



25th March 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to share with you the news that two of our Deputy Principals, Mr David Clarke and Ms Orla Molamphy, will retire from Portmarnock Community School on 4th September 2026.

Both have given many years of exceptional service to our school community. Their contribution to the life, leadership and development of the school has been profound, and their influence has touched the lives of countless students and families over the years.

Mr Clarke, joined the school as an English teacher and later served for many years as Deputy Principal, including a period as sole Deputy Principal prior to the expansion of the leadership team in 2017. Throughout his time in leadership, he has brought a thoughtful, measured and deeply committed approach to his work.

He has played an important role in shaping many aspects of school life, including in the areas of digital leadership; teacher professional induction and development; and student wellbeing initiatives. Whether working with staff, students or parents, David has always demonstrated integrity, care and a strong sense of responsibility to the school community.

Ms Molamphy has made an outstanding contribution to the school both as a teacher of Biology and as Deputy Principal. Her work has been characterised by energy, creativity and a deep commitment to building a positive and inclusive school environment.

She has been a driving force in areas such as restorative practice, student leadership and the rich extracurricular life of the school particularly in her leadership of many very memorable school musicals. Her ability to connect with students and to support them in their growth and development has been a hallmark of her work.

Since 2017, both David and Orla have worked closely with their respective year group teams within the expanded leadership structure, providing consistent support, guidance and care to students and their families at key stages of their school journey.

It is impossible to capture fully the breadth of their contribution in a single letter. On behalf of the entire Portmarnock Community School community, past and present, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to both David and Orla for their dedication, professionalism and unwavering commitment to the school.

As we look ahead to the next chapter in the life of the school, including the prospect of new physical surroundings, we do so conscious of the strong foundations laid by colleagues such as David and Orla. The values, care and commitment they have embodied will remain at the heart of our school as we move forward. We thank them not only for what they have done, but for the lasting difference they have made to the lives of so many in our school community.

There will be opportunities in due course to mark their retirements more formally. In the meantime, we wish each of them happiness and fulfilment in the years ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Tobin

Principal,
Portmarnock Community School