

26th April 2022

Dear Parents,

I know that you have all been very worried about Mrs Guntrip and miss her greatly. Before the February half term, I informed you that I did not anticipate Mrs Guntrip being back with us before Easter and was unable to share with you the exact nature of her illness or when she would return.

I am now able to inform you that earlier in the year, Mrs Guntrip resigned from the post of Headteacher at Dunsford. This was an incredibly difficult decision for Mrs Guntrip to make but a decision that she has made to ensure her own good health moving forward.

We have appointed a permanent Headteacher for Dunsford, Mr Andrew Grimley, who will take up post after the May half term.

As parents I am sure your first question is, where did Mr Grimley come from and how was he appointed? Mr Grimley applied for a Headteacher role within our School Trust. He was successful in interview earlier in the term due to the wealth of expertise he brings to the school and the community of Dunsford. The values and vision that Mr Grimley holds very much align which what is special and distinctive about Dunsford and the community.

We apologise that we were not able to inform you of this earlier. As I am sure you understand, this has been a sensitive time and we were unable to share the finer details. We appreciate the trust that you place in us to make the decision about the best Headteacher for Dunsford Community Academy.

I know that you will join with me in wishing Mrs Guntrip well as she continues her road of recovery. I want to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Guntrip for her hard work, dedication, and her enthusiasm that she has given to the school during her leadership.

Although Mrs Guntrip has decided that she needed to step down from headship she has been able to remain with us in the Trust family and has decided to take on a different role. This means that Mrs Guntrip remains part of our wider family and this is such wonderful news.

Mrs Guntrip has asked me to pass on his message to you all.

I would like to begin by saying a huge thank you to you all for welcoming me into the heart of your school community. I have felt incredibly lucky to have been a part of Dunsford and the very special place that it is; it is a time that I will hold dear and never forget.

As you are aware, I have been unwell for some time and, due to this, I will be stepping down as Head of Academy at Dunsford. I am, however, looking forward to remaining within the Trust family and I am sure that I will work with Dunsford in some capacity in the future.



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FLOURISHING FUTURES

I wish all of the children, parents and families of Dunsford community the very best and I will miss you all but I look forward to seeing how this wonderful school continues to flourish. I know that you will give the new Headteacher, Andrew Grimley, the same warm welcome that you gave to me and I am excited to see the next chapter of the school begin.

*Best wishes
Corrine Guntrip*

I would like to introduce to Mr Grimley who is currently a Deputy Head in a large primary school in Torquay and has been with the school for over 25 years, a real testament to the commitment that he gives to a school and its community. Mr Grimley has asked us to share the following with you as a way of introducing himself to you all.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you happy and healthy. I am excited to have been appointed as the new Headteacher of Dunsford Community Academy and I look forward to meeting each and every one of you in June.

I wanted to take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself to you and to express my enthusiasm for the times ahead. I have been in education for over 25 years.

I have great enthusiasm in supporting children to be the best they can be and nurturing their interests and passions.



I put learning and teaching, alongside keeping everyone in our community safe, at the heart of everything I do and endeavour, with the great Dunsford team, to give each child the best possible education. When I first visited Dunsford I was stunned by the beautiful setting and grounds and in talking with pupils, I could sense their aspirations, as they spoke eloquently about their learning. I have also been an avid reader of the newsletters sent out by each class and the school Twitter account, demonstrating the high expectations across pupil's learning.

My background is a Primary Educator and I have taught across the primary age range. I am very aware of where pupils come from and what they need when they leave primary school, ready for their next stage of learning. I believe strongly in community values, building together for the best shared outcomes. I look forward to building strong relationships with you, so as a team we can achieve above expectations for each of your children.

I wish Mrs Guntrip the very best for the future and plan to build upon her brilliant work. I recognise change can be a challenge and I will endeavour to do everything I can to ensure a smooth transition that guarantees your children's continued success and enjoyment.

With this in mind, I recognise that communication will be key during the Summer 2 term and will be a priority for me, including, dare I say, an informal coffee/tea afternoon(s) so as to make myself available during this time. Hopefully, these events will take place at different times, which I hope will enable most parents and carers to attend. In addition, I will be available on the playground before and after school during the summer term.



It is already clear you have an incredible team at Dunsford and I am excited to add to their expertise, whilst building on excellent teamwork and parent collaboration. I believe that when we work together, we will provide the best school experience for your children and discover new possibilities.

*Andrew Grimley
Head Teacher Designate Dunsford Community Academy*

Before Mr Grimley takes up post in June, he will be visiting the school within the next five weeks, and you will have the opportunity to meet him. He is looking forward to getting to know you all. He has already learnt so much about the children and the school as part of his preparation for taking up post.

I will continue to support the school with Mr Grimley to ensure the smooth transition and that the fabulous work that the teachers and staff do, continues to benefit your children.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Stephens".

Mrs Stephens

Executive Head of Newton and Teign Hub