

8th January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to inform you of my decision to leave The Blandford School at the end of this academic year.

I was appointed as headteacher in the autumn of 2002 and commenced post in April 2003, by which time I knew there was to be a major reorganisation of schools in the Blandford area.

Autumn 2005 saw TBS expand from a 13 - 18 upper school to an 11 - 18 secondary, a decision which has been extremely beneficial to generations of young people. Subsequent years included an extensive construction and refurbishment project to ensure our buildings, facilities and grounds were appropriate for 21st century learning.

At the heart of the school are our wonderful students. Education, in its broadest sense is not only the acquisition of knowledge and skills, but also about advising and guiding young people to make the right choices, including to be caring and kind, respectful and tolerant. Every single day I witness our students maturing into young adults who will contribute positively to society; their choice of destinations at age 16 and 18 are proof that our campaign to encourage aspiration is successful.

During my headship I have worked with an incredibly talented staff team whose dedication to young people and desire to see them achieve has been tireless. Our sixth form performance currently places us in the top 1% of schools across the country due to the outstanding results over the past three years and this, as well as our positive performance in lower years, means staff should be very proud of the way they are shaping children's futures.

The Full Governing Board under the leadership of James Vaughan have had a significant role to play over the years. I would like to publicly thank them for their support, much of their work is hidden from public view, but their positive impact is immeasurable. I would also like to thank The Blandford Secondary School Foundation whose partnership and support I have valued enormously.

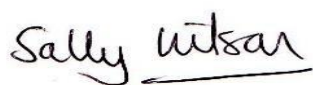
In April 2024, Ofsted graded the school as Good in all areas, a judgement which staff; students; governors, parents/carers and the wider community should be extremely proud of. Children thrive when schools and families collaborate, and I very much hope the strong partnership and relationship with so many of you continues with my successor.

The Full Governing Board met this morning and have commenced the process of recruiting a new headteacher. Updates will be sent to yourselves and primary feeder schools throughout the spring and summer; the intention will be for the new post holder to officially commence their role on 1st September 2025.



All that remains is for me to say a heartfelt thank you, it has been the privilege of my career to be headteacher of The Blandford School and I look forward to supporting my successor and ensuring an extremely smooth transition.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads "Sally Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Sally Wilson
Headteacher

