



Larks Hill J & I School
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17 October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to provide details on the outcome of the recruitment process for the Head of School position at the school.

I am delighted to inform you that after a rigorous process and a very strong field of candidates, Mr Richard Beevers has been appointed to the position of Head of School. Mr Beevers is a current senior leader within Pontefract Academies Trust. He was a member of the senior leadership team at De Lacy School that led the school to an outstanding Ofsted judgment. Mr Beevers is currently a member of the senior leadership team at Northfield Primary School, another of the Trusts' family of schools. As such Mr Beevers is very familiar with the approaches and culture of our schools and the local community, as well as having an emotional connection to Larks Hill having been a former pupil of the school.

I have every confidence that Larks Hill will continue to thrive and flourish under the leadership of Mr Beevers. I am very aware that Mr Beevers is tremendously excited and enthusiastic about assuming the Head of School role and meeting with all the children and the parents/carers for the first time in due course. Mr Beevers will take up his role in May 2026.

Mr James Parkinson, Executive Headteacher at Pontefract Academies Trust, will continue to be based at Larks Hill and oversee the school on a day-to-day basis until Mr Beevers takes up his post. As you are aware, Mr Parkinson knows the school well and over the course of the coming months, we are committed to ensuring a smooth transition and handover as Mr Beevers prepares to assume the reins.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Appleyard OBE
CEO
Pontefract Academies Trust