



Gawthorpe Lane
Ossett
West Yorkshire
WF5 9BS

Headteacher: Mrs P Marshall
Tel: 01924 302980
Fax: 01924 302983
Email: admin@highfield.wakefield.sch.uk
Web: www.highfield-school.co.uk

Dear Parents/Carers

When I wrote to you all last week, I was confident it was for the last time. However, I find myself compelled to write again!

Yesterday afternoon, I was called to the gym by Mr Jones, where, to my complete shock and surprise, the whole school – staff and students - were already gathered! How could I not have known about this? After all I am the head and I should know what is going on in my school!

For the next hour and 25 minutes, I found myself on the most emotional rollercoaster ride of entertainment and presentations from the students to celebrate my retirement, supported by the hard work and commitment of my fantastic staff, who have clearly put in so much additional time to prepare the young people for the beautiful songs and tributes I heard.

A few weeks ago, I was asked by Miss Chalkley's class to answer some questions about my favourite things – food, countries, hobbies, music ... All of a sudden, yesterday I was sitting on the set of "This is Your Life" (for those of you who remember the TV show which celebrated the lives of well-known celebrities.) Singing, including some amazing performances by soloists, dancing, computer presentations, booklets and banners made by the young people, posies of flowers made from tissue paper in abundance! My office is now full of beautiful tributes from the students, which I will treasure for the rest of my days. On Monday of this week, I bought a memory box in which to put all my cards and messages – I will need to go out and buy one 4 times the size now!

I would like to thank you sincerely for the support you have given in helping to raise so many talented children and young people. Every single one of them rose to the occasion, behaved impeccably and joined in for some, or all of the afternoon celebration. With a box of tissues in hand, they saw me cry, sing and laugh during the afternoon, and I managed about 10 seconds of a speech at the end, in which I said that, in the 23 years I have been at Highfield, I can honestly say, it was the best and proudest moment of my teaching career. I will remember it forever - this is what dedication to making a difference for young people is all about.

Happy Easter, and I will no doubt be hearing again in the future about the talented young people that Highfield School continues to grow and support.

With pride and emotion in equal measure! Your young people so deserve more than an ice cream tomorrow. Please say well done to them when you have read this letter – **they are all superstars in my eyes! Let's also make tomorrow a non-uniform day for all!**

Yours sincerely

Mrs P Marshall
Head Teacher

