



ALDENHAM

— FOUNDATION —

19 June 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians

Following Alex Hems' announcement that she will retire from headship at the end of the 2026–27 academic year to pursue her long held ambition to train for ordination as a Minister in the Church of England, the Governing Body has been working closely with a specialist recruitment consultancy to identify her successor.

The search for a new Head attracted an exceptionally strong field of candidates from across the independent school sector. Following a rigorous and comprehensive recruitment process, a shortlist of outstanding candidates was invited to spend time at Aldenham, meeting pupils, staff and governors, and experiencing first-hand the distinctive character of our School, together with its wonderful grounds and facilities.

At the conclusion of this process, the Governors were unanimous in their decision and are delighted to announce the appointment of Mr Robert Garvey as the next Head of the Aldenham Foundation, with effect from September 2027.

Robert studied Law at Pembroke College, Cambridge and the University of Paris, before qualifying and practising as a lawyer. Having decided to pursue a career in education, he completed his PGCE at the University of Buckingham and began at Haberdashers' Boys' School, teaching French, Philosophy and Politics. He subsequently joined Merchant Taylors' School, where he rose to become Senior Deputy Head (Academic). He furthered his understanding of the local area's educational environment by serving as a Governor at RMS for Girls in Rickmansworth, chairing their Education Committee. He is currently Headmaster of Wetherby Senior School in London, where he has responsibility for the leadership and strategic direction of all aspects of school life.

Robert describes the guiding principle of his career in education as being the belief that:

"Excellent education transforms lives."

He has summarised his vision for Aldenham in these words:

"Aldenham is flourishing; I intend to lead it onwards so that it becomes indisputably the national standard-bearer for excellent holistic education."

Throughout the selection process, Robert impressed governors, staff and pupils alike. He is an outstanding educational leader whose enthusiasm for the role is matched by his intelligence, warmth, integrity and good humour. We are confident that he possesses both the vision and the experience to build upon Aldenham's many strengths and to lead the Foundation successfully into its next chapter.

Robert will be joined by his family when he takes up the position in September 2027, and we very much look forward to welcoming his wife Flo and their two sons, Max and Jim, into the Aldenham community.

I know that you will join me in congratulating Robert on his appointment and in wishing him every success as he prepares to become the next Head of the Aldenham Foundation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Altman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Sarah Altman
Chair of Governors

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