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Dear Colleagues

It doesn't seem possible that we are coming to the close of another academic year and I would firstly like to thank you all for your support and hard work during the year. It has been a tremendous first year in North Yorkshire for myself which has been challenging but great fun. I have been impressed by the children and young people that I have met and the passionate, shared ambition our schools demonstrate for them.

I am now working with a relatively new Management Team and together we will strive to continue to make the North Yorkshire Children & Young People's Service the best that it can be.

Although I have not managed to get out to as many schools as I would like during my first year in post, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with some great Headteacher and school colleagues. I would like the opportunity next year to undertake many more school visits so please invite me, especially if you have any notable events coming up. Should my calendar permit I will endeavour to attend.

The KS2 results are improved overall; thanks to the work of all schools. However, maths continues to be a key priority. I know that we will be launching a Maths Strategy to try to address some of the issues we are collectively facing in this subject area. I now look forward to the KS4 and KS5 results in August and hope that they are as good as last year.

The next academic year could well be the most challenging one we have all had to face from a financial point of view. Schools reserves centrally have been depleted, more schools are facing deficits and the Higher Needs Block is significantly overspent. As a Local Authority we are lobbying fiercely with the DfE and MPs regarding the unfairness of funding to the Local Authority area and the impact that this is having on all of our schools, regardless of their status. We will have to discuss this with school forum in more detail in the Autumn term and we will write to you with more details.

I hope also next year to be able to collaborate much more with all schools as we begin to realise our shared ambition for a strategic space to develop meaningful plans for the future. Our collective aim is to improve further outcomes for all our children and young people. In difficult times, we have to continue to work in close partnership.

The year has culminated in the Children & Young People's Service receiving 'the Ofsted call'! I will share the outcome with schools once the report has been published – let's just say for now 'I'm very happy with the outcome'.

I hope you all have a great summer break and come back refreshed ready for the new academic year. I look forward to seeing you very soon and many thanks again for your ongoing hard work and commitment to the children and young people of North Yorkshire.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

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