

4th March 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I am writing to inform you that after 10 incredibly enjoyable years at Monkseaton High School, I have taken the very difficult decision to accept a new position as Headteacher of a school overseas from September 2019. This is a new and exciting challenge for both myself and my family, which I feel will provide many opportunities for us. As you can imagine, I am writing this with mixed emotions; a heavy heart for the truly amazing people and community I will be leaving behind, but also with hope for the future for me and my family, and Monkseaton High School as we all embark on a new journey.

When I started at Monkseaton in 2007 as an Assistant Headteacher, I had no idea I would stay for over ten years. I certainly did not envisage that I would become Headteacher of the school, however, the pull of Monkseaton High School students, staff, parents and community has been so strong, that it was easy to stay.

When I was appointed as Headteacher in 2013 we were facing many challenges, but I took on the role in the knowledge that I was working alongside some of the best colleagues I have ever had the privilege to work with, thus making the decision an easy one. Together, we have taken Monkseaton High School from a less than average school to a one that is truly outstanding in every way. The successes we have achieved together have been many, and each and every person involved can be proud of the part they have played.

I have always been, and still remain incredibly proud to be a part of our school, and I know that the wonderful staff will continue to provide the excellent standards of education, support and care that they deliver with such honesty, integrity and passion.

I will be here until the end of this academic year and guarantee that I will continue to give my all to Monkseaton High School, working alongside governors, colleagues and yourselves to ensure that when I do leave, it is in the knowledge that you are in safe and capable hands. It has been a privilege to be part of such a truly amazing school and to work alongside such dedicated colleagues. Likewise, the support from you at home has made this so much more of a pleasure.

Finally, the hardest part of leaving Monkseaton will be leaving our students. Having worked in a number of schools, and with other schools over recent years, I can tell you first hand just how fantastic our young people are. I truly believe it is not easy growing up in this day and age, and I am aware of the many genuine challenges many young people face. Despite such challenges, I can honestly say that it is an honour to be able to interact with our students and support them on their journey in to adulthood.

I am proud to say I am their Headteacher and I wish each and every one of them success in all that they do in their future. It has been a pleasure and a privilege.

Mrs Welsh, our Chair of Governors, will be working with the Local Authority to secure my replacement and will keep you informed of their progress.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Crowder', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs T Crowder