



*Growing together, respecting each other.*

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Acting Head: Mrs K Bennett

24 January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I write to share with you the exciting news that Sherdley has appointed a new full time, permanent Headteacher, Mr Tom Gawne.

Through a rigorous interview process which lasted for two days, Mr Gawne met with a whole range of pupils, staff, parents and governors, and received superb feedback from everyone he engaged with. His calmness, investment in the Sherdley Family and unwavering focus on what is best for our children shone through every part of his interview. We are certain that he will fit in brilliantly and also build on our strengths with lots of fresh ideas and new approaches as we move forward.

Mr Gawne's first day will be Monday 2nd June - an INSET day with the staff - parents and children will see him on site from Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Ahead of this date, you'll receive an introductory letter from Mr Gawne, and of course he will be calling in to school for a few visits to begin to familiarise himself with our routines and processes.

Until Mr Gawne's arrival, Mrs Bennett will remain as Acting Head. Governors would like to thank her for her flexibility in continuing to take on the challenges of this role and her unstinting support for the Sherdley Family in the time since Mr McCoy began his Executive Head role, and more so again since his departure in April 2024.

It will be wonderful to have a full complement of leadership staff at Sherdley from June 2025, when Mrs Bennett will return to her role as Deputy Head and Mrs Stroud will return to her role of Assistant Head, alongside Mr Davies.

I am sure you will join me in warmly welcoming Mr Gawne to the Sherdley Family and look forward to our next chapter under his leadership.

Kind regards

Cathey Briars  
Chair of Governors

