



RIDGEWOOD  
HIGH SCHOOL

16<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

After today, I will be taking a leave of absence from Ridgewood to have surgery and recuperate. I have been diagnosed with a benign tumour in my heart which has to be removed. I am very lucky that this was discovered. I am expected to make a full and good recovery but will require a few months to recuperate and be fit enough to run around Ridgewood and walk-up Park Road West most days!

We are lucky in that we have known about this since before Christmas and we have been able to plan accordingly, making some adjustments to a variety of staff's roles and responsibilities. Mr Cannon will take over as Acting Headteacher until my return. He will continue to teach his Year 11 classes as normal so that they experience no disruption in their final months of study.

Mr Cannon, the Senior Leadership Team and the Ridgewood staff are an incredibly capable team and I know that the school will continue to make great progress in the coming months. The school is very well supported by Stour Vale Academy Trust and the team will keep me informed during my absence.

I look forward to seeing students and staff in the summer term. We have had fantastic feedback from some of our supply teachers last week about the calm atmosphere in school and how lovely our students are in comparison to other schools. I am sure that students will continue to work hard, have great relationships with the people around them and take an active role in school life. There are lots of exciting things to look forward to in the coming months at Ridgewood.

Thank you for your support, as always.

Yours faithfully,

**Mrs Rae Cope**  
Headteacher  
Ridgewood High School

