



4 October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to introduce myself to you as Executive Headteacher of Great Barr Academy. I took up post in September and I am already highly impressed with the dedication, professionalism and determination of our team of staff. We are already in receipt of high quality support from Shaw Education Trust, who are determined to work with us to make Great Barr a truly excellent school, their ambition for us is truly inspiring!

Our young people are talented, aspirational and hardworking, they want to do well and be proud of their school and we are making good progress towards ensuring that they have the best possible education. I am aware that, in the past, a handful of Great Barr students have not lived up to our high expectations, this is very disappointing as it can give the wrong impression of a school. I am committed to ensuring that the best of our students excel and achieve their goals whilst the few who sometimes struggle are challenged and supported to rapidly improve. We are very ambitious for all of our students and will be relentless in pursuing only the best for them in all areas of our work.

I will be in contact with you over the coming weeks and months to engage you in consultation over some fantastic opportunities and changes that we feel will enable Great Barr to become an outstanding beacon of our community, and I look forward to hearing your ideas and views.

As we look forward to the future, I am very sad to announce that Mrs Ingrid Abrahams has made the decision to leave her position as Head Teacher of Great Barr due to ill health. Mrs Abrahams has asked us to pass on the following words:

"It is with regret that I am writing to inform you of my decision to leave my post as Head teacher. This is unfortunately due to ill-health. It has been an honour and a pleasure to serve staff, students and parents and I wish you all the best in the future."

I would personally like to thank Mrs Abrahams for the years of dedication and service she has given to Great Barr. I was privileged to meet her before I took up post and it was clear to see how passionate she was about our community and how she wanted to make a difference. I know staff and students here will miss her.

You are probably aware that Mr Andrew Williams, who has served Great Barr for many years on the Senior Leadership Team has, in Mrs Abraham's absence, stepped up to lead the school on a daily basis. I am delighted to inform you that Shaw Education Trust have invited Mr Williams to take on the role as Acting Headteacher and he has agreed.

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In this time of change, Mr Williams and I, along with all the staff at Great Barr are determined to continue on our journey to rapidly become an outstanding school. We will work tirelessly to ensure the students here have the first-class education that they deserve.

Thank you for your continued support. I firmly believe that by us working in partnership with parents our students will achieve great things and grow into happy and successful young adults. We are all very excited about the future here at Great Barr and are grateful to you for being part of it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Williams'.

pp. **Kerry Inscker**  
**Executive Principal**