



HUMPHREY PERKINS SCHOOL

Lionheart Educational Trust

Humphrey Perkins School
Cotes Road, Barrow Upon Soar, Loughborough,
Leicestershire, LE12 8JU

01509 412385
office@humphreyperkins.org.uk
www.humphreyperkins.org.uk

Deputy CEO Jenny Piper-Gale
Associate Principal Della Bartram

11 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wish to inform you that at the end of this Autumn Term, I will be retiring from my role as Associate Principal of Humphrey Perkins School. Staff and students have also been informed this morning. After much reflection, I know this is the right time for me, but it is certainly not an easy decision. Humphrey Perkins has been a very special part of my life since I joined in 2018.

When I arrived, the school was facing significant challenges and had been judged "Inadequate" by Ofsted. What I saw immediately, however, was the potential of our students, the commitment of our staff and the support of our families. Together, we have transformed the school into one that is thriving, successful and oversubscribed. Along the way, we navigated the challenges of the pandemic, were named Leicestershire Live School of the Year 2020, achieved two Ofsted inspections with a judgement of Good in all areas, and continued to strengthen both the examination results and the care we provide for our wonderful young people.

While I am proud of these achievements, what I will remember most are the students. They are quite simply amazing. Their kindness, resilience, humour and determination make Humphrey Perkins such a special place. It has been a privilege to watch them grow and succeed, even teach some of them, and they continue to inspire me every day and make me smile.

One of my favourite traditions at Humphrey Perkins is welcoming new students by planting daffodil bulbs with them on their first day. Over the years, more than 1,500 daffodils have been planted, creating a beautiful reminder that every child leaves their mark on our school community. For me, those daffodils have always represented hope, growth and the bright future that lies ahead for our school. This year, I have planted a daffodil for the last time.

From the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank you, our parents and carers, for the trust, kindness and support you have shown me over the years. Everything we have achieved has been possible because of the strong partnership between home and school, and I will always be grateful for your support.

Although I will be stepping away from headship, I am not leaving Lionheart entirely. After Christmas, I will continue to work for the Trust in a reduced capacity, focusing on safeguarding and supporting other schools through the Department for Education's RISE programme.





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The process of appointing a new Associate Principal is underway and details will be shared in due course. I will work, of course, closely with my successor to ensure a smooth handover and I am confident that Humphrey Perkins will continue to flourish.

As I look towards the end of my time as Associate Principal, my overwhelming feeling is one of gratitude. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve this wonderful community, and Humphrey Perkins will always hold a special place in my heart. Thank you for allowing me to be such a special part of your children's journey.

With my warmest regards,

D. J. Bartram

Mrs D Bartram
Associate Principal

