

2nd October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I informed staff this morning that, after what will be 38 years in teaching, including 23 years at Whitley Bay High School, I have taken the decision to retire at the end of this academic year and will leave my post on 31st August 2027.

I consider myself incredibly fortunate to end my career at Whitley Bay High School. Since joining as Director of Sixth Form in 2004 and becoming Headteacher in 2014, it has been a privilege to serve a school that holds such a special place in my life, as a former student, a parent and as a member of this community.

I understand that the ethos and values of the school are an integral part of the school and its success, and I would like to reassure you that the appointment of my successor will be a Governor-led process. Our Board of Governors has been instrumental in developing and maintaining the ethos and values of the school and will seek to appoint a Headteacher who will embrace this, ensuring that students enjoy, thrive and achieve success in all aspects of their school life, whilst moving the school forward during times of educational change.

Whitley Bay High School benefits from a dedicated and experienced senior leadership team, a fantastic staff and a highly committed governing body. I have every confidence that the school will continue to go from strength to strength in the years ahead.

The recruitment process will begin shortly, and we expect an appointment to be made by next half term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, as parents and carers, for your continued support. Your messages of appreciation for the school and the memories you share of your children's journeys through Whitley Bay High School are a constant reminder of what makes this such a special community.

Although there is still a year ahead before my retirement, I wanted to share this news with you now. I remain fully committed to leading the school throughout the 2026/27 academic year and look forward to continuing to work with our students, staff, families and members of the governing body.

Yours faithfully



Steve Wilson
Headteacher