



April 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

I wrote to you in October 2025 to inform you that this would be my last year at Appleton Academy, as I will be retiring in August. The time since has flown by very quickly and this will be my last term at the school.

Exceed Academies Trust has appointed a new Executive Headteacher, who will work alongside me for the final term to ensure a smooth handover. I am pleased to announce that Ms Cruise will be starting at Appleton Academy as Executive Headteacher Designate, ensuring that the change in school leadership does not have a negative impact on the success of the school. Ms Cruise is an experienced school leader and although she is joining us from a school in Sheffield, she has worked in Bradford for most of her career and knows South Bradford well.

Over the next few months, Ms Cruise will get to know the children, young people, families and staff who make Appleton Academy such an extraordinary school. This is very important for the continued smooth running of the school from September 2026, when she will take on leadership of the school. Ms Cruise will write to you shortly to introduce herself and will plan some parental engagement sessions to get to know everyone.

I'm sure you will welcome Ms Cruise as she starts her new role; she will no doubt enjoy working at Appleton Academy as much as I have over the years.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hele Jones." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ms H Jones
Executive Headteacher