

06 January 2025

Dear Families

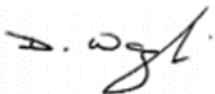
Happy New Year. I hope that this letter finds you and your family well and that you have had a relaxing and peaceful festive break. As we return to school for our Spring Term, I am working with our Senior Leadership Team to launch our focus for the next 12-weeks as we build on the great successes of 2024. A key area of this will be the further development of Oracy as the vehicle to move from reading into writing. Our students have transformed their reading and comprehension abilities, and we are now focussing these gains to further transform their writing skills. On Monday 6th January all our teaching staff will be receiving further training on two strategies that we will be seeking to embed, "Choral Response" and "Talk to Transcribe". Your sons/daughters will be receiving this during the next few weeks, and I would encourage you to talk to them about this as a strategy to support their writing abilities.

There are many other things that we are focussing on this term, not least our Year 11 students doing their full suite of mock examinations as their final preparations for the GCSEs are in full swing. However, I am also writing to update you on some personal news of my own. I am writing to confirm that from Easter 2025 onwards I will be personally relocating to the Lake District. This means that I will be leaving my post as Principal here at GAA from Easter onwards to take up a post of Executive Principal of two schools in the Lake District. I would like to share that I have found the last 4-years in the service of our community as the most truly inspiring and humbling experience of my career. GAA is such a special school and community and I have attempted to secure a long term, sustainable and successful future for all our young people.

I am genuinely humbled by the opportunities, the service and the partnership working that we have gained over the last 4-years, and it is with a very heavy emotional feeling that I move on to pastures new. I talk to our students every day about our values, and they all know that the "together" value is my most favoured value, that of my GAA Family. I will be working with our trust to ensure that we secure a great new principal for the next stage of our school's journey. The advert for my replacement is currently live and we will be seeking to secure this appointment before February half term. I will write again at that time to update you.

Thank you for all your support, celebration and partnership. I look forward to continuing to drive our school forward over the next 12-weeks in the run up to Easter.

Yours faithfully



Mr David Waugh
Principal