



# George Mitchell School

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Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022

## Head Teacher Appointment

Dear staff

You are all aware of the Headteacher recruitment process that has been ongoing over the previous two days. First, I would like to extend my thanks to those of you who helped facilitate what was a very smooth and constructive process. All of the candidates who participated in day one (Tuesday) specifically, were very complimentary of our school, and specifically how welcome you made them all feel. Consequently, every one of those candidates wanted to secure the role of Headteacher.

After what can only be described as a rigorous process, I am pleased to inform you that following Saeed's departure, your new Headteacher of George Mitchell School will be Ms Benita Simmons. Benita is currently serving as the Deputy Headteacher at Valentines High School in Essex. A post that she has held successfully since 2018.

This appointment was not an easy one to make. George Mitchell is a fantastic school and Saeed is a brilliant Headteacher and I am aware that he will be missed. I want to assure you that every single person on the recruitment panel which included one of your colleagues, was committed to a recruitment that was open and transparent, that afforded you all the opportunity to meet the candidates and most importantly, ensured that the candidate appointed was the right person for the role. I believe that Benita can, with your help, be that person.

The next step will be to transition Benita into the role of your Headteacher. I (along with Roger Leighton), will with Saeed's help, work out a plan to provide opportunities for you all to meet Benita, to enable her to learn about how you each contribute to our wonderful school. Benita will officially succeed Saeed from the beginning of the new academic year on 1 September 2022. I know that you will all make her feel welcome.

Best regards

Dionne Campbell-Mark

Chair

George Mitchell Local Governing Body

