

January, 2026

Dear Parents,

From the Headmaster

It is with a mix of emotions that I write to share the news I will be stepping down as Headmaster of Mylnhurst at the conclusion of this academic year.

Leading this remarkable community has been the greatest privilege of my professional life. Since joining this wonderful school, I have been consistently inspired by our pupils' curiosity, the dedication of our staff, and the unwavering support of you, our parents.

Deciding to move on has not been easy, but I feel now is the right time - both for myself personally, and for the school. I am incredibly proud of what has been achieved.

As many of you will know, the past few years have been challenging for Babitah and me. Following the loss of Babitah's mum - our final remaining parent - a year ago, we have found ourselves reassessing our future and our priorities. This change in circumstances has led us to the difficult decision that now is the right time for us to begin a new chapter and to make the very most of the time we have together.

I want to reassure you this transition has been planned with the utmost care. I have been working closely and transparently with the Board of Directors for some time now to ensure the school is perfectly positioned for this change. Our shared priority has been - and remains - the continued stability and excellence of Mylnhurst.

While I am stepping away from the day-to-day leadership of the school, I am not saying a final farewell to the community I care for so deeply. I am pleased to share I will remain involved in the capacity of a member of the Board of Directors. In this role, I will be able to offer continuity and strategic support, ensuring the values and vision we have built together remain steadfast.

Furthermore, my ongoing role as a Reporting Inspector for the Independent Schools Inspectorate will allow me to bring a wealth of current regulatory and educational expertise to the Board. This will be of significant benefit to the school as we continue to maintain our high standards and prepare for future inspections.



It has been a profound honour to lead this school. My focus for the remainder of the year remains entirely on your children, and I look forward to making the most of my final two terms with this wonderful community before I transition to my new role as a member of the Board.

While I wanted to share this news with you first, my priority will always be the children and ensuring they hear this news in a way that feels supportive and clear. I will be holding a special assembly to speak with the children directly. During our time together, I plan to celebrate everything we have achieved as a school community and reassure them that the coming months and years will be filled with the same learning and excitement they have come to expect.

If you have any concerns or questions please feel free to pop up to the office for a chat.

From the Chairman of the Board

The Board of Directors would like to express our immense gratitude to Mr Hibbert for his exceptional leadership and his unwavering commitment to Mylnhurst. While we are sad to see him step down as Headmaster, we fully support his decision to prioritise his family after such a difficult period.

We are delighted the school will continue to benefit from Mr Hibbert's expertise as he joins the Board of Directors. His experience as an ISI Reporting Inspector will remain an invaluable asset to our strategic oversight.

Under Mr Hibbert's leadership, Mylnhurst has undergone a period of remarkable transformation. The Board would like to highlight several key milestones that have defined his tenure:

- **Growth and vitality:** We have seen our pupil numbers flourish, a clear reflection of the confidence parents place in the school's direction and community.
- **A modern educational philosophy:** Mr Hibbert has pioneered a bold shift in our approach to teaching and learning. By removing the constraints of SATs, he transitioned the school toward a more holistic, child-centred model. This allowed our staff to focus on deep, conceptual understanding and critical thinking, preparing children for life rather than just examinations.



- **Embracing technology:** Adoption of new technology, and becoming a Google School, along with the implementation of cutting edge learning platforms such as Century Tech and Atom Learning, has changed the way the children learn and given our teaching team new insights into the children's progress.
- **Record scholarship success:** We are immensely proud of the increased number of scholarship awards our pupils have secured as a result of these changes. This achievement reflects the rising academic and co-curricular standards of the school and the successful preparation of our pupils for the next stage of their education.
- **Enhanced Inclusion (SEND):** A comprehensive upgrading of our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities provision, including significant investment in staffing and specialist spaces where this vital support is delivered. The upskilling and development of our staff to meet the diverse needs of all of our children continues to be a real focus for the school.
- **Infrastructure:** The delivery of our wonderful new playground, dining hall and various facility upgrades have significantly enriched our pupils' daily experience.
- **External validation:** His leadership was further validated by a glowing ISI inspection and a prestigious national ISA award for our sports provision.

As a board, we understand there have been a lot of changes in the independent school sector, locally and nationally, over the last few years. We recognise the importance to our children and parents of stability and smooth transitions.

It was important to us to ensure any incoming Head fully understood our Mylnhurst family, its values and its place in the local community.

We have had plenty of time to deliberate on this and ensure a robust process to appoint a new Head to lead the school into the future and ensure our children get the best out of their time at Mylnhurst.

We are delighted to announce that Kirsty Holland, our Deputy Head, will succeed Mr Hibbert to become our new Head at the end of the academic year. Ms Holland has been at the heart of Mylnhurst for many years now and her own two boys were pupils here. She embodies everything that *is* Mylnhurst. We have every confidence that, under her leadership, the school will continue to go from strength to strength.

The Board is unanimous in its enthusiasm for the appointment of Ms Holland, and Mr Hibbert is absolutely delighted the Board has appointed her as his successor.



Having worked alongside Ms Holland, he has first-hand experience of her brilliance, her dedication to our pupils, and her deep understanding of the values that make Mylnhurst so special. He has always believed that, like all truly great schools, Mylnhurst should be led by the heart. He is overjoyed this will continue to be the case under her leadership and feels he could not leave the school in more capable or caring hands.

Mr Hibbert and Ms Holland have worked together as a successful team over the last few years and we are confident this will lead to a smooth transition. We think it is important for the children to be highest in our thoughts and they have been informed of this change in assembly this morning.

As we look ahead to the remainder of this academic year and beyond, we do so with a profound sense of optimism. Transitions of this nature are a challenge in the life of any school, and we are fortunate to be navigating this one from a position of such strength and unity.

Mylnhurst is more than just a place of learning; it is a family, and that family spirit remains the constant thread as we move into this next chapter. We look forward to the ongoing success of the school and remain focused, as always, on the happiness and success of your children.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Hibbert - Headmaster



Alex Rawlings - Chairman of the Board of Directors

