



Friday 8 May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to share some important news about the leadership of Holmwood School.

**Congratulations to our Headteacher, Jess Elford**

After five years of outstanding service and dedication to the Holmwood community, Jess Elford will be leaving Holmwood at the end of this academic year, in July, to take up an exciting new headship at Marston Vale School in Bedfordshire, within the Chiltern Learning Trust.

Whilst we are naturally sad to see Jess leave Holmwood, we are also incredibly proud of her. This is a well-earned next step in her career, and we are delighted that her leadership and commitment have been recognised in this way.

Since joining the school, Jess has led Holmwood with warmth, energy and a clear focus on achieving the very best outcomes for pupils and families. We are sure that, as parents and carers, you will have felt Jess's positivity, enthusiasm and genuine passion for the school community. Under her leadership, Holmwood has continued to grow in strength, confidence and ambition. Jess has played a key role in developing the strong culture and values that are now embedded across the school.

**Our school in our community**

Jess has also been instrumental in establishing and strengthening the PATH partnership between Holmwood, Ashbrook and Two Mile Ash School. Through this partnership, the three schools have worked closely together to support a smooth and connected journey for pupils and families across the different stages of education.

Holmwood will continue to work closely with Ashbrook and Two Mile Ash School, building on the strong relationships already in place and further strengthening the joined-up approach across the three schools.

**Leadership from September 2026**

As governors and Trust leaders, we have thought carefully about the best next step for Holmwood. One of the real strengths of the PATH partnership is that it gives us opportunities for future leadership from people who already know Holmwood well, understand the partnership, and care deeply about your child's journey.

We are therefore pleased to confirm that, from September 2026, Lucy Eldridge, Headteacher of Two Mile Ash School, will become Headteacher of both Holmwood and Two Mile Ash School.

Lucy is delighted to be taking on this role and is excited to lead Holmwood through the next stage of its development. She is passionate about building on the strong foundations already in place and further strengthening the journey for children from their earliest experiences in Nursery through to the end of Year 6.

Lucy will work closely with staff, families and leaders across the PATH partnership, including Jamie Ainscow, Headteacher of Ashbrook. Together, they will continue to ensure that every child benefits from a caring, personalised and aspirational approach throughout their time at Holmwood and within the wider partnership.

### **Your child's learning journey**

We recognise that any change in leadership can naturally bring questions for families, particularly about your child's day-to-day experience and learning journey.

We want to reassure you that these arrangements are designed to provide continuity, stability and consistency for pupils as they grow from Nursery to Year 6. With leaders who already know Holmwood, understand the PATH partnership and are committed to the school's values, your child will continue to be supported, challenged and cared for in a familiar and nurturing environment.

### **Next steps**

Lucy will write to families in due course to introduce herself further, share more about her hopes for Holmwood, and explain the next steps for the transition. She is very much looking forward to getting to know the Holmwood community even more closely and to working with staff, families and pupils as the school moves into this next chapter.

We know that many parents and carers will want to join us in thanking Jess for everything she has contributed to Holmwood School. We are enormously grateful for her leadership, care and dedication. We wish her every success and happiness in her new role within the Trust, and we will be making arrangements to celebrate her time with us all before the summer.

In the meantime, thank you for your continued support for Holmwood School and the wider PATH partnership.

Yours faithfully,

Garry Beardsworth  
Chair of Governors

Sarah Bennett  
CEO, Inspiring Futures through Learning