

NEEDHAM MARKET MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr J Neale MA

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs J Atienza BSc PGCE

10th February 2012

Dear Parents/Carers and Pupils

This is to inform you that our Headteacher, Mr Neale, has advised governors and staff of his decision to retire at the end of this school year. We felt it to be very important that you learn of this news directly from governors and not by accident or rumour. Governors have already drawn up a schedule to find a new Headteacher and plan to hold interviews at the end of February.

You may like to know, that upon Mr Neale's appointment in 2008, the school was scheduled to close in the summer of 2013 under Suffolk's School Reorganisation Review (SOR) process and that he agreed to stay beyond his official retirement date to see the school through this period. However, Suffolk was forced to delay SOR due to dwindling resources and we learned in the last academic year that schools in our phase of SOR would be re-scheduled for closure in 2014. This date has now moved again to 2015 as Suffolk has to ensure that it meets statutory timelines for consultation periods. We still await news about whether or not our application to become an Academy will be approved.

As you can see, there is a lot going on. Mr Neale told governors that given the extended timelines that have emerged, he felt that a new Headteacher would be best placed to continue to drive the school forward during this period of change and whatever emerges.

I will, of course, write to you after we have completed our recruitment process.

Yours sincerely

Lt. Col. (Retd) Peter Coombe: Chairman of Governors

