

Gosforth East Middle School

Head Teacher: T J Stout

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In the Pursuit of Excellence

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Dear Parents, Carers and the wonderful children of GEMS

I did promise to write to you nearer the time of my retirement and here we are, the time has flown, both since announcing it, and the 15 years of being Head. In that time the school has grown, we have survived Covid, and I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved throughout those years. I have had a brilliant time, surrounded by incredibly talented children and staff, and we have been able to create fabulous opportunities for so many people.

When I look at my own journey through the schools of Gosforth and beyond, it's been a varied one. It began as a 5 year old at what was Broadway East Infant School, then moving to the Junior School just across the field from GEMS, only a few yards to trail but what a route. I then went to Gosforth West Middle and then Gosforth High School. It was whilst I was in the High School that Mrs Pat Stevens, my history teacher became absolutely instrumental in my early life. Somehow, she saw potential and so secured me a visit to Grange First School to help out, which I loved. She then persuaded me to apply to university to do Teacher Training, and it all took off from there! This is just to illustrate just how important teachers / support staff can be in a young person's life. Subsequently I have worked in 7 Middle Schools and feel that the three-tier system is such a positive way to educate our children. My own three children have been through the three-tier system, GEMS, and thoroughly enjoyed those schools.

I really appreciate the hard work that all the First School do in the early phase of a young person's education, and I have benefited enormously from working in the Trust with the Heads of the First Schools.

In term of GEMS, there are so many aspects of the school that I love and cherish. The children, I feel have a broad range of exceptional experiences which will benefit them as they go through life. Whether it is the curriculum lessons, extra-curricular opportunities, residential visits, sport or the music shows, the diet is so varied that I hope everyone makes the most of these opportunities. The staff, from the people who work in the office who ensure the school is a welcoming and well organised environment. The support staff who offer so much to the groups of individuals that they work with, this also includes all the 'extra' they do behind the scenes which is part and parcel of the development path the children are engaged in. Our teachers are brilliant. When you walk around the school, it is calm, orderly and inspirational, many people can't believe that there are well over 500 children in school at any one time. The staff do their utmost to make lessons interesting and progressive and take every opportunity to develop relationships with the children as this is the best way to engage and challenge. The residential visits are a special part of GEMS life and I have loved being on the Arran visit for over 20 years and the ski visits. All the residential visits are such good opportunities to try new things, explore new relationships and build confidence and self-esteem.



Can I also thank you, parents and careers who have been so positive and supportive with everything we have been trying at GEMS. I have also had so many lovely messages and gifts from you which have meant such a lot to me.

Since announcing I was leaving, the children have been gorgeous, telling me of ways they will miss me, and obviously Cassie (although she is probably who they are really going to miss I suspect!)

I am delighted that Nick Adcock is taking over from me as Head Teacher. He is absolutely dedicated to the children's education and development at GEMS and I am sure he will do a fabulous job.

So, finally and in conclusion, I feel incredibly lucky to have had the career I have had, surrounded by so many fabulous people, young and slightly older(!) and step away from GEMS content with the experiences we are trying to give everyone. As I said at my recent retirement do to quote Julian Barnes in his last book, "I will miss you, and sincerely, I will".

Take Care

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. J. Stout".

Mr T Stout
Head Teacher