she flourishes in the fresh challenges which lie ahead.

David Biggerstaff who planned and led the move from Lonsdale's old premises to our stunning new building is also departing. We wish him well for everything he does in the future.

Lesley Thompson had been planning to retire at the end of the summer term 2015, but it has now been agreed that that she will leave us at the end of this term. Lesley has been a loyal and dedicated member of the residential staff at Lonsdale School for over 40 years, for which we thank her. She'll be missed and we hope that she enjoys a long and happy retirement.

For the New Year we will be joined by Donna Lancaster who takes over as interim Head of Residence, Yvette Key who becomes Form tutor for BS4 and Sally Taylor, who continues in her role as interim Deputy Headteacher.

From within the school, Annabel Moore takes up the position of Assistant Headteacher (Assessment, Recording and Reporting), Claudia Thiele is our new Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum) and Anne Smart's job title changes to Head of Support and Student Care.

We are all confident that they will take us forward, and in partnership with our Governors, help us to become an even better school.

I have been genuinely touched by the warmth of the Lonsdale Community and sheer zest for life amongst our pupils, parents and staff. There is something very special about Lonsdale.

To everyone who reads this letter thank you for supporting our wonderful school. I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and A Very Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Annemari Ottridge', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Annemari Ottridge  
Headteacher